

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
January 19, 2022**

PRESENT: Cindy Hambly, Frank Kirkbride, John Ricks, Margaret McPhee, Brian VanCamp, Stan Moon, Paul Perz, Angela Jefferson, Sheila Fay, Wayne Fournier, Lenny Greenstein, Gary Edwards

ABSENT: Harry Miller

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla

GUESTS: Chris Clem, Shawn Crimmins, Dan Bivens, Steve Purcell, Steve Brooks

STAFF: Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Daphne Reaves, Anna Lee Drewry

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

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC – Added Item D, BLS Funding Worksheet, to new Business. (Kirkbride/Ricks) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. EMS COUNCIL – November 17, 2021 (December meeting was cancelled) (Greenstein/Hambly) move to approve the minutes, and this carried.

B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – December 1, 2021, January 6, 2021 (informational only)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) Staff has implemented a new step in processing inventory orders from agencies. A new report will be provided with each order that provides the cost of each item. 2) HPU continued use was discussed – see Old Business, Item A. 3) A nominations committee was appointed for the 2022 election of Chair and Vice-Chair. 4) The MPD is starting an advisory committee to work on protocols. 5) Staff provided an overview of temporary work assignments while Kurt is serving as an interim Director at PHSS.

B. **WEST REGION:** Perz reported: 1) There was a report from DOH regarding the Health Info Exchange workgroup which looks at problems with electronic patient care reporting to the receiving agency from EMS services. They are exploring 3 options, one is EMS based, one is vendor based and the other is DOH based. They are looking for funding and a road map for implementation. 2) Membership was discussed which is on today's agenda under Old Business. 3) The Rehab Without Walls organization, which provides rehab services for brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and strokes has closed several facilities. There was no report as to why some of their facilities have closed. 4) Grays Harbor EMS requested \$7,000 from WREMS to support their EMS training class, and this was approved. The cost for the class is \$35,000, with an expected income of \$25,000, and the county will not support funding for this. 5) Catie Holstein with DOH talked about a workgroup that provides guidance to MPD's regarding law enforcement and EMS in unsecured scenes. 5) There was discussion on reciprocity and the lack of EMTs nationwide. The challenges are legislative hold-up, barriers from other states for providing information, as well as barriers with people providing information for background checks. DOH granted \$30,000 to Lewis County to address recruitment in rural areas. 6) DOH reported that George Washington Hospital published a document on best practices.

C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov). Miller-Todd highlighted on the following: 1) ePCR and TRU committees will be maintained on a regular basis. 2) Medic One needs signed MOUs from agencies that are billing, for us to get up and running on the entry way at PSPH emergency room. 3) The Public Health Director took another position so Kurt is the interim Director there until the County can fill that position. In the interim at Medic One Ben is Acting Assistant Director and is splitting duties with Anna Lee. Ben will be the staff POC for EMSC and Anna Lee will be helping on the operational side and with the Fire Commissioners.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. HPU – Miller-Todd reported: The Transport Resource Utilization (TRU) committee (a sub-committee of the Operations Committee), was tasked with the question about whether or not Medic One needed to continue to have an operational license in a manner that it had not historically had. TRU decided at the end of the emergency declaration that it would seem most reasonable to let it lapse and that Medic One really doesn't play an operational role in the EMS system. The TRU committee will re-evaluate what they want to do for transport resources in the absence of this license, once we anticipate the state removing the emergency declaration over the course of this year. Staff has reached out to DOH asking if we can keep the license in the event of a local declaration, instead of a state-wide declaration, i.e. a transport crisis in Thurston County. The HPU has been utilized approx., 3 times per shift, and it will remain operational Mondays and Fridays through February, and maybe March. Chris Clem with Olympic Ambulance provided a quick report on their staffing issues. The company has started a paid internship program. The intern will start as a full-time employee, with a full-time EMT wage, and the company will pay for them to attend school while working. This new hiring campaign has drawn a significant amount of interest from applicants.
- B. WREMS Committee Report – Kirkbride reported: There are 49 positions on the WREMS council. An example of these positions are hospital reps, pre-hospital, private ambulance, EMS council, and Fire Chiefs. 20 of the 49 positions are vacant and DOH is giving the WREMS Director a lot of pressure to fill these. An EMSC committee has been tasked to help fill these vacancies, and they identified the following four specific areas to represent Thurston County: Local elected representative, Law Enforcement representative, Local Emergency Management representative, and dispatch. The committee has identified three candidates and this information will be presented at the February EMSC meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appoint Nominations Committee – The nominations committee will consist of Fay and Perz and they will report at the February meeting.
- B. Appoint ALS Contract Negotiation Committee – The committee will consist of Hambly, Ricks, Greenstein, and Moon.
- C. 2022 Ambulance License Applications (Falk, AMR & Olympic Ambulance) – Hambly asked if Falk will be operating as interfacility only and Miller-Todd confirmed this. Drewry said Falk is aware that they will need to be protocolized in Thurston County. Perz raised some concern about Falk's rates because they are significantly higher than AMR and Olympic. (Greenstein/Fournier) move to approve the 2022 applications for Falk, AMR, and Olympic Ambulance, and this carried, with one oppose.
- D. BLS Funding Worksheet – The 2022 BLS Funding worksheet was presented to the council, which showed a \$300,000 increase in BLS support. The \$300,000 includes an increase in the base amount for financial support and supplies/equipment support, as well as an increase in the supplies/equipment support based on call volume. Medic One will also begin paying for the agency's costs of cellular connection for the modems.
- E. MultiCare Emergency Medical Center – Greenstein recused himself from discussion on this item because it is likely to go before the Lacey City Council. MultiCare has applied with the City of Lacey to open a 15 – 20 bed standalone emergency department in the 4500 block of Pacific Ave and does the EMSC want to write a letter in support of this. The council has decided they need more information before they can support this.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

- VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER** – 1) Hambly asked when in-person meetings will occur, and Moon said this is up to the County. 2) Kirkbride welcomed Mayor Fournier to the council and thanked him for his input and participation. 3) Miller-Todd said Director Flewelling with TCOMM is retiring and at 3:00 on January 26th there is a virtual retirement party for him. 4) Edwards said the County is following the PHSS Physician's directives on in-person meetings.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:54.