

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

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**PRESENT:** Cindy Hambly, Frank Kirkbride, John Ricks, Renata Rollins, Sheila Fay, Brian VanCamp, Margaret McPhee, Harry Miller, Stan Moon, Gary Edwards, Lenny Greenstein

**ABSENT:** Wayne Fournier, Angela Jefferson

**EXCUSED:** Paul Perz, Larry Fontanilla

**GUESTS:** Shawn Crimmins, Tony Kuzma, Steve Brooks

**STAFF:** Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Joy Miller, 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** – The agenda was amended as follows: Add Item B to New Business, PSPH Behavioral Health Center, and Item C to New Business, Paramedic Retention & Recruitment Process. (Kirkbride/Edwards) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. EMS COUNCIL – March 17, 2021 (Edwards/Hambly) move to approve and this carried.

B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – April 1, 2021 (informational only) – No Meeting

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** No meeting.

B. **WEST REGION:** No meeting.

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). Kurt also mentioned that the first hybrid EMT class was last fall with a second class session this spring. The Spring class is much smaller than normal which has allowed the class to be conducted in one location.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Levy Lid Lift Update – This will probably be a standing agenda item for the EMSC meetings, until at least August 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a public hearing April 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the proposed ballot measure. The BoCC voted to place this on the August 3<sup>rd</sup> primary ballot. The next step is the resolution will go to the Auditors office by May 14<sup>th</sup> so it can be added to the August 3 ballot. As of today, Hardin has four presentations scheduled (TCOMM – May 5<sup>th</sup>, City of Lacey – May 13<sup>th</sup>, City of Tumwater – May 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Realtors Association – June 22<sup>nd</sup>). Hardin offered to go out to any council/district/organization and present information similar to the Public Hearing regarding the Medic One Levy Lid lift.

B. COVID-19 Update – This item will be removed as a standing agenda item for future EMSC meetings. There has been an insufficient supply of vaccines, however the supplies have increased. As of right now, numbers do not show Thurston County moving back to Phase II.

C. Budget Committee Update – The BoCC voted to go back to a biennium budget. Due to funding restrictions, two budgets will be prepared for 2022/2023, and which budget is used will depend on if the levy passes.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. 2020 Year End Budget vs Actuals – Staff presented the 2020 year-end budget vs. actuals, which showed 94% of the budget was expended. Some expenditures were down due to COVID, as well as EMS call volume. Total Medic One COVID expenses were \$401,476, and \$364,932 was reimbursed from CARES funding.

B. PSPH Behavioral Health Center – (Greenstein recused himself from discussion and action on this business, as this could go before the Lacey City Council) PSPH approached Hardin two weeks ago asking for a letter of support for an 85-bed capacity psychiatric center. They have already received a Certificate of Need from DOH and will go before the City of Lacey for a land use permit. Hardin presented data which supports the need for additional psychiatric care, which is attached to these minutes. (Edwards/Hambly) move to approve staff drafting a letter to

PSPH, for the EMSC, supporting the 85-bed capacity psychiatric facility, and this carried.

- C. Paramedic Retention & Recruitment Process – Miller-Todd reported: This is a follow-up from a paramedic recruitment posting in April and a lay-out of issues as staff moves forward.

In April, there were zero applicants for the paramedic hiring process. Nationally, on average, paramedics stay on for 5 years. In the next 18-24 months, at least 12 of the 68 Thurston County paramedics will be retiring. Below are a few short-term strategies:

- The new ALS contract provides funding for paramedic-in-training expenses
- Staff is researching the possibility of hiring a recruiter
- Signing bonuses are being considered

There will be another paramedic recruitment process in mid-June. Staff has reached out to the paramedic schools in Washington, in an attempt for the hiring process to be on the heels of graduation. Staff has also looked at posting in areas where the younger generation will look (i.e. Glass Door, Linked-In, Indeed), and in addition there will be discussion with the County for marketing on NeoGov even though we don't directly employ. Questions regarding the paramedic hiring process should be directed to Ben Miller-Todd, [ben.miller-todd@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:ben.miller-todd@co.thurston.wa.us).

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Hardin:** If anyone would like a presentation on the ballot measure, please contact Kurt or Sandra.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:28.**