

## **MedFlight Enters into ALS/BLS Partnership to Strengthen Patient Care**

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Columbus, Ohio (43235) – MedFlight and Community EMS of Ohio (CEMSO) have entered into a partnership to provide ALS/BLS (critical care life support/Basic Life Support) services in Franklin County.

The partnership, locally called MedCare Ambulance, will join MedFlight's long standing reputation for quality and safety as a critical care helicopter and MICU (Mobile Intensive Care Unit) service in the Columbus area with CEMSO, an affiliate of a national provider of ALS/BLS transportation with 25 years experience. The new venture will not be a provider of 911 first response services.

After three years of research and planning, Rod Crane, MedFlight's President and CEO, announced that the MedFlight Board of Directors has given final approval for a business partnership with Community Emergency Medical Service (CEMS) of Southfield, MI owned by Botsford Health Care. MedFlight's board is made up of executives from The Ohio State University Medical Center, OhioHealth, and Akron General Medical Center. Crane stated, "Our consortium hospitals want to see a higher level of clinical oversight in the community for all patient transportation from A to Z, in addition to the critical care side demonstrated by our current air and ground divisions."

CEMSO is currently operating in Franklin County. Its 6 ALS vehicles will be the foundation fleet to begin serving MedFlight's member hospitals, and their partners and referral centers. MedFlight will be a 60% owner in the new not-for-profit company. It will be a separate company from MedFlight and will be managed by our CEMSO partner through Parastar, a CEMS operated national and international EMS consulting firm. MedFlight will have clinical and quality oversight of the new venture in collaboration with Parastar and CEMS.

In addition to our partnership with CEMS, Rod Crane, MedCare Board Chairman, is pleased to also announce that Tony Anteau has accepted the position of Vice President of Operations for MedCare Ambulance. Mr. Anteau will begin his position by mid-July. Mr. Anteau brings many years of ambulance operations experience to the new position. He joins MedCare from his previous position as Executive Vice President of MedCorp Corporation, Ohio.

CEMSO's parent company, CEMS of Michigan, in conjunction with its Parastar

affiliate, has a national footprint, manages multiple hospital owned ambulance joint venture partnerships and collaborates with several major hospital systems on EMS and non-medical logistics in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey and Texas. Indicative of their emphasis on service and quality, five of these ventures have achieved accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), which has granted this status to less than 140 out of more than 7,000 ambulance providers in the U.S.

Commenting on the partnership, Greg Beauchemin, CEMS' President and CEO, said "We see MedFlight as the ideal complement in our mission of bringing the highest quality medical transportation services to the Columbus area. We are also frankly honored to partner with such outstanding organizations as The Ohio State University Medical Center, OhioHealth and Akron General."

The new venture will lease space and equipment from MedFlight, while also sharing space for dispatching the service in a new cutting-edge dispatch center commonly known as "MedComm."

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