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Mr. Bennett,

The City of Monroe Fire Department initiated a trial Community Paramedicine Program with Ohio Living at Mount Pleasant in 2015. The purpose of this program was multifaceted and contained design focus in the following areas;

- Elevate our education level in the care of our at-risk community dwelling seniors
- Determine health risks that produce high likelihood of hospital admission
- Determine health risks that produce high likelihood of hospital re-admission
- Document known gaps in the healthcare system as produced through patient interviews

The MFD currently maintains a rotating patient load of 30-40 patients with a focus on long-term care plans, fall prevention, and patient access to regional services. The MFD was a recipient of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in 2017, which provided 6 additional career firefighters and a dedicated career Community Paramedic for a period of two years. This allowed an improved focus on our program, and the ability to expand relationships with our healthcare partners. Further, our CP completes a home safety inspection which evaluates whether a particular home has significant factors that may result in fires, trip hazards, fire detection, and health related issues.

The MFD entered a formal partnership with Atrium Medical Center in early 2018. This relationship was built in an effort to reduce re-admissions in patients with high risk illnesses through an in-depth screening process. Along with this program, Atrium Medical Center has committed funding for a two year trial utilizing a telemedicine product. This will allow our CP to upload clinical findings to a cloud-based server, where physicians can view and evaluate findings, utilize a camera to view specific presentations, and have face-to-face communications with both the patient and the CP at the scene. The telemedicine product contains blue tooth products such as a stethoscope, BP cuff, weight scale, pulse oximeter, and glucose monitoring to name a few. Vital information is uploaded to a secure sight, and sent to the physician via text, e-mail, or fax. The information is produced through trending data in a chart format.

2018 also brought another partnership with Miami University Oxford. While the MFD has supported interns for the past 3 years with MU’s Gerontology Program, we are currently sharing an intern with Atrium Medical Center with a focus on data collection and program effects. Our intent is to collect appropriate data that can be used formally at the conclusion of the program.

The success of this program can be measured in numerous ways. Certainly a reduction in hospital admissions, physician office visits, and early recognition of medical issues are key. What cannot be measured are human interaction and the
effect that has on an elderly patient. There are falls that were avoided because we educated the patient on the dangers, and causes of falls. The introduction of meal plans that provide improved health through nutrition. The program has very formal activities that address health concerns, but our focus is an improved overall life at home.

The City of Monroe has fully committed to the Community Paramedicine concept, and intends on retaining the program long term.


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5Hq4G2FSkM

Respectfully,

John P. Centers
Fire Chief