



## Paramedic Services Section 21 Committee Meeting Minutes

@ 675 Cochrane Drive, Toronto

Date: April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Time: 1:00pm – 4:30pm & 9:00am – 12:00pm

### Attendance:

(Members)	Ian Nash (co-chair) Colin Heise Dave Doran Harri Hamalainen Mike Nunn Stephen Adlington Shane Muir	CUPE Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs OPSEU Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs Unifor SEIU Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs
(Observers)	Dawn Clinch Don Pierce Carrie Hassberger Natasha D'Angelo Aparna Sen-Hobbins Nancy Bradshaw	Public Services Health and Safety Association Senior Field Manager, Ministry of Health Senior Manager, Ministry of Health Workers Health and Safety Centre (WHSC) Manager, Ministry of Health Strategy Advisor, MLITSD
(Facilitator)	Julie Jeaurond	Provincial Specialist, MLITSD
(Guests)	Richard Chung Tressa Alan Kevin Bragnalo	Occupational Hygienist, WHSC Senior Policy Advisory, MLITSD Operations Commander(A), Superior North EMS
(Regrets)	Marc Goudie	Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs

### 1.0 Welcome and Introductions

The Paramedic Section 21 meeting was held at 675 Cochrane Drive, Toronto. The meeting is co-chaired by I. Nash and Colin Heise.

### 2.0 November 2024 Minutes and Action Items

The minutes from the November 2024 meeting were prepared and distributed to the members for comment then provided to the co-chairs for approval. The minutes were finalized, approved and posted to PSHSA's website.

### 3.0 Ministry of Health Update

C. Hassberger provided the following update:

- ALS/PCS 5.4 import date of June 2, 2025.
- PCP Control Substances – hoping to have something in place by end of the year.
- Documentation Standards – should be publishing around June with import date of September 2, 2025. Work continues on equipment standards.

- BCLS updated very shortly.
- Exams – over 650 registered to write in June.
- ID cards continue to go out.

D. Pierce provided the following update:

- This week is National Telecommunications week. Exciting to see all the love from the Paramedic Services, the Branch, the Ministry, Deputy Minister and on the 407.
- Exemplary Service Awards for ACOs across the province and paramedic services from the Governor General. I received by medal after 30 years of service.
- Pushing the professionalism of the Ambulance Communications Officer versus the term 'dispatcher'.
- MPDS – went live in Lindsay in March. Oshawa goes live in May, then all of central east will be on MPDS. Next is Timmins in June then to Hamilton/Cambridge, then to southwest then back to north and finish MPDS by May 2027, one year in advance.
- PSRN Radio System – in the southwest zone and moving to southeast zone that includes Oshawa, across to Kingston, Ottawa up to Parry Sound, will be transitioning to public radio safety network. ORNGE is partially transitioned.
- Telephony – 4 CACCs ready to go to the new system. NG911 looking to be compliant by 2027. Many systems on analog will be moving to digital system.
- Text and pictures to 911 – we are not there yet.
- CAD5 – next system is called CAD23.
- Ice storm in central Ontario had huge impact – had services volunteer their assistance, provided the supplies they needed.
- Deployment Plans – why do some services get calls within 30 minutes of the end of their shift and others don't?
  - Worked with a particular services deployment plan to send 2 ambulances – one that is ready to go off shift and the next closest ambulance that can do transport.
  - The way MPDS is written, it supports patient safety
  - Each municipality has a right to design what services should be available within their own community and are responsible for the ambulance response in their area. At MOH, they ensure there is an adherence to a seamless service in Ontario. We support the deployment plan based on the paramedic wants under the Act, they have to develop a deployment plan and share it with the Ministry, and we would decide local operating practices and how they want the services to be dispatched.
- Four CACCs that have concerns about electric shock discharge, has anything been done to assess the CACCs?
  - Found one area where grounding wasn't done well several years ago, recently an issue in Oshawa. Certain things have been put in place like no more blankets at the desk, no more cell phones.
  - Have increased humidity
  - MLITSD was called in, brought electrical engineer.
  - Trying to keep in above 35% humidity
  - Ensured grounding was place

#### **4.0 PSHSA Update**

Dawn Clinch provided an update.



