

Paramedic Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2011

PRESENT

Chief Daryl McNutt
Kari Gonzalez
Dr. Daniel Schwerin
Chief Mark Mullins
Chief Jeff Kowalski
Chief Rick Helminski
Rich Ellett
Wayne Hartford
Nicole Blake-Knepper
Jennifer Pasztor
Chad Premo
Gregory May
EMS Chief Martin Fuller
Sheri Morris
Craig Koperski
Nicole Knight
Holly Bennett
Sterling Rahe

REPRESENTING

Whitehouse Fire
Toledo Fire
St. Vincent Mercy Hospital
Oregon Fire Dept.
Sylvania Twp. Fire
Springfield Twp. Fire
Maumee Fire – LS7
Toledo Fire
Mercy St. Charles
Mercy St. Vincent ED
PTN
Springfield Twp. Fire –LS10
Whitehouse Fire – LS9
Life Flight
Sylvania Twp. Fire – LS6/EMS Annex
Toledo Fire
Toledo Fire
Toledo Fire

STAFF

Dennis Cole
Dr. David Lindstrom
Brent Parquette
Pat Moomey

Emergency Services Director
Medical Director
QA/QI
Dispatch Supervisor

ABSENT

Tracy Stanford
Keith Mooseman
Chief Charles Flack

Toledo Fire – LS1
Toledo Fire – LS2
Toledo Fire - LS3
Toledo Fire – LS4
Toledo Fire – LS5
Washington Twp. Fire
Waterville Fire
Jerusalem Twp. Fire

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Chief McNutt

Minute Approval

The minutes from October 17, 2011 meeting were available for review. Chief Helminski made a motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Chief Kowalski. The minutes were approved as written.

Training

Brent reported the CE evaluations for October were available to review. No CE in November and December. Brent said he is currently working on the CE dates for next year and hoping to get them posted next week.

QA

Dr. Lindstrom reported he continues to contact and work with the departments.

Old Business

Rigs – Dennis reported 4 rigs are in. One has gone to LS9 and LS10 is next. They have to redo the mobile data mount on it. The question was raised what will happen to the old rigs. Dennis reported the will be “put out to pasture” and probably be put on Gov Deals.

New Business

Narcotic supply – Dr. Lindstrom reported there is a shortage of Fentanyl and pending Morphine shortage. It is on the national drug shortage list. Dr. Lindstrom reported Toledo Hospital was at a critical shortage this past week and only had enough for patients in OR. This is also at Bay Park. Dr. Lindstrom said he had calls out to UTMC and St. Vincent’s but has not heard back. Dr. Lindstrom reported he notified the chiefs and told them paramedics could use Morphine if necessary. Dr. Lindstrom reported Al has some supply at the Annex and there is also some on the 1st responder bags. Dr. Lindstrom we are looking at how much is being used and look at taking the Fentanyl and Morphine off the 1st responder bags due to the shortage.

Dr. Lindstrom said at the last Regional Physicians Advisory Board meeting last week, it came to light that since 1992 according to the DEA license, EMS units are incorrectly getting resupply of narcotics at the hospitals. The 1992 DEA letter allows EMS agencies to do a one-to-one exchange of medication with the destination hospital using a properly documented patient care sheet submitted to the receiving facility. EMS agencies cannot have a DEA license and do one-to-one exchange; an EMS agency can only use one process or the other, and not both. Dr. Lindstrom reported this will affect stock and balance at the Annex.

A discussion of ALS transport and use of pain management ensued.

Open Discussion

Air Ambulance – Chief Helminski reported there have been a couple of times in the western Lucas County where air ambulance was called and the issue of patient weight prevented air transport. Dennis Cole reported there is ongoing corrective action being taken, but no physical solution in place yet. It was reported the air ambulance had software problems and some numbers were keyed in wrong in the software. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Syringes – Rich Ellett commented he didn't like the Safety Lok syringes in that they were difficult to work with and wanted to know if they could change it to a simple syringe. Craig said there are some on the bid list and they could be stocked in the lockers.

Med Pouches – Kari asked if changes could be made with the med pouches and citing the slender plastic containers do not fit. She said they are working on tightening up accountability and record keeping.

IV warmers – Nicki Knight asked Dr. Lindstrom to review an article regarding fluid temperature of saline and association with DIC (Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation) from a recent conference she had attended.

King Vision – Marty said he heard the County is trialing the King Vision and was the County going to purchase it. Brent reported LS4 and 6 are currently trialing it. There have been 3 or 4 uses so far with favorable feedback. Brent said he will be moving it around for other departments to use.

Chief Helminski reported it could be a possibility for reimbursement through the State. Chief McNutt said he could put it on the list.

Cots – Kari asked if outlying life squads have policies regarding carrying cots in the house. Chief Helminski reported it is the manufacture's recommendation if you have to go up more than three (3) steps, paramedics should use a Stair Chair to bring the patient out to the cot.

E-mail – Craig reported in the last two months, sent out an e-mail to each department attaching a new ALS inventory forms to be used. Craig reported there are 66 ALS boxes and they have gone through each and put a number on each box. Craig also reported they are still having issues with some departments carrying more than what is supposed to be carried, i.e., Glucagon in the box.

ResQGard – Craig reported the Annex finally received 100 more ResQGards and will be leaving them at the Annex.

Exposure – Rich Ellett reported there was an exposure issue involving Maumee and Toledo and is not covered by Workman's Comp. There was also a mass confusion with the issue. Rich asked about paging Dr. Lindstrom through Dispatch and why this is done. Dr. Lindstrom reported the reason he likes to be notified is to insure all the crews involved get treated. It is just a layer of protection for the crews. The hospitals will only notify one department and when there is a multi-agency response he wants to make sure the appropriate people are notified. Dr. Lindstrom said he made several calls and talked to the Chief. Dr. Lindstrom said it is critical to make sure the paper trail is clear. A lengthy discussion of the incident and how it was handled. Dr. Lindstrom reported it is the hospital's legal responsibility to make notification of exposure.

EMD Cards – Craig asked if the card system has a card dealing with decreased level of conscious and what is the criteria? Pat reported no. The dispatchers go to the Unconscious

Card. Craig asked what question needs to be asked to get a life squad response. Pat reported questions such as “are they acting normal”, are they acting different?

Staging – Greg May reported there is still the issue of being staged while first responders do a 12-lead and determining if the life squad is needed. Dr. Lindstrom reported staging is not to occur. On arrival to the scene, paramedics are expected to move to the patient’s side and begin assessment unless cancelled by the first responder.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting will be Monday, **December 12th** at 9:00 a.m.