

BLS Transport Unit MOU

Memorandum of Understanding between Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department ("MDFR") and Metro Dade Firefighters IAFF Local 1403 ("Local 1403") regarding a new Basic Life Support Transport Unit (BTU) pilot program.

MDFR and Local 1403 have reached the following understanding to implement a two-person BLS Transport Unit (BTU) pilot program on a trial basis in order to increase operational efficiency and expand community services provided:

1. Local 1403 and MDFR agree to utilize members of the Local 1403 bargaining unit to introduce a two-person BTU pilot program. This unit will initially be staffed on an overtime basis with personnel assigned to the BTU Driver and Attendant positions. The BTU will provide Basic Life Support ("BLS") transportation as needed for MDFR. These units will not be initially dispatched to reported incidents and will not respond as the primary unit to 911 calls. These units will only respond when requested by an on-scene MDFR unit. Schedules will be created and implemented to provide peak-hour coverage according to operational needs. These schedules will be subject to mutual agreement between the parties. Personnel staffing the BTUs will function under the terms of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") with no special or additional supplemental pay for the BTU assignment. The two-person transport unit will only transport BLS patients. BTUs shall also transport BLS patients for MDFR Community Paramedics to all approved alternative destinations (Urgent Cares, Clinics and other contracted partners) when the MDFR Community Paramedic Program is established.
2. BTUs will be assigned to a fire station and will be quartered at this location. Personnel assigned to these BTUs will be dispatched from this fire station when in quarters or over-the-air when not in quarters and/or recommended via the use of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology. BTUs will go into service at the assigned fire station, and when appropriate, go out of service at the same fire station.
3. BTUs will be staffed by two BTU certified personnel in the BTU Driver and Attendant positions. The BTU Driver position will be performed by an EMT Firefighter or Paramedic Firefighter. The Attendant position will be staffed by an MDFR Protocol Paramedic and will perform Attendant functions including all necessary report writing. The Attendant position will be staffed by an OIC whenever possible, with staffing preference given in the following order: a Paramedic Lieutenant, a Paramedic Captain, and lastly a Paramedic Firefighter with the BTU Attendant Certification. This staffing model will be utilized unless changed through mutual agreement between the parties.
4. Local 1403 and MDFR agree that the BTU staffing may eventually transition to new employee classifications, EMT/Non-Fire Certified (EMT/NF), and Paramedic/Non-Fire Certified (PM/NF). Once fully established, the EMT/NF and the PM/NF employees will be the primary staffing of the BTUs. MDFR firefighting personnel may serve as an optional secondary staffing pool to maintain unit operation. If optional secondary staffing is necessary, the staffing will be utilized as indicated in paragraph 3. The PM/NF employee will be a protocol certified paramedic. It is the intent that the EMT/NF and PM/NF employees will be hired to staff only the BTUs, and not to cover any other MDFR extra duty services or functions.
5. No front-line units will be taken out of service, nor will bid personnel be moved from their bid, in order to staff a BTU. Current MDFR overtime hiring practices will be used for BTU staffing, except as indicated in paragraph 3 or 4 above. It is at the department's discretion to staff BTUs with unassigned extra personnel during regular duty days. In those cases, MDFR will make every effort to seek non-bid employees who meet the requirements in paragraph 2 and volunteer to staff BTU positions.


BLS Transport Unit MOU

6. MDFR personnel must be certified to work the two positions on the BTU. Certification for the BTU Driver position will be obtained through Vector Solutions and is available to any EMT or Paramedic in the rank of Firefighter. Certification for the Attendant position may be obtained by Paramedic Lieutenants and Paramedic Captains on Vector Solutions. Paramedic Firefighters may obtain the BTU Attendant Certification by attending the in-person off-duty BTU Attendant Certification Course, which will provide training on ePCR, radio communications, hospital interface procedures, and other responsibilities relevant to the position. The BTU Firefighter Attendant Certification Course will be offered on a regular basis, to be announced via All Stations & Offices Memo. No on-duty training slots will be given and no overtime will be authorized for attendance.
7. The parties agree that due to the implementation of this new program, the emphasis will be on quality improvement and education and not on discipline. The parties will meet and confer to review the operational effectiveness and efficiency of this new program, as well as to optimize schedules to provide peak-hour coverage, on a monthly basis.
8. The pilot program shall end on December 31, 2023 but may be extended by mutual agreement. MDFR retains the sole right to discontinue the pilot program at any time after the initial supporting data is collected without bargaining, but will give at least 30 days notice to Local 1403 before terminating the pilot program. The parties agree that this pilot program sets no precedent for future agreements or programs and will not create a past practice under Article 30 of the CBA.

AGREED TO THIS 20th DAY OF April 2023.



William McAllister, President
IAFF Local 1403



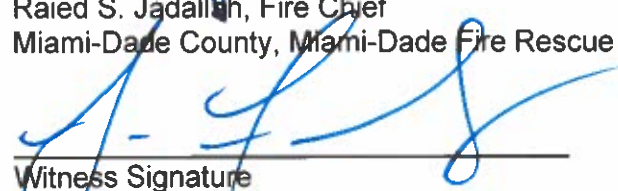
Raied S. Jadallah, Fire Chief
Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue



Witness Signature

Lisa Bullard

Witness Name



Witness Signature

JASON FERNANDEZ

Witness Name