



Premier Health, Dayton Fire Department launch Community Paramedicine initiative

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Premier Health has joined forces with the City of Dayton Fire Department to support patients with limited access to health care services.

Premier Health and the Dayton Fire Department this summer will launch a Community Paramedicine program that can assist City of Dayton residents and improve their health and wellness. The program will provide education to enrollees on managing their health needs. Additionally, the program will provide access to primary care physicians, prenatal care, senior care services, needed medications, and basic needs such as food and safety around the home.



This program is the first collaboration of its kind in Dayton that brings together hospital and fire department staff to identify patients in need of in-home care.

Premier Health will fund the program for three years, thanks in part to the generous support of the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation.

As part of the program, a team of three professionals including a paramedic, emergency medical technician, and social worker will visit patients in their homes, providing health assessments, home safety checks, education about managing their health condition, and medical care as needed. Patients in need of in-home assistance tend to have chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other respiratory issues, congestive heart failure (CHF), and diabetes. The Community Paramedicine team will help to address those chronic illnesses, connect patients to appropriate resources, which will improve patients' health and hopefully reduce the need for future hospitalizations and health emergencies.

"This partnership provides Dayton Fire a unique opportunity to engage some of our most vulnerable patients before an emergency exists," said Director and Chief Jeffery Payne. "Working collaboratively with community partners, this program will enhance patient care and reduce 911 transports where alternate options would better serve our patients and our emergency delivery system."

Premier Health and the City of Dayton's new Community Paramedicine program will accommodate as many as 25 patients at one time. Eligible patients will be identified through Premier Health hospitals, the Dayton Fire Department, physicians, and other health care team members. Patients might only need one visit to ensure their needs are met, or they could be enrolled for up to 30 days. The program is available to all qualifying Dayton residents, though data indicate that residents of northwest Dayton stand to benefit the most from the program. To qualify, patients must not be eligible for home health care.

Through the program, the Community Paramedicine team will conduct home visits and work with multiple agencies to establish additional services that a patient might need, such as Meals on Wheels or prescription delivery. Care plans will be tailored to each patient, taking into account their specific home environment, support, and medical needs. A steering committee is being formed of community agency representatives and leaders from across the city to assist in identifying resources that a resident might need.

"Premier Health's mission is to improve the health of the communities we serve and that goes beyond the walls of our hospitals," said Mary Boosalis, president and CEO of Premier Health. "Collaborating with the City of Dayton to care for patients in their homes is a level of service that we are pleased to introduce to the Dayton community. This initiative aligns with our mission and extends our reach in providing quality care."

Randy Marriott, MD, FACEP, medical director of Premier Health's EMS Center of Excellence and EMS medical director for the Dayton Fire Department, will oversee the program. Dr. Marriott has worked in the emergency department at Miami Valley Hospital since completing his residency in emergency medicine in 1994. He was named EMS Medical Director of the Year in 2011 by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS.

"This well-thought-out collaboration between Premier Health and Dayton Fire should positively affect the health of patients and help to reduce readmissions," said Dr. Marriott. "Patients will benefit tremendously from having the support that they need to continue their treatment plan outside of the hospital setting."

Possible future enhancements to the Community Paramedicine program could include a telehealth component which would further improve patient access to services and improve patient care.

About Premier Health

Based in Dayton, Ohio, Premier Health (www.premierhealth.com) has a mission to improve

the health of the communities it serves. The health system operates three hospitals: Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton with additional inpatient sites at Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville and Miami Valley Hospital North in Englewood; Atrium Medical Center in Middletown; and Upper Valley Medical Center in Miami County. In addition, the health system offers a wide range of care choices, including virtual care; e-visits; a telestroke network and other telehealth options; an urgent care network; free-standing emergency departments; a large primary and specialty care network; and home health services. Premier Health is the second largest employer in the region and the largest health care system in Southwest Ohio.

About the Dayton Fire Department

The Dayton Fire Department is committed to the safety of everyone who lives, works, visits and plays in the City of Dayton. Since 1863 the dedicated men and women of the Fire Department have been honored to provide fire, rescue, hazardous materials and emergency medical response services to the citizens and visitors of our city. The Dayton Fire Department takes pride in being a highly professional organization with over 300 uniformed personnel responding from 12 fire stations to provide outstanding emergency and non-emergency services in a variety of activities city-wide, as well as regionally. Our mission is to provide the highest level of broad-based fire, health and rescue services to those entrusted to our care.

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