

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
September 16, 2020**

- PRESENT:** Cindy Hambly, Frank Kirkbride, John Ricks, Tom Oliva, Gary Edwards, Renata Rollins, Sheila Fay, Paul Perz, Brian VanCamp, Margaret McPhee, Harry Miller, JW Foster, Lenny Greenstein
- ABSENT:** Larry Fontanilla,
- EXCUSED:** Stan Moon
- GUESTS:** Steve Brooks, Tony Kuzma, Meredith Hutchins, Shawn Crimmins, Steven Slater, Brian Hurley, Chris Clem
- STAFF:** Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Joy Miller, Anna Lee Drewry

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Chair McPhee called the regular meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Council (EMSC) to order at 3:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC – The agenda was amended to remove the Comprehensive Plan from Committee Reports; Defer Old Business, Item B. Levy Ballot Committee, to October; and add Old Business, Item B. ALS Contract Update. (Kirkbride/Ricks) move to approve and this carried.

I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **EMS COUNCIL** – July 15, 2020 Amend minutes to show Harry Miller was present. (Perz/Greenstein) move to approve, and this carried. Paul Perz would like minutes to reflect negative votes. Chair McPhee said minutes will only reflect negative votes if the person voting no at the time of an action item vote, requests for his/her vote to be in the minutes.
- B. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** – September 3, 2020 (informational only)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** Included in the packet. Chief VanCamp highlighted on the following items: MCI plan was adopted; Shawn Crimmins has replaced Chief LaVielle as Chair of the MCI Committee; Min/Max was reviewed and approved; BLS Funding Agreement has automatic renewals each year up to 5 years, therefore a letter of acknowledgement was emailed to each Fire Agency for 2021.
- B. **WEST REGION:** Paul Perz reported on a July 27th special meeting: NW Ambulance application for services in Pierce County was approved by the Pierce County council and presented to the regional council for approval. The regional council found several major issues with the application, which included questions about the statement of need, duplication of services, response time, and some minor errors in the application. There was a motion in place to approve the application, with conditions, however that motion failed with a strong discussion about whether the conditions were enforceable. Another motion was made to deny the application all together, and that motion passed. There was a recommendation to invite NW Ambulance to re-apply as well as to invite other providers to apply.

There was a second meeting held on September 2nd, which Kirkbride provided a report for. NW Ambulance has a license to operate in Pierce County for interfacility transports only. Their application was requesting an upgrade to ALS service, as there had been several senior healthcare facilities who felt there was the need for an additional ambulance. After a significant discussion it was voted to approve recommending the application to Department of Health.

- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is included in the packet.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **EMT Training** – Anna Lee Drewry provided an update on the fall EMT course. 23 students are returning from the cancelled spring course and 8 students are new to the program. The fall course schedule reflects online assignments, virtual meetings/lectures and evaluations. Regular meetings with the individual students and the Senior EMS Instructor (SEI) will be done via Zoom. This allows each student to meet personally with the SEI for review, or work on any challenges that the student may have. Four Fire Stations are serving as satellite locations

for practical skill training: West Thurston Regional Fire Authority, Station 1-2; Yelm, Station 2; South Bay, Station 81; and McLane, Station 95. There was been very good feedback on holding the trainings at these satellite locations.

Hardin said because the virtual training is a result of COVID-19, a large portion of the additional cost is being covered by CARES.

- B. ALS Contract Update – Hardin provided an update to the ALS contract renewal process. The only items still being worked on are language changes (being discussed between attorneys), and invoice due dates. The contracts are scheduled to go before the BoCC the first part of October.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Cardiac Arrest Survival Rates – Ben Miller-Todd was scheduled to present data, however due to technical difficulties, this will be deferred to October. The ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation) numbers in the field have remained around 70% which is very good and very stable. However, there is discussion between staff and PSPH's cardiology department and ICU over concern about a drop in those who make it into the hospital but have not exited neurologically intact, or at all. Ben said these are very small numbers.
- B. Min/Max Review – Ben Miller-Todd presented. The Ops committee approved the following min/max numbers, and they are asking for the EMSC to make a recommendation of these numbers to the WREMS council: State approved minimum number for Aid-BLS and Amb-BLS to be 1, and State approved maximum number for Aid -BLS to be 4 and Amb-BLS to be 10. (Hambly/Kirkbride) move to approve recommending these min/max numbers to the WREMS council, and this carried.
- C. 2019 Year End Budget vs. Actuals – Joy Miller provided a summary on the 2019 year-end budget vs. actuals. Overall, the budget came in at 92%.
- D. 2020 1st Quarter Budget vs. Actuals – Joy Miller provided a summary on the 2020 1st quarter budget vs. actuals. Overall, the budget came in at 15%. The 2nd quarter budget vs. actuals will be presented at the October meeting.
- E. BLS Funding Agreement – 2021 - The 2020 BLS Funding agreement included a term for automatic renewals every year, up to 5 years. A Letter of Acknowledgement was sent out to all BLS agencies requesting agreement to a renewal for 2021. AS of today, about half of these have been signed.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

- ## **VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER**
- 1) Harry Miller said the minutes from July reflect him being absent, and he was present. The motion to approve the July minutes was amended. 2) Sheila Fay said the paramedics are doing a great job. 3) Margaret asked Ben about call volumes due to COVID. Ben said initially the BLS call volume went down, however ALS remained about the same. 4) Kurt Hardin said there have been some recent challenges with the diversion status, involving both hospitals in the county, i.e. issues with EMS transports being sent from one facility to another, and back to the original facility. Staff is working with both hospital CEO's on this issue.

- ## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**
- (Fay/Kirkbride) move to adjourn the meeting at 4:34, and this carried.