



## Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

### Heliport Review Committee

#### Summary of January 23, 2020 Meeting

This report summarizes the issues discussed during the January 23, 2020 regular business meeting of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Heliport Review Committee. A full list of meeting participants appears at the conclusion of this report. Any questions or comments about the Lurie Children's Heliport and its operations should be directed to LaDarius Curtis, Community Relations Manager, [LCurtis@luriechildrens.org](mailto:LCurtis@luriechildrens.org).

1. **Welcome and Meeting Purpose:** Susan Hayes Gordon, Chair of the Helicopter Review Committee, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. by welcoming meeting participants and restating the purpose of the Committee.
  - a. The purpose of the Heliport Review Committee is to provide community review of the Helicopter Air Ambulance Services (H.A.A.) at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.
  - b. The Committee will meet quarterly to review H.A.A. operations at Lurie Children's in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Institutional Planned Development Number 3.
  - c. It has been decided that the Committee meetings held in January and April will be conducted as a conference call, while meetings held in July and October will be in person at Lurie Children's Hospital. The meetings to discuss the winter months (January & April) will be held as a conference call due to the small number of flights that historically take place during that time frame.
2. **Introductions:** Susan Hayes Gordon facilitated introductions of participants and reviewed the Committee's meeting materials.
  - a. Roll Call of Committee Members: Susan Hayes Gordon asked all participants to identify themselves. A full list of meeting participants appears at the conclusion of this report.
  - b. Introduction to Materials: Each Committee member was emailed the following prior to the meeting and provided with hard copies at the meeting:
    - i. Meeting agenda and supplementary materials; and,
    - ii. Heliport Usage Reports for the months of October, November and December 2019. Heliport Usage Reports are posted publicly and can be found online at: <https://www.luriechildrens.org/en-us/community/community-relations/Pages/lifesaving-heliport-operation.aspx>.



- c. After roll call, Susan introduced Lisa Hawk, legal counsel and federal lobbyist for Association for Critical Care transports (ACCT), a non-profit patient advocacy organization. Its members are dedicated to promoting access to the safest and highest quality critical care transport system possible.

Lisa has been Lurie Children's advisor on federal issues for over a decade. Lisa was asked to provide an overview of the critical care transport industry and bring the Committee up to date on ACCT's current advocacy efforts.

### 3. **Update on National Critical Care Transport Safety Issues:** Lisa Hawke, Executive Director of the Association of Critical Care Transports

Lisa Hawk provided an update on the critical care transport industry:

- a. **FAA Reauthorization Act**

Ms. Hawke informed the Committee that the FRA is the underlying law that governs the entire FAA and is reviewed every 5 to 6 years. The law was reauthorized just this past year.

- b. **Surprise Billing**

Ms. Hawke explained the process known as surprise billing, or when a patient goes to a hospital and physicians out of network provide certain services, later receiving a bill with charges that were not expected.

ACCT decided to address surprise billing regarding air ambulance transport in Congress. The federal government, unlike ground transport, regulates air transport.

ACCT worked with legislators to propose legislation that prevents air transport surprise billing. If the amount of the bill after insurance coverage is greater than \$25,000 and greater than the median in network rate, the family is eligible for arbitration. There are continued discussions to lower this amount.

- c. **Safety Improvements**

NTSB has several recommendations that have yet to be adopted. Including:

- The entire industry does not use autopilot yet. (All Lurie programs do). ACCT believes autopilot should be installed in all air ambulances.
- IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) vs. VFR (Visual Flight Rules). IFR is known to be safer, but NTSB has never required. ACCT believes it should be required in all air ambulances.

Susan Hayes Gordon thanked Lisa Hawke for her time and her efforts to improve the safety of the air ambulance industry.



Susan then asked Karen Arndt to provide an update on the H.A.A. Operations.

- 4. Update on Lurie Children's Helicopter Air Ambulance (H.A.A.) Operations:** Karen Arndt, Director of Interfacility Transport
  - a. All landing agreements have been completed.
  - b. Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) reaccreditation visit will be in February. The heliport is reaccredited every 3 years.
  - c. RFIs sent to all vendors on billing practices and Lurie received satisfactory responses.
- 5. Review of October through December 2019 Heliport Usage Reports:** Karen Arndt reviewed Heliport Usage Reports for the reporting period from October to December with the Committee:
  - a. Copies of the October, November and December 2019 Heliport Usage Reports are included as an attachment to this report.
  - b. All Lurie Children's Heliport Usage Reports are posted publicly and can be found at: <https://www.luriechildrens.org/en-us/community/community-relations/Pages/lifesaving-heliport-operation.aspx>
- 6. Committee Feedback:**
  - a. A question was asked on the number of companies Lurie has landing agreements with. Currently, Lurie has agreements with five providers.
- 7. Committee Meeting Schedule:** The Committee's next meeting will be a conference call on April 16, 2020 from 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- 8. Close:**
  - a. Susan Hayes Gordon concluded the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- 9. Meeting Participants:**
  - a. Susan Hayes Gordon
  - b. LaDarius Curtis
  - c. Laura Westley
  - d. Karen Arndt
  - e. Michelle Stephenson
  - f. Reagen Atwood



- g. Brian Stahulak
- h. John Wilhelm
- i. Mike Riordan
- j. John Chikow
- k. Peter Simoncelli
- l. Sharyl Mackey
- m. Dave Kostelanksy
- n. Willa Iglitzen Lang
- o. Hannah Gryska, on behalf of Comm. Jamie Rhee
- p. Linda Schumm
- q. Nick Polutnik