



# Paramedic Services S.21 Committee

## Meeting #3 - 2023 – Minutes

Date: September 13 & 14, 2023

Co-Chairs: Wayne Markell and Ian Nash

Location: Hybrid Meeting - from regions via Zoom and in-person at CHSI

---

***The following is a summary of subjects discussed at the above meeting. Please advise of any errors or omissions.***

---

**Attendees:**

Members: Wayne Markell (Co-Chair), Ian Nash (Co-Chair), John McCarthy, Harri Hamalainen, Colin Heise, Dave Doran, , Shane Kinart and Mike Nunn.

Observers: Rob Nishman (MOH) and Patricia Clausen (PSHSA)

Facilitator: Julie Jeaurond (MLITSD, Provincial Specialist)

Guests: Don Pierce (MOH), Dan Armstrong (WHSC), Tina MacPherson (WHSC) and Matthew Griffin (WSIB).

---

	<b>Topic/ Presenter</b>	<b>Comments/Action Items</b>
1	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The meeting agenda was approved.
2.	<b>Welcome</b>	Welcome to new member, Harri Hamalainen who represents OAPC and Mike Nunn who represents SEIU. John McCarthy will take over as co-chair for OAPC following the retirement of Wayne Markell.
3.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	Minutes of the previous meeting (May 31/June 1, 2023) were presented and accepted, as amended.
4.	<b>Update from MOH</b>  <b>Donald Pierce</b> Manager, MOH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Don has changed roles and is now Senior Field Manager for Eastern Region, Central East Field Office (A).</li><li>b) CAD 5 – Every centre is on except Parry Sound.</li><li>c) MPDS update – pressure from Association of Municipalities to have their centre next. Kenora (Nov.) and Thunder Bay (Jan.) then to Ottawa (April) and Renfrew. Then Georgian CACC in Barrie in Winter 2024 followed by Kingston, then Lindsay.</li><li>d) Telephony system – Now is 5 centres, Cambridge is next. Will support the CACC's in the process of going to NG911 and that is set for 2025.</li><li>e) PSRN – Public Service Radio Network. A lack of radios, pause until vendor can come up with resources required. 3-4 month pause on training until further notice.</li><li>f) Real Time Data – called Unit Status View now, getting ready to be release. MCAD deployment coming shortly.</li><li>g) Hiring at CACC – 188 seats offered, 157 completed (record). Accepted 220 seats this year for ACO's. Health and Human Resources and keeping people working is an on-going challenge.</li><li>h) Concerns about portable radio testing taking place in another location on an admin. channel.</li><li>i) Is there a plan to deal with turnover of CACC's? Yes, working with OPSEU.</li></ul>

	<b>Topic/ Presenter</b>	<b>Comments/Action Items</b>
	<b>Rob Nishman</b> Manager, MOH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standard – partial Update in June - Special Event Medical Directives, Chemical Exposure, etc.</li> <li>Letter went out in regard to drug shortages.</li> </ol>
5.	<b>Update from PSHSA</b>  <b>Patricia Clausen</b> Director, PSHSA	 2023.09.13 PSHSA Paramedic S21 Upda
6.	<b>Update from MLITSD</b>  <b>Julie Jeaurond</b> Provincial Specialist	 2023 MLITSD Activity in the Paramedic Sec
7.	<b>Group Discussion</b>	<p>Heat warning and air quality advisories. Propose a new Heat Stress GN – Ian and Colin will start the work.</p>  Heat Stress and Outdoor Air Quality <p>Below are the links to the two MLITSD consultations:</p> <p>Heat Stress  <a href="http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=45108&amp;language=en">http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=45108&amp;language=en</a>  <a href="https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/showAttachment.do?postingId=45108&amp;attachmentId=58984">https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/showAttachment.do?postingId=45108&amp;attachmentId=58984</a></p> <p>Poor Outdoor Air Quality  <a href="http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=45287&amp;language=en">http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=45287&amp;language=en</a>  <a href="https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/showAttachment.do?postingId=45287&amp;attachmentId=59004">https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/showAttachment.do?postingId=45287&amp;attachmentId=59004</a></p>
8.	<b>Group Discussion</b>	CSA D500:20: Ergonomic design for ambulances and related equipment Rob will invite Chris Legasig to the next meeting to discuss the CSA Standard. OWCOW Heat Stress Guideline posted on the Teams site.
9.	<b>Group Discussion</b>	Electric Vehicle Response Update GN – Dave, Harri, Colin & Shane  GN #6 - Motor Vehicle Advanced Te
10.	<b>Presentation</b>  <b>Matthew Griffin</b> WSIB	 7485 - Paramedic MSIP COVID and NI <p>In response to some of the questions and further to the presentation, please see the average age of Allowed Lost Time Claims as well as the average age of NIHL claims noted below. Average age for a NIHL claim registered between 2018 and 2023 was <b>~62 years old</b>.</p>

