

**Thurston County Medic One  
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting  
Virtual – Zoom Meeting  
June 16, 2021**

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**PRESENT:** Cindy Hambly, Frank Kirkbride, John Ricks, Renata Rollins, Sheila Fay, Brian VanCamp, Harry Miller, Stan Moon, Paul Perz, Angela Jefferson, Lenny Greenstein

**ABSENT:** Wayne Fournier

**EXCUSED:** Margaret McPhee, Gary Edwards, Larry Fontanilla

**GUESTS:** Shawn Crimmins, Tony Kuzma, Steve Brooks, Brian Hurley, Daniel Bivens

**STAFF:** Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Joy Miller

**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** – (Kirkbride/Ricks) move to approve the agenda, and this carried.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. EMS COUNCIL – May 19, 2021 (Greenstein/Kirkbride) move to approve the minutes as written, and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – June 3, 2021 (informational only)

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) The MCI committee is working on updating some terminology used on the plan. The committee also continues to work on the Stand-Alone Hostile event plan (formerly known as Active Shooter plan). Crimmins also reported at Ops that he would be attending training for extrication and management of passenger train derailments. 2) TRU provided a report on continued through-put problems with emergency patients in the system (see Old Business, Item B). 3) Special Project applications were approved, with one change (see New Business, Item A). 4) Ops committee will discuss at the September meeting if in-person meetings will resume, or if virtual meetings will remain. 5) There was discussion about OTEP cancellations and TAC will be working on this.
- B. **WEST REGION:** Perz reported: 1) An election was made for board officers. Norma Pancake is Chair, Tony Kuzma is Vice-Chair and Chris Clem is Secretary/Treasurer. Thurston County needs to have one more executive on the board, and there has been some difficulty filling this position. 2) Several months back the EMSC submitted their min/max for pre-hospital EMS resources, which was approved by WREMS, however DOH had concerns about the consistency of information and the need for a needs assessment if any county is going to submit a request for change. DOH is requesting additional information before they will make approval on this. 3) There was discussion at the WREMS meeting that PSPH is currently operating as a level II stroke center, down from a level I, due to staff shortages, and Capital Medical Center decided to delay applying for their stroke categorization. During the meeting Miller-Todd was able to get clarification that PSPH did not lower their certification for stroke, however there is continued staffing issues, but they are still able to provide the services they are certified to do. In the event that PSPH is not able to provide care, past immediate care, there are specific days and hours they are coordinating with partner hospitals north of us, which is about 7 shifts per month, and coverage has already been coordinated with Olympic Ambulance to transfer the patients. All Thurston County EMS stroke transports will continue transport to PSPH. If there is a need to transfer the patient, PSPH will coordinate directly with Olympic Ambulance. Perz will follow-up with Anne Benoist at WREMS. 4) Pierce County had an issue with an ambulance providing transport services before they received approval from DOH. This created discussion on what the process is before services can be provided. 5) 6 applications have been received for the Executive Director position. The goal is to have this position filled by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov). Kurt also mentioned that during the last paramedic recruitment process, there were zero applicants. Since that time, Miller-Todd and the 3 ALS MSO's got on Linked-In,

they did a zoom video with prospective candidates, and as of today 7 applications have been received, with 2 more on the way, and 2 who have shown interest.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Levy Lid Lift Update – The levy lid lift ballot measure is on the August 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot – see Medic One website for an explanatory statement. The ballot title changed, by the Auditor, to Thurston County/Medic One Proposition No. 1 Levy Lid Lift.
- B. Transport Delays/Diversions – As a short-term solution to transport delays, PSPH has converted an area in the E.D. where patients who require someone to monitor them, can be off-loaded and monitored so response units can be freed up.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Special Project Applications – The council received a copy of the applications, as well as a matrix which shows the Ops Committee's recommendation. The following applications were received: South Thurston Fire & EMS (equipment enhancement); WTRFA (citizen adult CPR manikin enhancement); FD8 (rope rescue operations enhancement); FD17 (gas monitors); FD6 (ballistic vest program). The total cost for these requests came under the \$10,000 budget. Ops recommendation is to approve all these items, except for safety glasses, which were requested by South Thurston Fire & EMS. Ops did not feel these were a special project item, but rather should be paid for with BLS funds. There was also an emphasis from Ops that WTRFA manikins be made available for other agencies who provide CPR classes. (Kirkbride/Greenstein) move to approve the recommendation from Ops, and this carried.
- B. 2022/2023 Budget Presentation – Staff presented the 2022/2023 budget to the council. There is a Q&A session scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for budget questions. Also, questions can be sent to [joy.miller@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:joy.miller@co.thurston.wa.us).

Two budgets were presented, one if the levy lid lift passes, and one if the levy lid lift does not pass.

Staff provided a table which showed where Medic One is currently at in 2021 and what is being proposed for 2022/2023 (Admin/ALS/BLS) if the levy passes. The total increase for 2022 is \$1.79 million and the total increase for 2023 is \$678,000. The increase in 2022 includes adding 3 new positions (Quality Improvement Coordinator, ALS Coordinator, and a full-time Senior EMS Instructor). The budget also includes a 5% increase in ALS support contracts, an increase in paid patient salaries (this has not been increased for years), the cost for resuming CPR classes, and additional costs for BLS support vaccinations. The 2023 budget includes a 5% increase in ALS support contracts, increased fuel and supply costs, and an increase to the BLS financial/supply support. In 2021 I.T. support is included in the ALS/BLS budgets, however with the 2022/2023 budget, I.T. will have a separate budget. 2022/2023 ER&R includes adding 14 ventilators, 1 radio, 140 tablet batteries, and a Medic One administrative vehicle (the current vehicle is 13 years old).

Revenue projections for 2022 – 2027 were provided, showing an increase from \$14.7 million to \$20.7 million.

If the levy lid lift does not pass, the following decrease in the budget will need to take place. A reduction in 2022 of \$643,611 and a reduction in 2023 of \$798,075. Included in this reduction would be a decrease in ALS support contracts and ALS support services, a reduction in BLS support, and a reduction in administrative supplies, travel, and education. In addition to the budget reductions, if the levy does not pass, the following equipment enhancements will need to be deferred: (2022) 14 ventilators, 1 radio, 140 tablet batteries and 1 Medic One administrative vehicle; (2023) 2 medic units, 10 dispatching terminals, 100 tablets, 5 gurneys, 2 radios and 60 AEDs. The 3 new positions proposed for in 2022 will also need to be deferred. For 2024 and future years, the following would need to be deferred – 6 medic units and adding an 8<sup>th</sup> medic unit in the county.

At the July EMSC meeting, staff will ask the council for a recommendation of this budget, to the Thurston County BoCC.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER –** During the meeting, Perz received an email from Anne Benoist, regarding the PSPH stroke certification discussed earlier and Anne will reach out to Matt Nelson with DOH for clarification.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT –** Meeting adjourned at 4:53.