

Improving the Efficiency of Fire Services in Seven Southwestern Cuyahoga County
Communities

A Joint Project of Area Majors and Baldwin-Wallace College

Operations Team Meeting
August, 18th 2006

Attending Meeting: Bernard Benedict, Dr. Phil Coverdale, Pierre David, Pam Falasco, Ted Huffman, Kim Lammers, Greg Lobas, Oscar Skavdahl, and Joe Toth.

Introduction: Pierre David welcomes the team and asks everyone to introduce themselves. Gives a brief explanation of how the team has split protocols into a sub-committee.

Protocols

The goal is to either merge the two hospitals protocols or adapt Region 8 protocols. Region 8 protocols are based on the state protocols, but are more polished and up to date. The state protocols are the bare minimum and would be a step back for both hospitals to accept them.

The hospital representatives feel that the two hospital protocols are very similar, but it is brought to the attention of the team that at the rank and file meeting that this was not the understanding. One hospital allowing medication while the other requires a phone call before the dispersing of medication can cause confusion and stress at the scene of an accident. The representatives understand this feeling and understand that protocols are major documents that EMS must know and know well.

Ted Huffman volunteers to sit down with members to adapt protocols that would be acceptable to both hospital directors. Both hospitals offer their protocols to compare to the Region 8 protocol. Since the dynamics of the protocols are always changing, it is suggested that the hospital directors meeting every six months to every year to review protocol. The team is warned not to make too many “homegrown changes” so that the protocol for the region is still in line with the state protocol.

Ted will arrange the meeting and it will include the following:

- Ed Dargay
- Mike Frantz
- Jackie Haumschild
- Tom Maund
- Oscar Scavdahl
- Joe Stefanco
- Joe Toth

The objective of the meeting is to cover all protocols and develop a merged protocol that both hospital directors will agree on. The hospital directors will then be given the suggested changes and report to the next Operations Team meeting to give their opinions

on what the team developed. Members of Ted's team will need copies of all the protocols. Jackie Haumschild will e-mail Region 8 and Southwest General's protocols to the members of the Ted's team. Joe Toth will be responsible for mailing or e-mailing Parma's protocols. Ted will have hard copies of Region 8 protocols for all members at the meeting.

Other Issues/ Concerns

The issue of diversion was brought to the team's attention. Diversion will need to be covered at some point in the process; may need to develop a regional diversion plan.

Fire

In the July Operations meeting members were encouraged to bring models of other cities and how they regionalized. One model is brought to the attention of the team: North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue. The model includes five cities, similar population, but much higher density. The article will be put on-line for all the members to read.

The next Operations Team meeting will be September 15th, 2006, at 11:30am. The meeting will be held in the college Union in the Colony Room.

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