2025-04-16 - PSHSA  
Report for Paramedi

## **5.0 Workers Health and Safety Centre Update**

Natasha D'Angelo provided an update.

- website

## **6.0 Presentation**

Richard Chung, Occupational Hygienist, WHSC, presented an overview of the analysis of a paramedic uniform sample that was submitted for the determination of formaldehyde and characterization of semi-volatile organic compounds. Results of the analysis and comments are presented in the attached report.



2514749- WHSC -  
Full Report.pdf

## **7.0 MLITSD Prevention Division Presentation**

Nancy Bradshaw, Strategy Advisor, Prevention Division, MLITSD presented on the Working for Workers Act 6, the expanded CPO powers amendments and an overview of Prevention Division.



PD S 21 Update  
Paramedics Apr 16 8

Tressa Alan, Senior Policy Advisor, MLITSD provided a policy update.



Policy Update -  
April 2025.pdf

## **8.0 Roundtable and New Business**

M. Nunn

- Sudbury base will have fixed wing aircraft with 24/7 coverage coming in the next couple weeks.

S. Adlington

- Lambton County has been busy - rollover accident on the 402 and a head-on collision in Strathroy, thankfully no major injuries but resulting in the loss of two newer ambulances.
- Received approval for a new base station in Sarnia that will house 28 vehicles.

- Getting a 9-9 truck starting July 4<sup>th</sup>, that will be in addition to the 8-8, and 10-10 trucks.

#### I. Nash

- PTSD claims continue to be an issue.
- Portable radios – where is the letter to the Minister at now?
- Hazards not being passed on, showing up to homes where there are guns. Some CACCs say they can't flag others are doing it. There should be some kind of communication to prevent injuries.
  - Don's response: Hazardous addresses falls beyond the HR responsibility of the service, so the service has to agree with the CAO to include hazardous addresses. Once defined, the services defines what hazardous can mean. Info being provided by caller to the ACO should be given out to service immediately.
  - Ministry will not tell paramedics to stage, the only time paramedics will be told to stage from a CACC perspective is if the service themselves have a notation that they should be staging, a paramedic supervisor decides to stage or paramedic on scene advise to stage.
- Violent patient – law enforcement not riding w/patient. The officer should be on board if the patient is violent.
- Responding to calls in another region when there is an ambulance already in the area waiting. What is going on?
  - Don's response: with MPDS that may disappear, in that particular case, it should be written up as an incident report.
- Importance of getting GN's out.
- Paramedic specific JHSC Part 2 Certification training – in-person training more effective than online training.

#### D. Doran

- Training for members of the JHSC should be included in the OHSA.
- OHCOV did ventilation assessment – pushing to have all locations done
- Working on our multi-site agreement. Also reviewing all the Terms of Reference for the 28 services represented.
- Issues with Standards – is there a health and safety lens applied to standards?
- Issues with ergo at hospitals – standing around hospitals for hours at a time, trying to work with local hospitals.

#### C. Heise

- Corner's Inquest in London surrounding 3 individuals who died in police custody several years ago. One recommendation was to have someone medically qualified in cells for biometric and health monitoring.

### Day Two

#### 9.0 Guidance Notes

The following GNs are currently in approvals:

- 1) Working On or Around Water
- 2) Limiting Exposure to Gases
- 3) Heat Stress

D. Clinch and J. Jeaurond have developed a template that includes RACE description and Hierarchy of Controls.

Reviewed the following GNs:

- Improving Air Quality in Paramedic Services Building (Dave and Stephen)(this GN replaces/updates GN #3 - Reducing Diesel Exhaust in EMS Stations)
- Cold Stress (Dave, Harri and Marc)

Other GN's in development or under review:

- Motor Vehicle Advanced Technology Hazards (being updated) (Colin, Dave and Harri)
- Workplace Violence and Harassment (being updated) (Ian and Colin) – discussed separating this GN into two.
- GN #2 - EMS Vehicle Occupant Safety – review of this existing GN.

Potential New Topics for GNs:

- Electric Shock Discharge

**10.0 Meeting Adjourned. Upcoming 2025 meeting dates:**

- June 4 & 5
- September 10 & 11
- November 19 & 20