



Program Brief

Marysville Fire Division Community Paramedic Program – Marysville, Ohio

Problem Statement: The Marysville Fire Division within Union County, Ohio protects 30,000 individuals living in the City of Marysville, Paris, Dover and a portion of Darby townships. The Fire Division responds to approximately 3,800 incidents annually. The Division began seeing the same patients call repeatedly, sometimes several times a week, for emergency medical services. These calls affected the patient's quality of life due to time spent in the emergency department of the local hospital. To aid in this concern, the Division created the Marysville Fire Division Community Paramedic program.

Program Overview: The Marysville Fire Division Community Paramedic program is intended to be a provider of public health services to the elderly, underserved and chronic condition-patient populations. The program provides care as an extension of a physician, while acting as the patient's advocate to connect them to a variety of beneficial social services outside the emergency department or hospital. Community Paramedics provide health assessments, chronic disease monitoring and education, medication care and prescription regime compliance, hospital discharge follow-up care, and minor medical procedures approved by the medical director. Paramedics provide these services while on duty and not actively involved in emergency response activities. The goals of the program are threefold: to improve the quality of life of residents; to improve health outcomes among medically vulnerable populations; and to save healthcare dollars by preventing unnecessary ambulance transports, emergency department visits, and hospital readmissions.

The program targets super-users of the Marysville Fire Division Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. These super-users are defined as those patients that utilize EMS services more than eight times in a 12-month period. Participation in the program is voluntary. Participants must be:

1. At least 18 years of age and capable of providing consent (exceptions for minors may be made on a case by case basis)
2. Not enrolled in an inpatient or residential Psychiatric Program designed for the Severely Mentally Ill (individuals receiving outpatient services are eligible)
3. Not enrolled in Hospice
4. Not an inmate of Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW)

Participants may be referred to the program by other service agencies or identified as meeting the super-user criteria. The EMS Bureau Chief maintains a list of all participants in the program. Participants can be un-enrolled, terminated or graduate from the program by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

1. Voluntary exit from the program by the participant
2. Death of the participant
3. Participant primary residence moves outside the Marysville Fire Division response area
4. Participant is relocated to an assisted living facility or nursing home
5. Participant no longer meets the criteria for super-user within a six-month period
6. Participant is non-compliant with the program

The program has collaborated with Wings Recovery and Support for peer support services and various other organizations throughout Union County and Central Ohio.

Outcomes: Since implementation, the program has had ten participants graduate by having less than ten calls for EMS in a one-year period. Many of these past participants no longer require EMS, thus improving their quality of life by not spending hours per week in the local hospital emergency department.

To learn more about the Marysville Fire Division Community Paramedic Program, please contact:

Chief Jay Riley

jriley@marysvilleohio.org