

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
September 15, 2021**

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

ABSENT: Harry Miller

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla

GUESTS: Chris Clem, Shawn Crimmins, Greg Perry

STAFF: Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Joy Miller, 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 – (McPhee/Kirkbride) move to approve the agenda, and this carried.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. EMS COUNCIL – August 18, 2021 (Kirkbride/Greenstein) move to approve the minutes with the following amendment, and this carried. Amend Old Business, Item B (Medic One 2022/2023 Budget Submission) to include a statement clarifying the policy suspension was for the August 18th budget action only.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – September 2, 2021 (informational only)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) There was discussion about the continuing transport issues in Thurston County. The Transport Resource Utilization (TRU) Committee is addressing this issue on a weekly basis. Staff developed a dashboard which allows monitoring of turn-around times at the hospitals and the dashboard is available for all agencies. 2) Ops continues to monitor the impact of LE response and how this affects EMS response. 3) Contingency planning is being done for possible shortages of staffing, due to the Governor's vaccine mandate. 4) The EMT class continues to be held in a hybrid fashion. There was discussion on what the Governor's vaccine mandate could have on the EMT class.
- B. **WEST REGION:** Hardin reported: At the last meeting WREMS voted to send a letter to the Governor requesting reconsideration on the vaccine mandate to include a testing option, i.e. either vaccination or weekly testing. The council also honored Anne Benoist, Kathy Pace and Cheryl Bell. Clem reported: The cadaver lab was this past weekend. Greg Perry said the training was very successful.
- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://thurstoncountywa.gov/committees/medic-one).

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ambulance Delay Update – Reallocate Additional Resources – Hardin reported: In July a situation was identified where there were delays in EMS transport, as well as lack of transport resources in the field. EMS stakeholders came together (2 hospitals, 2 private ambulance companies, and 12 fire agencies), to talk about how to address this, which is when staff stood up the HPU (High Probability Unit). We also stood up the ability to have an EMS provider staffed at the PSPH ambulance entry way, to care for patients until PSPH staff were available, so EMS transport units could continue working in the field. Most recently the private ambulance companies have been able to hire staff which has provided additional resources in the field, and public agencies have been able to make aid cars available. The HPU system will be re-evaluated at the end of this week to determine what, if any, adjustments need to be made.

In August there was discussion about whether there would be enough in the budget to fund the HPU, and

if staff would need to reallocate funds, or suspend training. The BoCC approved funding to backfill the HPU process and this has been added to the Medic One budget. Hambly asked if staff was able to resume citizen CPR classes now that the BoCC has approved additional funding. Hardin said the CPR classes will remain suspended through the remainder of this year due to the COVID situation and the changing rules and paradigms.

- B. Governor's Vaccine Mandate – EMSC members should have received a copy of the letter that was sent to Governor Inslee. As of today, there has been no response from the Governor. Fire Agencies and private ambulance companies have been asked to identify by the 27th of September any potential short falls they see with staffing that would take place as a result of the vaccine mandate. This information will be consolidated and sent to the State to request the needed resources.

Miller-Todd said as of today we will lose 3 paramedics in the county due to the mandate, and we are looking at a less than a 5% impact. More information will be available after September 27th.

Since Medic One is licensed under DOH, notice was received that all Medic One personnel will be required to be vaccinated and follow the vaccine mandate.

- C. WREMS membership Application (Bill Kriegsman) – This application was denied at the July EMSC meeting because the applicant had a Grays Harbor county mailing address. It was later identified that the applicant lives in Thurston County, so this application has been brought back to the council for reconsideration. The council felt that the applicant would better fit the HOSPITAL or PREHOSPITAL Council Position due to his employment, rather than the CONSUMER position. (Kirkbride/Hambly) move to deny the application for a consumer position on the West Region EMS council, and this carried.
- D. 2022/2023 Budget – Hardin presented the budget that was submitted to the BoCC. The 2022 budget for consideration is \$16,470,928 and the 2023 budget for consideration is \$17,882,953. A copy of this presentation will be emailed to EMS council members.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WREMS Application Process – Chair Moon has assigned a vetting committee for the WREMS application process. The committee will consist of Paul Perz, Frank Kirkbride, and Kurt Hardin, which are all current members on the WREMS council. After the committee has reviewed applications, they will come before the EMS council for recommendation. Chair Moon has also asked the vetting committee to look at the WREMS positions that we should be recruiting for.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

- VIII. **GOOD OF THE ORDER** – 1) Dr. Fay is offering her services to thoughts with alternatives to the vaccine mandate, i.e. testing. 2) Perz asked for a follow-up to a discussion at the August EMSC meeting regarding the challenge with long term care facility EMS calls. VanCamp will charter an Ops ad-hoc committee to address this. 3) Rollins asked for specific written criteria for review of WREMS applications. Chair Moon will ask the vetting committee to consider this. 4) Rollins asked where the EMS community is at receiving information about gun and group violence in Olympia. Hardin said EMS is embedded with law enforcement for contingency planning. 5) Moon said FD6 Chief Nelson is retiring at the end of this month and FD6 will be contracting with SETFA, so Chief Mark King will be Chief for both FD6 and SETFA.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:39.