

GOOD WILL  
PUBLIC RELATION  
COOPERATION



STANDARDIZATION  
EDUCATION  
FRATERNAL

### Fire Chiefs' Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 18, 2019

**Location:** Boy Scouts of America, Evendale

The meeting was called to order at 09:06 with Chief Leininger presiding.

**Pledge/Invocation:** Chief Leininger asked for a moment of reflection on the recent anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

#### **Roll-Call of Officers**

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

#### **Associate Members**

##### Mobilcomm

Terry Connaughton wished for success at the upcoming MCI drill.

##### 1-800-BoardUp

Tom Camp thanked the association for allowing 1-800-BoardUp to attend.

##### (859) BOARD UP

(859) BOARD UP will be hosting a Bengals tailgate party on October 20. More details will follow.

##### Pete Bohrofen

Pete Bohrofen reported the current top three performing funds in Deferred Comp are:

1. Dodge & Cox

2. Fidelity Contra Fund
3. Vanguard Capital Opportunity

Pete also spoke about seeing retirement plans that are being based upon incorrect assumptions on the markets, particularly assumptions on earned interest. He is happy to analyze any plan for accuracy at no charge to ensure you have enough money to enjoy retirement.

### **Chief Ashbrock Recognition**

Chief Leininger recognized the recent retirement of Chief Steve Ashbrock from the Madeira/Indian Hill Joint Fire District. Chief Ashbrock was presented an award from the HCFA for his many years of service to the HCFA and the fire service.

Chief Ashbrock thanked those present for the support he received over the years, and reflected on the relationships the organization has fostered over the years. He also gave special recognition to Gary Miller, Dr. Bill Gates, Chief Bruce Smith and Roger Crowder for helping to improve the fire service in Hamilton County.

### **UC Mobile Stroke Unit**

Chief Owens introduced Dr. Broderick to the association. Dr. Broderick is involved with the creation of the UC Mobile Stroke Unit. UC has been recognized as a leader in stroke research and treatment, and this program is a result of extensive research into reducing the time needed to administer TPA for occlusive strokes. This will be the fourth unit in Ohio, with the other units operating in Toledo, Columbus, and Cleveland.

According to research, having a mobile scanner and the ability to administer TPA in the field can reduce the time to administration of the drug by 30-45 minutes. In a medical emergency where time is critical, this program is expected to have a significant impact on the recovery of stroke patients in this region.

The mobile unit is being delivered in December 2019, and is expected to be on the road by March 2020.

Questions from the membership:

- Where will the unit be housed? Currently, the plan is to run the stroke unit from Drake Hospital during operational hours, and store it in Norwood during non-operational hours. Analysis of stroke dispatches and the proximity of major highways to Drake Hospital makes it the logical place to stage.
- How is transfer of care handled? Transfer of care will be similar to the process of handing a patient off to AirCare. If the patient is a candidate for TPA, care will be transferred to the mobile stroke unit. If the patient is not a candidate for TPA, care may stay with the originally dispatched unit.
- Would an intercept with the mobile unit be beneficial to patient care? In other systems running mobile stroke teams, intercepts of a traditional EMS transport unit do occur to facilitate patient care. It is an option being discussed at UC Health and with the protocol committee.
- Will the unit be available 24 hours per day? Current plans are to staff the mobile unit every day of the week from 07:00 to 19:00. This is based on research showing the

- majority of strokes that are treatable occur during these times.
- Will there be competition with other hospital systems? UC Health advocates for transporting the patient to the most appropriate stroke hospital, whether it is a primary stroke center or a comprehensive stroke center. They are in communication with other hospital systems in the region as part of their planning process.
  - Is it sometimes better to “load and go” as opposed to waiting for the mobile team? There will be times that it is in the best interest of the patient to be transported immediately as opposed to waiting for the mobile stroke team. This may be due to proximity of an EMS unit to a stroke center or the location of the mobile unit. Nationally, over 50% of dispatches for a mobile unit are disregarded by the EMS crew on the scene. Communication between EMS crews and the mobile unit will be important in determining patient care.
  - How will the mobile stroke team be notified? Currently, the team is working with Dr. McMullins (HCCC medical director) to determine the types of communications that will be needed between HCCC, the mobile unit, and field EMS units. The mobile team will have access to the 800 MHz radio system, and dispatching may be similar to that for Command 400 or the HCFIU.
  - When dispatched, will the field EMS units be made aware of the mobile unit’s ETA? The mobile unit is working with AirCare dispatch to establish a dispatch work flow that estimates ETA and how best to notify the field EMS units.
  - Will there be a common SOG developed for the dispatch of the mobile unit? UC is working with the protocol committee to develop the algorithm for dispatch, which will then be included in the Academy of Medicine protocols.
  - Our residents may not understand why we are waiting for another unit to arrive on the scene rather than make an immediate transport. Education of the public is important to make the system work. One member of the stroke team will be assigned to reassure and educate family members that may be on the scene and concerned about delays in transport. It may be necessary for a field unit to put a family member in contact with the stroke team via mobile phone to address their concerns. It will take teamwork and communication to make this a success.