	<b>Topic/ Presenter</b>	<b>Comments/Action Items</b>																																																
		<p>In regards to the Program for Exposure Incident Reporting question, I have attached a brochure from the <a href="#">WSIB website</a> on the topic.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>Grand Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of Allowed LT Claims</td> <td>1217</td> <td>1302</td> <td>1366</td> <td>1617</td> <td>2066</td> <td>838</td> <td><b>8,406</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Avg Age on Date of Injury/Illness</td> <td>37.6</td> <td>38.2</td> <td>36.4</td> <td>36.7</td> <td>36.2</td> <td>35.5</td> <td><b>36.8</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>Grand Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of Allowed NLT NIHL Claims</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>14</td> <td>20</td> <td>24</td> <td>12</td> <td><b>103</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Avg Age on Date of Injury/Illness</td> <td>60.7</td> <td>62.9</td> <td>60.0</td> <td>60.9</td> <td>62.6</td> <td>63.3</td> <td><b>61.8</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total	# of Allowed LT Claims	1217	1302	1366	1617	2066	838	<b>8,406</b>	Avg Age on Date of Injury/Illness	37.6	38.2	36.4	36.7	36.2	35.5	<b>36.8</b>		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total	# of Allowed NLT NIHL Claims	16	17	14	20	24	12	<b>103</b>	Avg Age on Date of Injury/Illness	60.7	62.9	60.0	60.9	62.6	63.3	<b>61.8</b>
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total																																											
# of Allowed LT Claims	1217	1302	1366	1617	2066	838	<b>8,406</b>																																											
Avg Age on Date of Injury/Illness	37.6	38.2	36.4	36.7	36.2	35.5	<b>36.8</b>																																											
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total																																											
# of Allowed NLT NIHL Claims	16	17	14	20	24	12	<b>103</b>																																											
Avg Age on Date of Injury/Illness	60.7	62.9	60.0	60.9	62.6	63.3	<b>61.8</b>																																											
11.	<b>Roundtable</b>  (All members)	<p><b>Shane Kinart:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heat concerns in Lambton.</li> <li>• Working on getting violence training completed, violence incidents on their way up.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wayne Markell:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loosing lots of experience in Cornwall. Putting in a plan to mandate training for supervisors while others are on vacation.</li> <li>• Looking to build a second central base in western division.</li> <li>• Last meeting/work duty as a Paramedic in Ontario.</li> </ul> <p><b>Harri Hamalainen:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just hired 6 new medics, trying to get auto-pulses, new uniforms.</li> <li>• Going into other regions, crew could be gone an extra 45 minutes.</li> <li>• Trying to figure out solution to having response truck in the yard all winter.</li> </ul> <p><b>John McCarthy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medics in the northern region are stretched thin, sometimes working alone.</li> <li>• No more on-call base.</li> <li>• Community Paramedicine is poaching staff.</li> <li>• Violence calls have increased, PTSD claims are up.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mike Nunn:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works mostly fixed wing out of Thunder Bay</li> <li>• Communities in the north are without proper transportation, parts and mechanic to work on vehicles nearly impossible. Looking for more suitable options.</li> <li>• Using a #9 stretcher put into an SUV.</li> <li>• Rollout for new ambulances is slow.</li> <li>• Provided contact info for Rob Crossan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ian Nash:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues with mental health, things are not moving quickly.</li> <li>• Conference upcoming, discussions around suicide prevention, signs and symptoms for all workers.</li> <li>• Ontario Paramedic Monument, close to getting charity status.</li> <li>• Just put 3 new trucks on the road for Community Paramedicine. Doing mostly Code 3's to try to free up emergency rooms.</li> <li>• Had a needle stick injury recently.</li> <li>• Staffing is an issue. Looking for a new Chief.</li> <li>• Discussion around the changes from a 2-year to a 3-year Paramedic training program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dave Doran:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns w/ACO's and amount of radiation exposure from the consoles at dispatch centres.</li> <li>• Staffing issues with Wolfe Island Ferry. Medics having to go with Coast Guard. Patient transfer plan needs to be implemented. Concerns with Fire Services transporting patients.</li> <li>• Air quality in the stations.</li> <li>• Safe injection sites and tent cities in same vicinity.</li> </ul>																																																

	Topic/ Presenter	Comments/Action Items
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAPR's on each vehicle.</li> <li>• Trying to get tow ropes on ambulances.</li> <li>• No standardization for ambulance cleaning.</li> <li>• Radon testing taking place in a couple stations. One station was elevated and steps being taken to mitigate.</li> <li>• Concerns with transportation of I.V. pumps to hospital.</li> <li>• Lack of resources and long response times continues to be a concern.</li> </ul> <p><b>Colin Heise:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 450 staff and 320 Paramedics.</li> <li>• Off-load delays (some approaching 30 hours), struggling with Code 0's.</li> <li>• Human resources challenges.</li> <li>• Launching Rapid Response Unit that will take code critical calls in London.</li> <li>• Looking to recruit Commander.</li> <li>• Experiencing huge population growth/call demand, affecting budgets.</li> <li>• Mental stress injuries are high.</li> <li>• WPV from patients is on the rise, doing joint project with OPSEU. Starting self-defence and scene de-escalation techniques.</li> <li>• Have received approval for multi-site Joint Health and Safety Committee.</li> <li>• Started sub-group of WPV, 4 members from JHSC.</li> <li>• Early Intervention Program with Western University – any medic who gets a critical call automatically goes to see a counselor, has been going very well.</li> </ul>
12.	<b>Guidance Notes</b> <b>NOTE:</b> Please post your GN drafts on the Teams site or send to Julie for posting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Novel Disinfection</b> - this document with the MLITSD Industrial Provincial Program Advisory Committee (IPPAC) for review.</li> <li>• <b>Community Paramedicine</b> - this document with the MLITSD Industrial Provincial Program Advisory Committee (IPPAC) for review.</li> </ul> <p>Work continues on the following Guidance Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paramedics Around Water</b> (Colin and Dave)</li> <li>• <b>Gas Monitors</b> (Dave and John)</li> <li>• <b>Heat Stress</b> (Colin and Ian)</li> <li>• <b>Update of GN #6</b> – Motor Vehicle Advanced Technology Hazards to include updated electric vehicle response component. (Dave, Harri, Colin and Shane)</li> </ul>
13.	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Next meeting date set for 2023:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>