

**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES  
VIRTUAL  
October 7, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Brian VanCamp, Larry Fontanilla, Wendy Rife, Steve Brooks, Karen Weiss, Chris Clem, Mark Gregory, Brian Hurley, Keith Flewelling, Russ Kaleiwahea

**ABSENT:** Jeff DeHan, LouAnn Morriss, Mindy Churchwell, Mark John

**EXCUSED:**

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Schmidt, Tony Kuzma

**STAFF:** Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Anna Lee Drewry, Ben Miller-Todd

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order at 2:00.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC** – New Business, Item B, MCI Exercise, was added to the agenda. (Clem/Brooks) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Operations Committee – September 2, 2021 – (Flewelling/Hurley) move to approve and this carried.
2. EMS Council – September 15, 2021 (informational only)

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **West Region EMS Council** – No meeting.

B. **Subcommittees**

1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – Miller-Todd reported: Several items were discussed, mostly from the ALS side, however no changes for at least the next 3 months.
2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – Miller-Todd said the committee has not met since the last Ops meeting, and the active shooter plan is still being worked on.
3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Clem presented: There has been a lack of Instructor participation for OTEP and initial training, so a subcommittee was formed to identify the issues and possible solutions. Clem presented TAC's recommendation: Thurston County Agencies identify/provide a lead Evaluator; all agency approved personnel attend TCMO yearly Instructor/Evaluator Workshops; Lead Evaluator meets regularly with Medic One; Lead Evaluator meets with agency (in-house) Instructors/Evaluators; All OTEP in person sessions can be scheduled/conducted by agencies as needed.

Medic One will be responsible for yearly Instructor/Evaluator Workshop; curriculum development; ensuring all lead Evaluators are equipped with necessary tools; Training QA; and providing incentive pay for lead Evaluators. The next step will be for TAC and Medic One staff to identify agency need for Instructors/Evaluators; identify specifics for lead Evaluators; and Identify ways for agencies to provide Instructor availability for initial training. Drewry said this process may start in 2022, and there needs to be collaborative effort from all agencies.

4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – Brooks reported: The committee has been meeting weekly, and there have been daily updates from both private ambulance companies. The HPU's will be reintroduced for the month of October, Mondays and Fridays only. Clem reported Olympic is up to 8 rigs on a daily basis.
5. ePCR Committee – No meeting, next meeting is in October.

C. **Staff Report** – Staff report is located on the website at – <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/m1/Pages/meetings.aspx>

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. EMS Council Action Report – VanCamp reported highlights from the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting – 1) Ongoing discussions of ambulance delays and shortages. 2) Governor's COVID vaccine mandate was discussed. There has been no response from the Governor. 3) Medic One is close to finalizing the 2022/2023 budget. Hardin said the EMSC recommended the budget to the BoCC, which will be presented October 13<sup>th</sup>. The first week of December will be the public hearings. 4) WREMS application process was discussed, and a subcommittee was established to review the process. 5) A council member raised the concern on long term care – see New Business, Item A on today's agenda. 6) LE/EMS response and potentially violent events was discussed – see Old Business, Item C on today's agenda.

- B. Transport Issues – Most of the transport issues were discussed under the TRU committee report. Miller-Todd said the dashboard is still up and running and has a high usage. There have been fewer waits for BLS transports since private ambulance companies have more rigs on the road.
- C. LE/EMS Response – Potentially Violent Events– VanCamp reported: The EMSC raised their concern about EMS receiving intelligence on potential violent events. TFD & LFD3 maintain good communications with their LE. Brooks said they have limited communication with the tribal police, however Lacey just rolled out an additional resource called MOT (Mobile Outreach Team). VanCamp will reach out to Chief DeHan, Ops Committee member from the Sheriff's department, and ask him to provide a report at the November Ops meeting.
- D. COVID-91 Vaccine Mandates – Hardin reported: Based on a survey Medic One sent out to the agencies, there are no agencies who will be requiring additional resources from the State.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. EMS Calls to Assisted Living Facilities – VanCamp reported: The EMSC asked the Ops Committee to look at what could be done proactively to help address the number of calls being made to Assisted Living Facilities, which may include appointing an Ad-Hoc Committee to offer some suggested strategies to help mitigate this situation. Brooks said it is a huge issue and Lacey has been working on it internally. Brooks suggested one of the existing forums that already meet regularly could address this issue (i.e. ALS Chiefs). Hardin said staff would be in support of not having an ad-hoc committee for this, and having it addressed at the ALS Chiefs meeting. VanCamp and Brooks will meet off-line and VanCamp will report back to the council at the October meeting.
- B. MCI Exercise – Hardin reported: Amtrak held a tabletop derailment exercise in June, as an after-action process from the train derailment in 2017. This was designed as a Pierce County tabletop exercise, so it has been decided to hold a Thurston County tabletop exercise in the fall. The next step is to have a planning committee build the framework for this. Brooks said every agency should be involved with this exercise.

## **VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Clem said Olympic Ambulance has been purchased by Metro West, based out of Oregon. Olympic Ambulance will remain intact, operating as a separate company. Clem wanted to assure everyone that any changes will be positive changes.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT** – (Brooks/Clem) move to adjourn at 2:55, and this carried.