

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
July 21, 2021**

PRESENT: Cindy Hambly, Liberty Hetzler, John Ricks, Margaret McPhee, Brian VanCamp, Harry Miller, Stan Moon, Paul Perz, Angela Jefferson, Lenny Greenstein

ABSENT: Wayne Fournier, Renata Rollins, Sheila Fay, Gary Edwards

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla

GUESTS: Greg Perry, Chris Clem, Shawn Crimmins, Tony Kuzma, Brian Hurley, Daniel Bivens

STAFF: Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Joy Miller, Daphne Reaves, Jerett Latimer

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** – New Business, Item E. Effects of Police Reforms on Medical Response was added to the agenda. (Greenstein/Ricks) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.
- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None
- III. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. EMS COUNCIL – June 16, 2021 (Hambly/Greenstein) move to approve the minutes with the following amendment, and this carried: West Region Committee Report; change Normal Pancake to Norma Pancake.
 - B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – No July meeting
- IV. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** No report
 - B. **WEST REGION:** Greg Perry, new Executive Director for WREMS, introduced himself and provided a briefing oversight and function of WREMS.
 - C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/committees/medic-one). Hambly asked why the Fall EMT course skills session is scheduled for one full week from 0800 – 1700, rather than evenings through-out the course. Miller-Todd said this new schedule is a result of staffing issues.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Levy Lid Lift Update – The levy lid lift ballot measure is on the August 3rd ballot. Hardin has provided a number of informational presentations across the county, with no additional presentations scheduled at this time.
 - B. 2022/2023 Budget – Hardin provided the following update: Prior to the last EMSC meeting, Medic One was not aware of what the interfund transfer costs would be. There is a 13% increase for 2022 and a 17% increase for 2023, and this increase is with or without a levy lid lift; a public outreach budget has been added so Medic One can continue to educate the public on what Medic One provides; a component has been added for another ballot measure if the current year's levy lid lift does not pass. (Greenstein/Hambly) move to recommend to the BoCC approval of the draft budget with the levy lid lift passing and the alternate budget if it does not pass, and this carried.
 - C. EMS Transport Capability – Hardin reported: There have been exceptionally long wait times in the field, from the EMS crew arriving on site to a transport unit being available to take a patient to the emergency department. The primary cause for this is EMS providers are unable to transfer patients from their unit to the hospital because the emergency rooms are full. EMS providers met to look at how they can mitigate this situation and increase transport unit availability.

One of the first steps in addressing this situation is to staff an area PSPH has created in the emergency room with EMS personnel (1 or 2 EMTs). PSPH has equipped this area with 4 hospital gurneys so EMS personnel can then turn their patients over to the EMTs for care and the transport unit is now freed up to take other EMS calls. This was implemented July 16th with Medic One staffing it, however fire agencies have been asked to help with this as Medic One cannot continue to staff this for the remainder of this month. The staffing hours are 1400 – 2200, Monday – Friday. Medic One will reimburse the agencies for their cost to staff this area. If volunteer fire fighters are going to staff this area, Medic One will employ them as extra help and pay them directly.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WREMS membership application (Bill Kriegsman) – This is a new member application and was mailed directly to Medic One. The application has a Grays Harbor mailing address and it states he works at MultiCare. It is recommended that Mr. Kriegsman apply thru Grays Harbor. (Hambly/Hetzler) move to not approve Bill Kriegsman's application because he does not live in Thurston County and he cannot represent the public in his current position at CMC, and this carried.
- B. WREMS membership application (Sue Poyner) – Sue Poyner is an employee at Thurston County Public Health, and is currently a WREMS member, so this is a reappointment. (Hambly/Perz) move to recommend a reappointment, and this carried.
- C. In Person Meetings vs. Virtual Meetings – The county is following the state's requirements for open meetings, and meetings subject to OPMA. Staff shared the following requirements: Fully vaccinated attendees are not required to wear masks; fully vaccinated attendees must attest to being vaccinated if they do not want to wear a mask; if there are any attendees who are not fully vaccinated, masks and social distancing are required. Hardin mentioned that Health and Human Services has renewed the determination that a public health emergency exists, and this is effective for the next 90 days. (McPhee/Jefferson) move to recommend leaving the meetings as they are thru zoom for the next 90 days, and this carried, with one opposition.
- D. Effects of Police Reforms on Medical Response – HB1310, Effects of Police Reforms on Medical Response, goes into effect July 25, 2021, and changes the way law enforcement responds to certain situations in the field, however this does not change how EMS responds. One of the challenges of this is the State Attorney's office has not provided any guidance on implementation of this law, they have left it up to the local jurisdictions. The second challenge to this is State DOH has not provided any guidance on EMS response, and the conflicting criteria of EMS responders being able to perform their duties safely. The Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's office has been working diligently to come up with a process for the County Sheriff's department, as well as for Medic One, to help provide guidance.

The MPD has issued an interim protocol, which will go out July 22nd, that essentially says EMS personnel will not provide medical treatment in a situation which has been deemed as unsafe. This protocol has been approved by the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's office.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – McPhee received a spam email from EMSC member John Ricks. Ricks said he has been hacked so be careful when opening emails from him.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:40.