

GOOD WILL
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STANDARDIZATION
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Fire Chiefs' Meeting Minutes

Date: August 19, 2020

Location: Virtual via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 with Chief Hardwick presiding.

Roll-Call of Officers

President Rob Leininger - Absent
Vice President Kevin Hardwick - Present
Treasurer Todd Owens - Present
Secretary Denny Meador - Present
Chief Roy Winston – Present
Chief Doug Campbell - Present
Chief Mike Hauck - Present
Chief Alfie Jones - Present
Chief Rob Hursong - Present

New Chiefs

Chief Frank Cook announced that Allen Walls will be the next chief at Colerain Township upon his retirement. Chief Cook thanked the members of the association for their friendship and professional assistance over the course of his career. He will continue to work with OFCA, and will be available should anyone need him.

Chief Tom McCabe announced that Brodie Cianciolo has been promoted to the position of assistant chief for Norwood. Chief McCabe stated that this appointment will secure stable leadership at Norwood for the next decade, and he looking forward to working with him.

COVID-19 Update

HCPH

HCPH Director Greg Kesterman reported that the COVID-19 numbers have been improving over the last 5 weeks. This improvement coincides with the statewide mask order issued by the governor. Hamilton county has reported 10,259 cases with 1,000 hospitalizations and 269 deaths. The reproductive value is 0.94.

Chief Paul Wright asked if there has been a rate analysis does not include the nursing home numbers. Director Kesterman stated that the rates have not been analyzed in that way. However, to determine the best locations for pop up testing sites, nursing homes in that area are excluded from the polygons used to determine case levels.

Chief Hardwick asked if antibody testing was effective. Director Kesterman stated that at this time two types of antibody tests are not as reliable as the PCR tests, which is the preferred test for confirming COVID-19.

EMA

EMA Director Nick Crossley reported that they are still using CARES Act money to stockpile PPE, and that the state has been sending gloves, which have been hard to source through normal suppliers. They are continuing to work on securing a 3-year lease for warehouse space, and plan on having the contract complete by September 1. MSA half-mask respirators have been issued to Cincinnati Fire and USAR. The filtration cartridges are still difficult to come by.

The weather siren upgrades are 2/3 complete, with the remainder schedule to be finished prior to the September test. The new system will have the ability to be activated from any location through the Hamilton county VPN.

The accreditation process is continuing. The original plan for a site visit for assessment has been changed to a virtual assessment in December.

Irvin Jones moved to New Zealand, his wife's home country. EMA will begin the process of advertising for a new operations director in the near future.

Mobile Stroke Unit

Angie Black reported the mobile stroke unit was dispatched 12 times in the first 8 days of operation, with three transports (1 to Jewish, 1 to Mercy west, and 1 to UC). On August 14 the unit responded into Forest Park for what was initially dispatched as a sick person. Forest Park upgraded the incident to a possible stroke and requested MSU-1. Within 4 minutes of dispatch, the patient received TPA, and within 96 minutes he had the clot removed at UCMC. He was subsequently discharged with no neurological deficit and no physical restrictions. This is a very clear example of how local EMS and MSU can have a tremendous positive impact on the community.

Team members are continuing to train and become familiar with local EMS agencies. They are also working with HCCC to fine tune pre-dispatch questions to determine if a response from MSU-1 is appropriate.

Regional Collaboration Partners

HCCC

HCCC Director Andy Knapp reported they are in the middle of a hiring push for dispatchers. They have kept several positions unfilled to offset budget losses from the COVID pandemic, and they have also had several recent retirements. Similar to many other public safety agencies, HCCC has had trouble finding candidates that are interested in public safety careers. He asked membership to direct potential dispatch candidates to the county website for an application, and if you know someone specifically with the right skill set to please contact him and put that

application on his radar.

The maintenance contract for the data radio-based MDC system was not renewed. He anticipates that system will be terminated no later than March 30, 2021. At this time there are very few departments still utilizing that system. He advises those departments still on the data-based system to plan their budgets accordingly to get onto the new MDC system.

GCHMU

Brook Matzen reported the activity report is posted on the GCHMU web page. A written copy of the report was provided to the Secretary and are attached to these minutes.

