

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Virtual
July 20, 2022**

PRESENT: Cindy Hambly, Stan Moon, John Ricks, Brian VanCamp, Angela Jefferson, Dontae Payne, Lenny Greenstein, Harry Miller, Liberty Hetzler

ABSENT: Wayne Fournier

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla, Sheila Fay, Gary Edwards, Margaret McPhee

GUESTS: Dan Bivens, Shawn Crimmins, Brian Hurley, Chris Clem, Steve Brooks, Tony Kuzma, Corey Rux, Steven Slater, Chris Patti

STAFF: Ben Miller-Todd, Daphne Reaves, Joy Miller, Sandra Bush

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

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC – Removed New Business, Item A. Citizen At Large Position. (Ricks/Miller) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. EMS COUNCIL – June 15, 2022 – (Greenstein/Ricks) approve of the minutes, and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – No July meeting

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** No meeting, no report.
- B. **WEST REGION:** No meeting, no report.
- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/committees/committees.aspx). Miller-Todd highlighted on the following: 1) We had an excellent paramedic hiring round with 5-6 new medics on-board within 6-8 weeks. This will bring us to 98-99% staffed. 2) There will be a fall EMT class, however it will start slightly later than normal.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2023 Budget Amendments – Miller-Todd presented: Medic One has come to a tentative agreement with the ALS agencies, for their contract renewal. Budget amendments for 2023 are needed prior to the ability to pass the contract in front of the council and the board. Miller-Todd presented the anticipated budgetary changes based on a tentative agreement for the ALS contracts, going into 2023.

For the ALS contracts there will be a net increase in 2023 of \$595,000, which is about a 5.7% increase in the contract value. This includes a cost savings of \$175,000 in disability clarification, and a cost increase of \$770,000 for paramedic staffing and operational augmentation.

Miller-Todd presented the potential 2023 Medic One Budget Amendment requests for both ALS & BLS. ALS Contracts: \$650,000 which includes the \$595,000 mentioned earlier + 0.5% for unexpected operating increases associated with negotiations; AED's: \$45,000; BLS: \$25,000, which includes an increase in the SafeKids contract, increase in testing/protocol, chromebooks, classmarker on-line platform, and a 5% increase in wages for instructors and evaluators; I.T.: \$75,000 for an increase in contracts/equipment; \$144,410 increase in the cost for (2) new medic units. The total budget amendment requests = \$939,410.

(Greenstein/Ricks) move to suspend the normal process of review and approval, and this carried.

(Ricks/Greenstein) move to approve the proposed budget amendments, and this carried.

- B. Ambulance Transport – FD9 Operations Chief Chris Patti, Chair of the Operations Chiefs Committee, provided information to the council on ambulance transport delays. A sub-committee of the Operations Chiefs Committee was created to evaluate long wait times in the field, and at this time they are working to start a “deliberate ambulance dispatch trial”, August 1st. The intent of the trial is to try and eliminate multiple times a day/week when ambulances are dispatched on BLS calls and there is no ambulance available. Beginning August 1st, ambulances will not be dispatched on the initial BLS call, except for motor vehicle accidents. All other transport requests will be made by the responding agency.

Chris Clem with Olympic Ambulance said over the past 6 months they have gone from being in possibly the most challenging staffing situation to being on the verge of the best staffing situation they’ve ever been in. In 2022 they have hired 52 EMTs and EMT interns, in Thurston County. Chris said prior to COVID, things were good with 6-9 ambulances running. They are now at a consistent 7–8 during the week days, and after 4–8 weeks when the new hires have completed their training, they expect to be up to 9 rigs. Tony Kuzma with AMR provided an update on their staffing levels as well which indicate an improvement. Pre-COVID they had 20 full-time positions, and right now they have 22 full-time positions. In 3 weeks, they expect to have 24 full-time EMTs to fill 22 positions. Pre-COVID they were running 4 ambulances and they expect to be at 5 in 3-4 weeks, with 2 critical care shifts.

Miller-Todd provided an update from Chief Carson with OFD. The 60-day notices were issued to AMR and Olympic in June. OFD will re-address and update Olympia city council regarding the 60-day time once it has expired. Likely steps going forward will be a September OFD presentation regarding BLS transport and the CARES (Community Assistance, Referrals and Education Services) proposal for the EMSC and city council. The CARES program is designed to serve a community’s most vulnerable populations that may have low acuity, but high-volume needs. OFD has traditionally utilized the system to help with social services referrals, but may be expanding the program to address those patients that may need help with daily medications, diabetes management, chronic disease management, etc. It is to help address the overutilization of the 911 by addressing the needs of these vulnerable populations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. FD13 BLS Transport – FD13 submitted an EMS Service Verification and Vehicle License application for BLS transport, as well as an amendment to the application. The amendment removes Mason County Fire District #4 from their mutual aid plan. A recommendation is needed today because of the tight window of opportunity DOH provides for receiving all necessary approvals before submitting to DOH. (Greenstein/Ricks) move to suspend the normal process of review and approval, and this carried. (Greenstein/Ricks) move to approve the application, as well as the application amendment, and this carried.
- B. Hospital Diversion Update – Miller-Todd provided a presentation on hospital diversions he gave to the County Commissioners. There was an article written in the Olympian over this presentation and Miller-Todd wanted to clarify and give the same presentation to the council. Thurston County was recently under a 90-day no-divert trial. Providence St. Peter, Capital Medical Center, and Providence Centralia all agree to stay with the no-divert policy because it improves patient flow throughout the system, reduces redundancy with EMS providers calling multiple facilities trying to figure out where to take a patient, and it basically smooths out the waxing and waning of call volumes in the system.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

- VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Chair Moon said we typically cancel a council meeting in the summer, and based on the council approving the budget amendment today, there is nothing critical on the agenda for August, therefore the August EMSC meeting has been cancelled.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:36.