## **Regional Collaboration Partners**

### GCHMU

Brooke Matzen will email her report to Chief Meador for distribution to the membership with these minutes.

### Cincinnati State

Bob Cutajar was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. An email with an update was sent to Chief Meador for distribution with these minutes.

### TriHealth

Randy Johann reported that all is going well at TriHealth.

### Great Oaks

Johnny Mason reported that there are 22 students in the fall Fire and EMS Rescue Academy. He also reported that Jim Whitworth recently had hip replacement surgery and is recovering well.

## EMA

Director Nick Crossley reminded the membership of the upcoming Partners in Preparedness meeting taking place on September 23 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Several flyers have gone out through email with details on the event and registration.

The test of the Wireless Alert System on Wednesday September 4 was successful from the perspective of EMA. There were some notification issues that affected AT&T users, which has also happened in other jurisdictions across the country. This is an issue at AT&T and not an indication that there are issues with alert system in Hamilton County.

EMA is in the process of becoming an accredited agency through the national EMA association.

## **Officer Reports**

### President

Chief Leininger provided information on the upcoming county budget and the commissioners' desire to replace the Union Terminal sales tax with an equivalent sales tax dedicated to public safety. For those that may remember, this is similar to the plan Commissioner Todd Portune advocated at a communications funding meeting in Colerain Township several years ago. At this time, Commissioners Portune and Denies Driehaus appear to be in support of the public safety sales tax.

Chief Leininger believes that this is the best opportunity we have had to improve funding for HCCC while at the same time lowering our detail fees. Chief Leininger will send out information to the association about the current county proposal and will request a show of support at an upcoming public hearing on the tax.

### Vice President

Chief Hardwick reported that the FACE Team will meet on September 25 at West Chester Station 71.

There is a bill working its way through the Ohio legislature to ban PFAS in firefighting foam.

The EOC will be open for Oktoberfest. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

### Treasurer

Chie Owens presented the September financial statement, which is attached to these minutes. Motion to accept the report made by Chief Hardwick, second by Chief Scott Souders. Motion carried.

### Secretary

Chief Meador reported that the August general membership minutes and September Executive Board meeting minutes were emailed to the membership.

The updated roster of chiefs was distributed. There are a few minor updates to make and it will be reissued soon.

Motion to accept the minutes made by Chief Wright, second by Assistant Chief Shapiro. Motion

carried.

## **Committee Reports**

### Mayday Policy

Assistant Chief Paul Gallo thanked the members of the committee for their hard work on updating the Mayday policy. A draft had been emailed to the membership prior to the meeting. There was discussion by the membership about the use of the emergency button in conjunction with declaring a Mayday. Chief Gallo will take the comments back to the committee for review, and expects to have an updated draft ready for the October general membership meeting.

### MCI

Chief Hardwick provided an update on the MCI drill scheduled for September 19 at Great American Ballpark. Participants staffing EMS units or other companies should be at Union Terminal by 07:00. Observers should check in at the Johnny Bench statue on Joe Knuxhall Way prior to the start of the event. The communications plan had a last-minute change, and will now utilize Cincinnati Fire Talk Group F.

### Communications Committee

Chief Scott Souders reported that HCCC and the Communications Committee are in the process of clarifying the "General Response" dispatch code to be more informative of the true nature of the dispatch.

Director Knapp reported that there is continuous progress on the new MDC system. The target date for going live with the system is February 1, 2020. At this time the MDC system will run simultaneously across the old and new systems so units can be notified by the new digital system or the old data radio system. Director Knapp is asking that departments that are relying on the data radio system convert to the new system within 30-90 days of the implementation of the new system. It is the desire of HCCC to maintain only the new MDC system to ensure reliable and consistent dispatch for all users of the system.

Director Knapp clarified that the new MDC system can be accessed by both Windows-based and IOS-based tablets and computers. IOS users will have a different app to access the system, but it was a specification of the system to work on both platforms.

HCCC will create a FAQ to distribute to the system users to address concerns we may have.

### Cardiac Health

Chief Meador reported progress is being made in organizing the Cardiac Health Committee.

### Peer Support

Ed Von Lehmden reported continued progress in peer support and mental health care.

### CFD

Chief Winston reported that the memorial service for firefighters will be held on October 3. If you have a member that passed away since the last memorial service, please get that information to CFD as soon as possible.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Chief Wright. Second by Assistant Chief Timmers. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

**Next Meeting October 16, 2019**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chief Denny Meador, Secretary