CFD

Chief Winston announced the date of the annual firefighter memorial service will take place on October 8. It will be held in a virtual environment starting at noon that day.

CFD applied for a fire prevention grant to replace their Safehouse for public education. They partnered with 5 other county departments to create a regional application as opposed to it being solely a Cincinnati project. While there has been no official word on the success of the grant, the indications from the federal government is that it will be funded. He hopes to have official word by the September membership meeting.

USAR

Chief Tom Lakamp reported the completion of trench rescue training in July, and search training will take place in September. USAR has exhausted all state funding from the last grant cycle, and focused on maintenance of vehicles to ensure they continue to meet DOT standards.

There is continuing progress on the drone program

The membership roster stands at 125. Chief Lakamp thanked the county departments for allowing their personnel to participate in USAR.

PHCOC and HCFIU

Chief Owens reported the Prehospital Care Committee has not met since the COVID lockdown. Their next meeting is scheduled for September. The committee is working on a protocol for fever management, an update on the stroke protocol to incorporate MSU-1, and an educational protocol.

The Duodotes that were provided several years ago are nearing or past their expiration dates. Some lot numbers have been extended, and can be found on the FDA web site. Chief Dan Mack is looking into possible grant funding to replace our expired doses.

HCFIU

Callouts:

- March: 6
- April: 3
- May: 1
- June: 3
- July: 1

The team is selling challenge coins as a fundraiser. Please Contact Assistant Chief Ben Shapiro if you are interested.

The annual investigators' seminar in Evendale has been cancelled.

Officer Reports

President

Chief Leininger's report is attached to these minutes.

Vice President

Chief Hardwick reported the mutual aid agreement with CVG is almost complete. The airport is asking county departments that are able to participate to list the apparatus that could be provided to the airport in a "best case" scenario, with the understanding that we do not always operate in a best-case world.

Treasurer

Chief Owens submitted a written financial report which is attached to these minutes. Motion to accept the report made by Chief Hauck, second by Chief Winston. Motion approved.

Secretary

The minutes from the August Executive Board meeting will be corrected to show Chief Cook's retirement as September 5.

The active chief list will be updated to reflect the recent changes in Colerain Township and Norwood. Chief Meador will work with Chief Owens to update the list of associate members as necessary.

Motion to accept the report made by Chief Owens. Second by Chief Hauck. Motion approved.

Chief Meador confirmed the following positions are up for election this year:

- President (Leininger)
- Secretary (Meador)
- Trustee (Hauck)
- Trustee (Winston)

Communications Committee

Chief Scott Souders reported the HCCC policy for non-Mayday use of the emergency button has been distributed to the membership.

The automatic status update feature on the new MDC system has been working well for the departments currently using it. If you are interested in this feature, contact HCCC.

Peer Support

Ed Von Lehmden congratulated Chief Cook on his upcoming retirement. He then thanked the HCFCA for their continued support of the peer support program.

The Tri-State First Responder Peer Support continues to see an increase in services due to COVID-19 and civil unrest. The team received two requests for critical incidents through the HCCC. The team continues to identify and work with local resources. Their last board meeting

was July 7 which they heard from Dr. Kellie O'Dare from Florida A&M 2nd Alarm Project; Kim Neisler from UCF Restores and Red & Blue Line Rescue; and Michelle Fayed from FFSHC. Next board meeting is August 24 in which they will discuss the team's goals and mission along with a business plan. They also will be meeting with the Hamilton County Chiefs of Police September 2 and Warren County Fire Chiefs September 3 in order to provide awareness and ask for support. They continue to face challenges with no clear definition of the "Ohio Critical Incident Stress Management Network" in 2317.02.

Open Discussion

HCCC Director reported that Tim Thomas will be retiring on August 31. He started at HCCC in January 1988, and spent his career working the overnight shift.

Chief Steve Oughterson reported that he will be the HCFA representative to the HCPCA. If there are any specific needs or questions of the police chiefs, please contact Chief Oughterson.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Chief Bryan Young. Second by Chief Terry Timmers. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02.

Next Meeting September 16, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Denny Meador, Secretary