

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

October 20, 2006

Attending Meeting: Bernard Benedict, Paul Duchoslav, Mike Frantz, Kim Lammers,
Greg Lobas, Oscar Skavdahl, and Joe Stefanko.

The agenda for the Operations Team meeting was:

- Overview of the medical protocols meeting
- Identify issues for fire SOPs
- Identify members of our fire task force

Issues identified:

- Structure
- Staffing
 - o NFPA (1710) standard
 - o Real expectations
 - o Manning on apparatus
- Communications

Chief Duchoslav passed out a map of the cities and the approximate placement of all the stations.

The sub-committee would be expected to write the SOPs. The team would be expected to do a lot of research and find similar communities who have regionalized. The team would need members who are active participants.

Rather than pull names for the sub-committee perhaps we send a notice to the chiefs and ask them for people from their city. We could also send out an open invitation to all the firefighters. Those may take a long time and most of us know who the people are and their specialties. The team decided to send an e-mail to the chiefs asking them to invite the teams suggested members, but allowing the chiefs to add men that they felt would be beneficial to the team.

The suggested names are as follows:

- Brand Eisenhardt: Berea
- Tom Franzak: Parma
- Mark Ramach: Brook Park
- Cornel: Olmsted Falls
- Jim Mochan: Brooklyn
- Dan Smetana: Brooklyn
- Pat Finneran: Parma Heights
- Don Geddis: Parma
- Matt Garan: Parma

- Ben Dockstader: Brook Park
- Dale Higginbotham: Middleburg Heights

Mike Frantz and Oscar Skavdahl will be at the meetings as well as representatives of the medical protocols sub-committee.

The EMS protocols meeting went very well, both sides seemed pleased. There were a few issues that were sticking points including nitridoxide, morphine, and the use of a C-PAP. Both hospitals felt that those issues could be worked out. The format of the protocols may be changed to match Hillcrest's format. The team felt it worked out 90% of the issues.

The members that attended the EMS protocols meeting are:

- Ed Dargay
- James Dunkle
- Michael Frantz
- Jackie Haumschild
- Ted Huffman
- Kim Lammers
- Mary Pisnar
- Oscar Skavdahl
- Joe Stefanko
- Joe Toth

Q: Were there a lot of similarities that it all went so smoothly?

A: Yes, we had enough people there that knew each others protocols well. We both have a standard of care that we want to improve upon.

There are some things that will cost money such as a C-PAP. They would give a time frame so that the each city's finances can adapt. The next step will include training so that it will supplement the hospital protocols. Many people don't want ER training, but want competent medics. If a district is created there will need to be a full-time EMS training coordinator.

When the collective bargaining agreements are created it will need to state that it is mandatory to be come a medic and stay a medic. There could be a clause that states after 15 years of experience no man could be assigned more than a minimum of 3 times a month, but they can ride more if they choose so.

Other issues that were discussed:

Some stations will need to run at least two wagons based on population, the number of nursing homes, and the call volume. With nursing home calls we could use back-up guys and bill for the use. That could help with some of the finances.

It was also brought to the team's attention that meetings that start at 7:30am are right in the middle of the shift change. For the sub-committee it would be better to organize the meeting at 8:30am.

The fire task force will be meeting November 3, 2006 at 8:30am in the Colony Room.
The next Operations Team meeting will be November 17, 2006 at 11:30am in the Colony Room.

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