

PRESENT: Greg Wright, Frank Kirkbride, Dr. Tom Fell, Russ Hendrickson, Margaret McPhee, John Ricks, Lenny Greenstein, Rena Merithew, John Christiansen, Jim McGarva

EXCUSED: Stan Moon

ABSENT: Larry Fontanilla

GUESTS: Tim Reynolds, Rachel Reynolds, Darlyne Reiter, Mary Campbell, Byron Hamilton, Brian VanCamp, Paul Brewster

STAFF: Steve Romines, Cindy Hambly, Catherine Griffin, Alan Provencher

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC (Kirkbride/Greenstein) moved to approve agenda as amended.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Dr. Fell presented Tim Reynolds with the \$1K Brown/Fell Scholarship Award. Tim thanked the council for their acknowledgement of his efforts and commitment to Thurston County. Tim provided a brief overview of his EMS career and his ascent to his current paramedic position with OFD. His wife attended for the presentation. Romines recapped the development of the scholarship to recognize their commitment to Thurston County.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. EMS COUNCIL – December 16, 2015 – **MSC** (Kirkbride/Greenstein) move to approve as presented.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – DRAFT January 7, 2016 (Information Only)

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** – Wright provided an update on the placement of AED's in law enforcement vehicles and Medic One will continue to search for funding. He added, EMS Council directed Operations to develop talking points to address the research article on BLS vs. ALS transport efficacy. He continued, per the bylaws, the Operations Committee will present election results to EMSC in March. A motion was made and passed that endorsed and support Steve Romines in his difficult decision to retire to spend time with his family. We thanked him for his 24 years of service.
- B. **WEST REGION EMS COUNCIL** – Romines reported they continue to work on the upcoming conference.
- C. **STAFF REPORT**– Romines highlighted on the staff report included in the packet as follows:
 - Romines formally announced his retirement. His last day will be May 31, 2016.
 - TRPC – Paul Brewster will be reporting on the current status of the procurement of data in old business.
 - Budget was approved by the BOCC. The public hearing elicited no concerns or questions.
 - BLS SafetyPad system is working and agencies are using. “Case Flow” a quality improvement software component was added to the BLS SafetyPad program to facilitate BLS EMS departments QI/QA program(s).
 - Inventory system is live and in use. A presentation will be provided in new business.
 - 2015-2 EMT class has 16 graduates. The 2016-1 EMT class will begin February 24th.
 - Instructor/Evaluator workshop will be held on January 30th and 31st.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. TRPC – Kirkbride reported Brewster is on track and continues to meet with the chiefs. He is coordinating countywide BLS data. Currently they are reviewing the BLS component and comparing previous BLS data. Brewster anticipates delivering a preliminary report at the February Chief's meeting. Kirkbride believes a presentation will be given to EMSC in March 2016. However, it may be pushed back one month. Christiansen would like to have an open discussion of the possibility of merging all Thurston County fire districts. He would like to minimize overhead without sacrificing services. McPhee is open to discussion at a future date. Per McPhee, this idea has been discussed at previous budget meetings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ALS Contract Negotiations Committee – McPhee appointed the following: Citizens at Large Rena Merithew, John

Christiansen and Margaret McPhee.

- B. Budget Committee – McPhee appointed the following: Lenny Greenstein, Stan Moon and Roger McMaster. McPhee will chair. McPhee would like to be well into the budget process before Fay Flanery, Medic One AA, resigns from her position.
- C. Medic One Inventory System – Alan Provencher, Purchasing and Supply Department presented a web demonstration of the new inventory system to include the user interface, back office site and reporting functions. Fourteen of the 15 departments are currently using the online system.
- D. Community Mobile Medicine – Wright and Brooks presented the Greater Phoenix (Mesa) area’s mobile integrated health care program. Their previous model of service delivery was not sustainable so they applied for a federal CMS (Innovation) grant that supported their pilot program. Highlights for intended outcomes were to address Emergency Department (ED) saturations, behavioral health and post hospital discharge follow-ups. A key to their success has been developing partnerships with local medical facilities and healthcare providers (targeting specialty and primary care) to divert patients to a more appropriate level of care. Units are comprised of a Captain Medic paired with an ARNP or PA that have prescription privileges without direct physician oversight. A Behavioral Health Counselor for on-site evaluations is also available. The care provided serves as a bridge to align with the patient’s primary care and/or behavioral health provider. They have found increased collaboration and cooperation with law enforcement in behavioral health situations. The overall goal is to reduce returning ED visitors by 40% within three years. Wright and Brooks will continue to investigate alternative delivery systems to augment Thurston County’s current EMS/Fire services. Discussion followed relating to the specific needs in Thurston County involving rural, suburban and urban areas. Mesa’s motto advertising to the public in support of their program: “The right response, at the right time, with the right people, to produce the best outcomes.”
- E. FD8 BLS Transport License – Wright reported the Operations Committee motioned to accept FD8s request to maintain their ambulance transport license. Wright provided an overview of the process. VanCamp reported as part of the merger process, the board developed an Emergency Service Integration Plan to outline all the merged districts operational aspects. The board felt the FD7 transport license was an asset and allows for flexibility and supports their future vision and strategy. There are no current plans to engage in EMS transports and charging for those services. VanCamp stated FD8 receives good service from Olympic Ambulance. McPhee asked VanCamp if approved would FD8 come back to the Council if they begin to charge for transports. VanCamp stated he is not aware of any required review and approval should they begin transporting and charging fees. Romines stated that any fees charged by transporting agencies are reviewed by Medic One annually. Campbell identified the following concerns: 1) FD7 had the license for a number of years and it was not used. FD8 wanted the license as it came with FD7 but the state declined the license transfer and stipulated FD8 needed to reapply, 2) if FD8 decided to transport and start charging fees. this would have an impact on Olympic Ambulance’s business, 3) In the event there is a catastrophe or an overload on the system and transport is required, RCWs allow for exceptions, 4) currently, Olympic Ambulance is providing good service and it is not an underserved area 5) F8 has staffing issues. This is why she voted against this motion. **MSC** (Ricks/Christiansen) EMSC to take the Operations Committee request and accept the application.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Jim Quackenbush, Director TCOMM911 is holding his retirement party this evening (01/20/2016). Dr. Fell thanked Steve Romines, Emergency Director for his years of service.

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.