

**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL
May 7, 2020**

PRESENT: Larry Fontanilla, Tony Kuzma, Scott LaVielle, Mark Gregory, Mark John, Dave Johnson, Keith Flewelling, Steve Brooks, Brian VanCamp,

ABSENT: Stewart Mason, Russ Kaleiwahea, Wendy Rife

EXCUSED: Kathy Pace, Alex Christiansen

GUESTS: Jennifer Schmidt, Chris Clem, Mike Buchanan, Brian Hurley, Anne Benoist

STAFF: Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Anna Lee Drewry

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Chair VanCamp called the meeting to order at 2:00. Staff recorded roll.
- II. **VIRTUAL MEETING PROCESS** – there was discussion on voting during a virtual meeting and reminding people to keep their microphones on mute unless speaking.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC** – (LaVielle/Brooks) move to approve and this carried.
- IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None
- V. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Operations Committee – March 5, 2020 – **MSC** (Flewelling/LaVielle) move to approve and this carried.
 2. EMS Council – January 15, 2020 & February 19, 2020 (informational only)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. WEST REGION - Anne Benoist said the 2020 conference was cancelled and they are taking care of the financial details (i.e. refunds), and they have asked for donations from vendors.

B. SUBCOMMITTEES

I. COVID-19 Update:

- ESF4 Report: Brooks reported – ESF4 functions have been initially focused on equipping providers and getting standard protocols and cooperation from Medic One. The meetings were weekly but have gone to bi-weekly, and this will probably be extended out. One of the biggest accomplishments has been the High Probability Unit (HPU), which is on the agenda as a report from Ben Miller-Todd. ESF4 is also working with Medic One on the process of PPE evaluation of re-use and decontamination. ESF4 continues to monitor and support the Thurston County Emergency Management piece. Pete Suver is serving as the Operations Section Chief at Emergency Management and he has done a great job. ESF4 is also working along with ESF8 (Public Health) and ESF13 (Law Enforcement). Keith Flewelling said he was on a conference call with other 911 centers across the state and there was mention of an uptick on high acuity patients because they are either not calling 911 for fear of overloading the system or they don't want to go to the hospital. Keith asked if we have experienced anything like that in Thurston County. Brooks said it is probably true that in the lower volume of patients, maybe the percentage of higher acuity has been greater, particularly in the past week or so. Thurston County is starting to see some of the things that were anticipated, i.e. significant domestic violence and suicidal attempts.

Ben noted that the ALS call volume has stayed relatively even compared to BLS volume. This, by default, has increased the overall percentage of ALS calls within the system. After working with Scott Brownell to run numbers on the primary impressions of stroke, cardiac arrests, cardiac-related calls, and overdoses via comparison of volumes over multiple time frames (2019 to 2020, 2020 pre-covid to intra-covid, 2020 pre-stay-at-home vs stay-at-home, etc.), it was found that there was no significant change to the total volumes of these primary impressions as seen throughout the SARS-CoV2 pandemic to date.

Keith said something that came out of his conference call with the 911 centers, is the need for public education (i.e. don't wait to call 911 if you are experiencing symptoms, don't worry about overloading hospitals) and he has asked for research and follow-up on this. Kurt asked if this (public education) would be in addition to or complimenting what Thurston County Public Health is currently doing. Keith said he will look at this.

- HPU Update: Miller-Todd reported – The live exercise in mid-April went smoothly. Units have not been necessary yet but there is a great platform for expansion in the event that the pandemic creates a surge in call volume later this summer and fall. It was powerful seeing the county departments come together for a common goal.
- 2. Equipment Committee (EqC) – No report
- 3. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – No report
- 4. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – No report
- 5. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) – No report
- 6. ePCR Committee – No report. Next meeting is in June.
- 7. Staff Report – Included in packet. Hardin added; PPE has been disseminated. When this pandemic exercise started, Medic One was at a 90-day stockpile of PPE usage, however it evaporated very quickly. Trying to find additional PPE has been challenging. The state is considering charging for PPE that the State has procured, not PPE that is donated to the State.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMS Council Action Report – None
- B. Nominations Committee – LaVielle reported for the committee: Two positions are open, Chair and Vice-Chair. The committee sent notifications to the Ops Committee on March 24th and April 30th. The current Chair, Brian VanCamp is interested in remaining as Chair, and no other candidates. There was no interest in Vice-Chair. The current Vice-Chair, John Wood, is retiring in November of this year, so LaVielle would like to move forward with Mark Gregory as Vice-Chair. Brooks reached out to John Wood, and Wood is fine with stepping into an alternate position so Gregory can be the primary representative for BLS agencies and serve as Vice-Chair.
- C. Operations Committee Officer Elections – (Brooks/John) move to approve Brian VanCamp as the Operations Committee Chair, and Mark Gregory as the Vice-Chair, and this carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Budget Impact – Earlier this week Kurt met with the EMSC Budget Committee to discuss the 2021/2022 budget process, as well as the current 2020 budget. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, adjustments will need to be made to the 2020 budget due to anticipated lower revenue into the Medic One fund. Due to timing, a recommendation on a proposed budget recommendation was made on Tuesday (May 5) to the County Manager. At the May 4 budget committee meeting, Kurt provided the Medic One Ending Fund Balance report as of January 1, 2020 which showed the beginning fund balance, revenue, expenses, and ending fund balance for 2017 – 2023 while informing the budget committee that a recommendation needed to go forward. The Medic One fund balance report at the beginning of the year showed the projected ending fund balance on December 31, 2021 as \$2.5 million. Kurt presented a revised report as of May 4, 2020 showing the effects of the COVID19 “Stay Home Stay Healthy” order. There is an anticipated drop of 5% in property tax revenue for 2020 and an anticipated drop of 2.5% in property tax revenue in 2021. This reduction modeling is based on the great recession in 2008 – 2009. There are two things to look at, either a ballot measure in 2020 for a levy restoration or reducing the budget. There was not enough time to ask the EMSC to meet for a recommendation to the BoCC for a ballot measure so a budget reduction was needed. There will be a budget reduction in 2020 of \$300,000 and a budget reduction in 2021 of \$430,000. In 2020 Medic One will not fill two positions that were in the budget; Business Applications Technician II, and Information Quality Coordinator, and replacement of the Office Assistant position will not be made until after June. Medic One will also defer the replacement of a vehicle. The 2021 reduction of \$430,000 will be made during the 2021/2022 budget process.
- B. EMS Week – On Tuesday the BoCC issued a proclamation making EMS week May 17 – 23, 2020. Typically, the BLS financial support checks are hand delivered during EMS week, however this year they will be mailed.
- C. Special Projects – Applications were sent out to agencies, with the scoring criteria. The scoring was updated this past year and will be used this year. A Special Projects committee will be developed once the applications have been received. Applications are due by May 31st. Because the applications were sent out later than normal, Medic One will extend the deadline for procuring and invoicing to October 31st.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – 1) Kurt said Joy Miller, Emergency Services Fiscal Manager, is out until potentially June 16th so fiscal questions should be sent to Kurt or Sandra. 2) Questions, comments or feedback on this Go To Meeting should be sent to Sandra.

X. ADJOURNMENT – (LaVielle/Brooks) move to adjourn at 2:40, and this carried.