

Paramedic Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2015

PRESENT

Chief Jeff Kowalski  
Lt. Kirk Keane  
Chief Price  
Greg Szumigala  
Rachel Doran  
Nick Simon  
Phil Moline  
Daniel Barnes  
Marlene Metti  
Quinci Copeland  
Mark Hoffman  
Colin de Saint Victor  
Steve Drouillard  
Ryan Sedlock  
Craig Koperski  
Marty Fuller  
Josh Hartbarger  
Richard Ellett  
Nurse ?

REPRESENTING

Sylvania Twp. Fire  
TFD EMS Bureau  
TFD EMS Bureau  
Toledo Fire  
Sylvania Twp. Fire – LS 6  
Sylvania Twp. Fire – LS 6  
Whitehouse Fire  
Whitehouse Fire – LS 9  
Maumee Fire – LS 7  
UTMC

STAFF

Dennis Cole  
Brent Parquette  
Ralph Shearn  
Aislinn Charlton-Dennis  
Vicki Malinoski  
Loren Boykin  
Jeff Harwick

Emergency Services Director  
CE Administrator/QA  
Communications Manager  
LCEMS CE  
LCEMS Administration  
LCEMS Dispatch  
LCEMS Dispatch

ABSENT

Sylvania Fire – LS 6  
Jerusalem Twp. Fire

Rod Standiford  
Chief Charles Flack

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chief Kowalski.

## **Introductions**

Chief Kowalski suggested everyone go around and introduce themselves since there were a lot of new faces present.

## **Minute Approval**

The minutes from the September 14, 2015 meeting were available for review. Rich Ellett made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Loren Boykin. The minutes were approved as written.

## **Training**

Brent Parquette discussed the comments that were made available to everyone from the last two CE sessions from September and October. Brent stated that there would be no CE in November and December. He is currently working on the CE schedule for 2016. April and May has been designated for the RTF (Rescue Task Force) Active Shooting Class, which will be an 8 hour session. The medics will only have to attend one session in either April or May. Brent inquired if there were any problems with the medics receiving their ACLS E cards. He stated that LCEMS will need copies of each of the cards to put in the medics' files.

The RTF (Rescue Task Force) equipment was displayed to the committee. Brent noted that the plan is for medic's equipment to be tan so medics can be distinguished from law enforcement. Chief Kowalski stated that the medics will need to get the victims out of the warm zone to get them treated. The medics will go in with 2 police officers and 2 medics. There will be two (2) ballistic vests, shoulder bags and helmets on each life squad. This vest and shoulder bag will be equipped with enough supplies to treat 15 to 20 people at a time.

## **Old Business**

Greg Szumigala asked about being dispatched to physician offices which are adjacent to the hospitals. Brent stated that Dr. Lindstrom is aware of the situation but noted that a doctor's office is not part of the hospital and doesn't typically have to move a patient to the hospital proper. This is still part of the public safety mission. It is an on-going process and still working on issues.

Dan Barnes asked if UTMC is part of that situation. Stated that the hospitals call 9-1-1 if something happens in a parking lot and the patient is transported to the Emergency Room. Brent stated that if the medics have issues with the hospitals to bring them to him and we will review the incident.

Brent noted that the Annex now has a Bariatric Unit back in service and it also functions as an Infectious Disease Unit.

## **New Business**

Craig Koperski inquired about the 9-1-1 calls to the nursing homes in Sylvania. Chief Price stated that the nursing homes are using LCEMS to subsidize their business because the private ambulances are taking too long to respond. Dennis stated that we understand the issue but if the nursing homes call, it is our job to respond. Brent stated that with the fire departments getting into the transport business, it has eliminated many private ambulance company resources. There was a clarification that this issue relates to non-emergency BLS calls not life squad runs.

Nick Simon stated that with the non-emergent patient's issues, the medics treat the patient and make sure that they are stable and wait until the private ambulance arrives. Major discussion ensued regarding issues with the nursing homes calling 9-1-1. Chief Kowalski stated that many of the nursing homes have contracts with the private ambulance companies but the private ambulance companies do not currently have the resources for a basic non-emergency transport. Craig Koperski asked if LCEMS can review the issues with the private ambulance companies.

Nick Simon inquired as to when the new life squads went into service. It was stated that we took possession of the new life squads in February or March, 2015. In his opinion, there is a safety issue with the sharps container location on the new squads. Brent stated that it was discussed at this committee about the change in the location of the containers. Dennis stated that the new units on order will have another container located on the other side of the life squads.

Rachel Doran asked about the life squads being dispatched to structure fires to an occupied building. Loren Boykin stated that if the fire has occupancy, the life squad will be dispatched. Lengthy discussion ensued. Dennis stated that it is the main mission of the life squads to be available to the entire county for a medical emergency. He also stated that this issue did come up at the last Policy Board Meeting and that LCEMS only has so many resources available. Chief Kowalski stated that these issues should be brought to the Policy Board. The next meeting of the Policy Board is December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Marlene Metti asked when the medics have to accompany the patient to Labor and Delivery if they can have extra time to be at the hospital. Dennis stated that they should ask the dispatcher for extra time if needed.

Craig Koperski stated that he has been on the county life squads for 12 years and has never had an issue. If the medics need more time, it should be relayed to the dispatcher.

Rachel Doran asked if it has been discussed to move Life Squads 8 & 9. Dennis stated that LCEMS struggles with the location of life squads, but it is about balance between volume and response times. Response times getting to the eastern and western parts of the county is very long. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Marlene Metti asked if there could be a committee formed comprised of medics and dispatchers. Dennis stated that he encourages the medics to come sit with LCEMS Dispatch. Chief Kowalski invited the group to sit in with LCEMS Dispatch. Medics and dispatchers are going to meet at 8:00 before the next Paramedic Committee meeting to clarify procedures and protocol requirements.

Rich Ellett asked about patients signing an AMA and Narcan.

Phil Moline had a question regarding the pager system. Medics stated that the pagers are not working and haven't been fixed. Ralph Shearn stated that this hasn't been reported to dispatch. The Minitor V have limited replacement parts. He also stated that there might be one spare in the Dispatch Center. LCEMS is currently testing a new 800 MHz pager with Sylvania Township's squad. Ralph will try to get a demo Pager to a TFD squad.

Nick Simon stated that there are issues with the MDTs rebooting in the new life squad. Dennis stated it is an issue with the starter pulling too many amps from the batteries. Al is working on a fix to add an additional battery dedicated to the MDT and modem.

Greg Szumigala stated that the Valium has expired in the Mark I kits. Brent stated that there was a 6 month extension letter sent out to the chiefs from Toledo Fire Special Ops.

#### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m. The next meeting will be Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.