

Future of Basic Life Support (BLS) Services System

JULY 7, 2022

CITY OF MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

BUDGET OFFICE

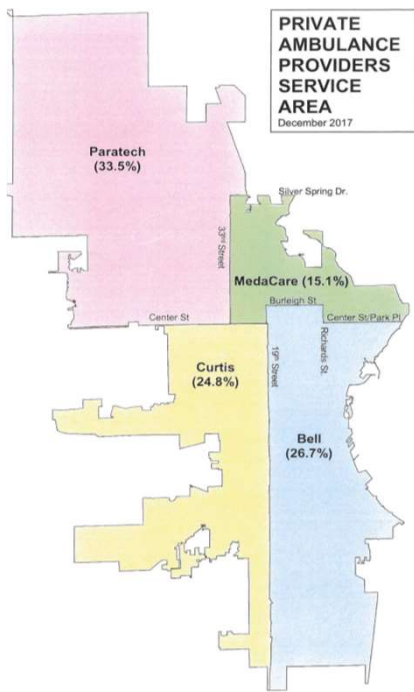


What is Basic Life Support (BLS)?

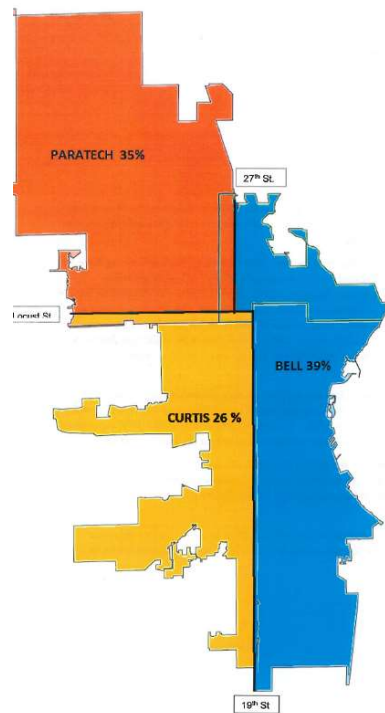
- Basic life support vs. advanced life support
- Initial response to 911 calls
- Medical transport after emergency intervention



History of BLS in Milwaukee



2017-2020



Current

- Historic contractual partner relationships
- Current contractual partner relationships
- Market and economic challenges
 - COVID
 - Inflation (wages, fuel, supplies)
 - Ambulance supply chain issues
 - Worker shortage
 - Medicare and Medicaid rates

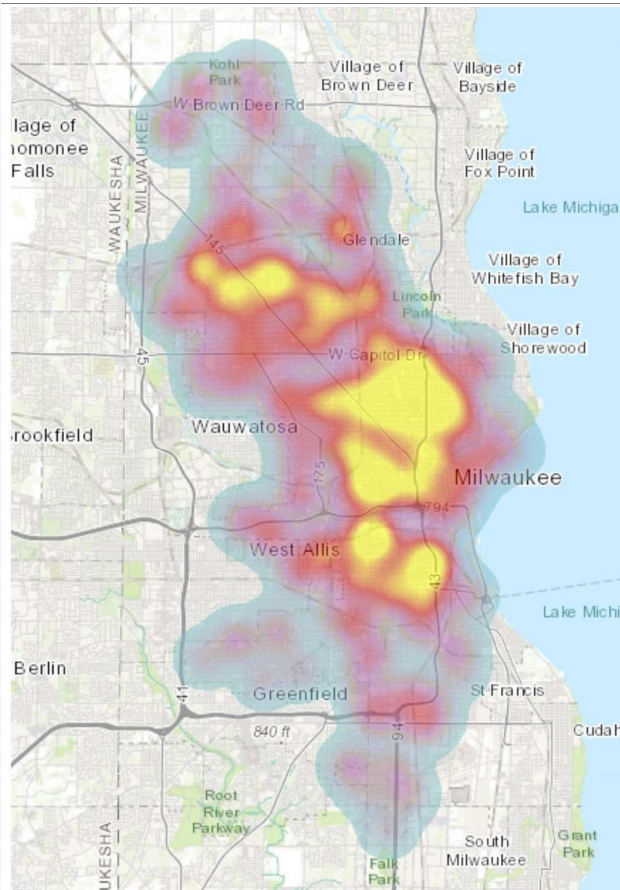


"IF IT DOESN'T SAY BELL ON THE SIDE, YOU'VE JUST BEEN TAKEN FOR A RIDE!!!"



Serving Wisconsin since 1858

BLS call location and challenges



- Paratech and MedaCare exits caused strain on MFD
- Strain is untenable for personnel and equipment
- Unsustainable cost

System stabilization efforts

- Provider subsidies
- Collaborative staffing
- Shared space model
- TRIP access
- **Future:** reduce frequent user call volume, other public health efforts to decrease usage of ambulance services



*"IF IT DOESN'T SAY BELL ON THE SIDE,
YOU'VE JUST BEEN TAKEN FOR A RIDE!!!"*®



Serving Wisconsin since 1858

Focus on current provider subsidies

- Current subsidy rate: **\$85.81 / call**
- 2021 subsidies billed to City: **\$2.65 million** (started mid year; rates subsidy rates were lower)
- 2022 subsidies billed to City as of May 31, 2022: **\$2.16 million**
- Grant Allocation: **\$4.7 million** from 1st ARPA allocation (MFD 2021 BLS salary expenditure: \$875,000)
- Current shortfall as of May 31, 2022: **\$1,003,188**

Future of BLS in Milwaukee

- New Contract Negotiations with Bell and Curtis
 - Negotiations have proceeded since January, 2022 per CCFN #211283
 - Goal of increased stability for both City and our remaining partners
 - Increased enforceability
 - Longer lead time for partner withdrawal
 - 10 year term



Future of BLS in Milwaukee (continued)

- Continued support will be required
 - **Goal:** help providers build greater capacity leading to self-sufficiency and long- term participation in the system.
 - Continued subsidies through 2026, with additional support through other means (space in fire stations, EMT training, TRIP, etc.)
 - Subsidy through 2026 expected to cost at least additional \$20 million
 - This cost is significantly less than the cost of standing up our own BLS system