



## MCLEAN COUNTY AREA EMS: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December | 2023

# Quality Improvement & System Updates

## Graduating Class of 2023

Mclean County Area EMS System and Heartland Community College are pleased to announce the paramedic graduating class of 2023. Over the past two years, these eight students have worked tirelessly to achieve the extensive requirements by CoAEMSp for paramedic licensure eligibility. We are extremely proud of these gentlemen and wish them well as they finish their capstone experiences and prepare to challenge the NREMT exam.

[As picture from left to right, Justin Volker, Dahlton Krug, Zach Marvel, Brian Fuss, Jude Lowery, Noah Novak, Jake Cheeseman, & Dylan Carey (not pictured)]

## Message from the Coordinator

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our community partners that have gone above and beyond to enhance our educational programs. A huge thank you to Normal Fire Department for donating a Zoll Monitor for our classroom. This new monitor leaps and bounds beyond our old hand me downs. A big thanks also to Heartland Community College for purchasing Syndaver training equipment. The Airway head, needle decompression chest, IV trainer, and Cricothyrotomy neck are so realistic that it rivals a cadaver lab. Finally, thank you to all the agencies out there that allow our students to perform clinical and ride time at your facility. From dispatch to the hospitals to all the agencies that our students ride or work at, it truly takes a community to produce the quality level of EMS providers that we are lucky enough to have. Your words of wisdom, mentorship, constructive criticism, and knowledge make our students better. We couldn't do what we do without you.



**Licensing Tip:** Any name or address updates should be communicated to the Mclean County Area EMS Office within 30 days of change. Individuals may not receive renewal packet if MCAEMS information is not up-to-date.



# Guilty Verdict: Elijah McClain Case

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, two paramedics in Aurora, Colorado were charged with criminally negligent homicide for their actions and inactions in the care of Elijah McClain. While any pre-hospital patient death is devastating, this case is particularly impactful to all those in the Emergency Medical Services community. The findings of this case will likely impact initial education, interprofessional collaboration, and protocols in the coming years. As we collectively begin to evaluate the case (pre-arrival details, care objectives, interprofessional information exchange, and ongoing observation), the Mclean County Area EMS System will continue to demonstrate our commitment to EMS providers across our service region by:

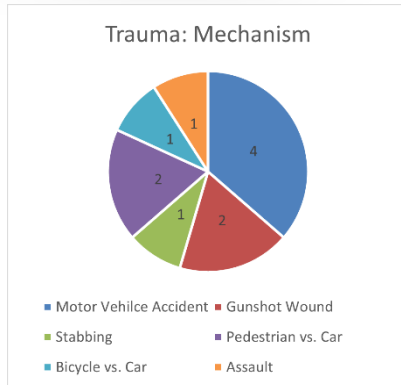
- Ensuring protocols match the national standard for patient care.
- Reviewing and updating policies that support interprofessional collaboration with defined roles in patient treatment & care.
- Providing continued opportunities for individual exploration of the case and associated outcome

For those interested, there is a virtual webinar by Page, Wolfberg, & Wirth law group on January 9<sup>th</sup>, from 1300-1430. Please register for the session with the link below:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/14324873501333846>

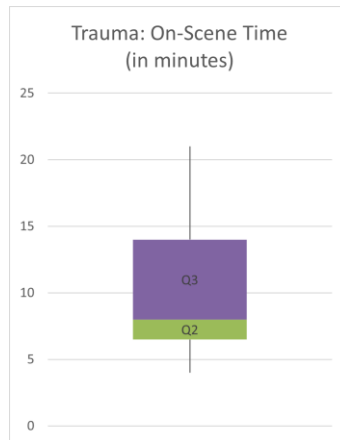
## November Trends: Trauma

- MCAEMS providers transported 11 categorized traumas during November 2023.



- GCS & Pain score was noted in all 11 categorized trauma cases
- 3 of 5 trauma cases categorized in the field included documentation of “an early trauma notification”
- 8 of 8 trauma cases requiring SMR included documentation of a c-collar and/or backboard

- The average on-scene time was approximately 11 minutes.



**Trauma Documentation Tip:** When documenting the clinical findings of a gunshot wound, it is never advisable to label these injuries as “entrance” or “exit”. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) recommends specialized forensic training to complete this assessment (Smock, 2022). As an alternative, ACEP recommends documenting on the following:

- Anatomical location
- Size
- Shape
- Distinguishing forensic characteristics (Abrasion collar, tattooing, soot, seared skin, triangular tears, muzzle contusion)

Smock, B. (2022). The clinical forensic evaluation of gunshot wounds in the ED. <https://www.acepnow.com/article/the-clinical-forensic-evaluation-of-gunshot-wounds-in-the-ed/>

## Quality Council Meetings 2024

Wednesday January 27, 2024 from 0930-1030

Wednesday April 24, 2024 from 0930-1030

Wednesday July 31, 2024 from 0930-1030

Wednesday October 30, 2024 from 0930-1030



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