

**Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago**  
**Heliport Review Committee**  
**Summary of October 22, 2015 Meeting**

This report summarizes the issues discussed during the October 22, 2015 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 Ken Labok, Community Relations Manager, [klabok@luriechildrens.org](mailto:klabok@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 Helicopter Review Committee is to provide community review of the Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (H.E.M.S.) at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.
  - b. The Committee will meet quarterly to review H.E.M.S. operations at Lurie Children's in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Institutional Planned Development Number 3.
  
- 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: Susan Hayes Gordon provided a brief overview of the meeting 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 July, August and September 2015. 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>
  
- 3. Federal Advocacy Update:** Lisa Tofil, Esq., Partner at Holland & Knight, coalition leader of the Association of Critical Care Transport (ACCT).

Ms. Tofil provided the following updates on federal legislation and advocacy related to medical helicopter services:

- a. There is a push for any legislation to increase Medicare reimbursement for air medical ambulances to be tied to a specific set of standards. Currently, all air medical providers are treated the same. The AACT wants to see reimbursement tied to quality and operational standards. This issue is scheduled to be discussed.
- b. A federal task force has been assembled to examine the increase in private drone use after documented near misses with medical flights. A drone in a technological context is an unmanned aircraft controlled remotely. There is currently no protection from drones for privately owned heliports, which includes all hospitals; however, there is a push for a law to control and ensure safe operation of HEMS and other helicopter operations in relation to drones.

**4. Update on Lurie Children’s H.E.M.S Operations:** Ranna A. Rozenfeld, MD, FAAP, FCCM Medical Director, Lurie Children’s Transport Team & Laura Westley, MSM, RN, C-NPT, Director, Lurie Children’s Transport Team

Dr. Rozenfeld and Ms. Westley provided the following updates

- a. There were no updates to report regarding the Helicopter Medical Service Operations for Lurie Children’s Hospital.
- b. When Lurie Children’s vendors finalize their contracts with the Vertiport, Lurie Children’s will begin using the Vertiport as an alternative landing site.

**5. Update on Nationwide Helicopter Incidents:** Gillett Salinas, Vice President, Haymarket

- a. As part of its commitment to safe operations, Lurie Children’s carefully monitors news about helicopter safety incidents throughout the country. When incidents involve air medical operators, the hospital often receives updates from the American Association of Critical Care Transport (ACCT), a patient advocacy organization, the Illinois Association of Air and Critical Care Transport (IAACCT) and the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS). The Transport Team and community relations support staff also independently monitor the national and official reports on helicopter incidents from the National Transportation Safety Board.
- b. When national incidents involve air medical operators, they are analyzed and summarized for the Committee.

From July to September, there was one incident involving a medical helicopter. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Frisco, Colorado a medical helicopter crashed during take-off from St. Anthony Summit Medical Center. The helicopter was a single-engine helicopter. Lurie Children’s policy only allows dual engine helicopters to land on the rooftop helipad, therefore this could not have occurred at the hospital. A preliminary report has been issued by the National Transportation Safety Board and can be found here: [http://www.nts.gov/layouts/ntsb.aviation/brief.aspx?ev\\_id=20150703X00859&key=1&queryId=85a1ad46-a54a-46e6-82c2-51e7075f58b9&pgno=6&pgsize=50](http://www.nts.gov/layouts/ntsb.aviation/brief.aspx?ev_id=20150703X00859&key=1&queryId=85a1ad46-a54a-46e6-82c2-51e7075f58b9&pgno=6&pgsize=50)

**6. Review of July through September 2015 Heliport Usage Reports:** Ranna Rozenfeld, MD, FAAP, FCCM, Medical Director, Lurie Children’s Transport Team and Ken Labok, Manager, Community Relations reviewed Heliport Usage Reports for the reporting period from April to June with the Committee:

- a. Copies of the July, August and September 2015 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>

**7. Committee Feedback:**

- a. A discussion was held as to whether two of the four quarterly meetings could be changed to an emailed summary if there is a lack of news to report. A question was raised if this type of reporting meets the standards in the planned development. Staff said they would look into this and report back.
- b. IDOT keeps a file of all Lurie Children’s reports and meeting summaries.
- c. Committee members may submit questions following the meeting for review by the Transport Team.

**8. Committee Meeting Schedule:** The Committee’s next meeting will be January 28, 2016.

**9. Close:** Susan Hayes Gordon, Chair, announced that Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago’s Transport Team is the recipient of the 2015 Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) Neonatal and Pediatric Transport Award of Excellence. The award recognizes individuals or teams that have made a significant contribution to the overall enhancement, development, leadership and promotion of neonatal/pediatric patient care, education, research or safety in the medical transport setting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

**10. Meeting Participants:**

- a. Linda Schumm
- b. Dave Kostelansky
- c. Ken Labok
- d. Susan Hayes Gordon
- e. Ranna Rozenfeld
- f. Mike Riordan
- g. Marc Schulman
- h. Gillett Salinas
- i. Laura Westley
- j. Christian Ficara
- k. Michelle Stevenson
- l. Sherri Ewing
- m. John Chikow
- n. Lisa Tofil
- o. Nick Polutnik