

**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES
EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER
February 4, 2016**

PRESENT: Greg Wright, Brian VanCamp, Steve Brooks, Keith Flewelling, Tony Kuzma, Scott LaVielle, Dr. Larry Fontanilla, Dr. Bill Hurley, Dr. Amy Larson, Kathy Pace, Jody Halsey, Russ Kaleiwahea, Alex Christiansen

ABSENT: Dave Pearsall

EXCUSED: James Fowler

GUESTS: Terry Ware, Jim McGarva

STAFF: Steve Romines, Cindy Hambly, Catherine Griffin

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Chair Wright called the regular meeting of the Operations Committee to order at 2:03 PM. Staff recorded roll.
- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC** (Flewelling/LaVielle) moved to approve with following changes: Ambulance License Application as an action item.
- III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None.
- IV. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Operations Committee – January 7, 2016 – **MSC** (LaVielle/VanCamp) moved to approve as submitted.
 2. EMS Council – Draft January 20, 2016 Mtg. (Informational Only)
- V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. WEST REGION – Hambly reported the conference is moving ahead and will not be canceled even though, as of today as there are not enough registrants to cover the cost of the conference. A contributing factor may be related to the delay in the initial conference announcement. She asked committee members help promote the conference to try and boost registration.
 - B. SUBCOMMITTEES
 1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – No report.
 2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – No report.
 3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Hambly presented the 01/20/2016 minutes. Forty-four Instructor/Evaluator's (I/E) attended the workshop, 14 of those were new I/Es. A letter announcing OTEP 2016 was mailed to all agencies. The MPD has mandated that quarterly Cardiac Arrest Reviews (CARs) continue. However, if a CAR is missed, you may make it up shortly thereafter, but it is limited in that you may not do CARs on consecutive dates. 2015 EpiPen® purchases totaled \$90K (\$260 each) with a majority expiring before use. There should only be 1 adult and 1 pediatric EpiPen® per licensed aid unit. King County epinephrine kits (syringe and vial) are \$10 and they have a training video. Medic One anticipates a roll out of training in 2017. TAC will be working with the MPD on a new drowning protocol. A communications class (Mr. Jeff Hogue – Effective Communication with Difficult Patients) will be offered to our EMS providers this year but it is not required.
 - C. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) – Brooks reported the January meeting included a good cross section of representation. TCOMM911, Medic One and AMR provided data for review (07/01 through 12/31/2015 shows a total of 9,237 EMS cases). The preliminary data showed a 65/35 split of BLS vs ALS at initial dispatch. Only 41% are actually transported via private services. When ALS is dispatched 23% of those calls are transported BLS. Compared to like systems we have a high cancellation rate. TRU wants to bring back the problem statement to Operations and asked if they should evaluate and investigate further. The problem appears to be complex and there might not be enough voices represented to make the hard decisions about what might be done. Currently two proposals would need the MPDs consultation to discuss piloting alternative transportation models and focus training around when treat and release is an appropriate

disposition. TRU continues to work on creative strategies. Wright directed TRU to discuss and review their proposals and concepts with the MPD then present to the Operations Committee.

- D. STAFF REPORT – Staff and Legislative report was included in the packet. Romines stated there is minimal or no impact to EMS in recent legislation. HINI Influenza is back in the community and hospitals are requiring non-immunized personnel to use respiratory masks when providing direct patient care and upon entering their facilities. Romines yielded his time to Hambly for the 2015 Cardiac Arrest Outcome Statistics power point presentation. Hambly presented the Thurston County's cardiac arrest density program and the current survival rates for 2015 were 59% vs 2014 at 47%. It has proven to be a successful program where patient outcomes are concerned.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMS Council Action Report – Wright reported TRPC is continuing with the collection of data. Brooks and Wright presented the Community Mobile Medicine PowerPoint and they were directed to develop a bullet point document outlining pertinent points for future reference. The FD8/7 DOH Ambulance License application was supported and will be forwarded to WREMS. ALS Contract Negotiations and Budget committee members have been assigned.
- B. ALS vs BLS Study – A newspaper headline of “BLS provides better outcomes than ALS” instigated a review and research by Chief Wright and others in 2015. They found many things were not making sense relating to the study and concluded this was not applicable to Thurston County EMS. After a presentation to EMSC on their findings with comparisons to our county system, EMSC asked these talking points be included as an official record for future reference. Hurley (Assistant Medical Program Director) commented his review of the study pointing out ALS patients were sicker than BLS and therefore have a higher risk of not surviving. The study appeared to manipulate the data to try and stratified those patients based on how ill they were while attempting to predict who should have survived versus did not survive. He did not observe any validity to the manipulation of the data. Hurley stated the study was not published in New England Journal of Medicine or JAMA. This was probably due to their methods of stratifying those patients, which had not been used before. The significant question is whether a valid based stratification was used.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Special Projects Process – The application, supporting information and timeline was previously approved. The committee recommended the application be forwarded to all EMS agencies.
- B. Surplus Vehicle Process – The application and matrix designating current agencies placement on the surplus list be forwarded to all EMS agencies. Agencies currently on the list need not reapply.
- C. Nominations Committee – Lavielle and Pace met on 01/07/2016. They solicited nominations for the office of chair and vice chair. In addition, they emailed member for nominations. Chief Greg Wright and one other for the Chairs position. However, the second person respectfully declined the nomination. Chief VanCamp was nominated for Vice Chair. The committee recommended the nonnominations be moved forward.
- D. Operations Committee Officer Elections– Chair Wright opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. No other nominations were made and Vice Chair VanCamp was unanimously voted to continue as Vice-Chair. Vice Chair VanCamp opened the floor and called for nominations, no others were made, all were in favor of current Chair Wright to continue for 2016. The elected Chair and Vice Chair names will be brought to EMSC for ratification at the February 16, 2016 EMSC.
- E. Ambulance License Applications – MSC (Brooks/Flewelling) Accept and approve to move the Olympic Ambulance and American Medical Response (AMR) applications forward.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Wright mentioned that Otto Jensen past last week. Chief Jensen previously held the posts of Chief of Olympia, Vancouver and Moses Lake and was the first Executive Direction of the Fire Chief's Association. He anticipates there will be a memorial service here in Olympia area. Wright asked since Steve Romines is retiring, he would like the committee to think about what they would like to see in the future director of Emergency Management. If you have any ideas please contact him. If you are not comfortable discussing this with Chief Wright he will find an alternative contact. Romines' position has been posted and the announcement runs through mid-March. He recommends the chairs or representatives of TCFCA, Fire Commissioner's, Paramedic, EMSC and Operations Committee, ALS, BLS and citizen be involved in the process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - 3:19 PM