

THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ REGULAR MEETING
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

AGENDA

September 2, 2021, 2:00 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Operations Committee August 5, 2021
 - B. EMS Council August 18, 2021 - (Informational Only)
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. West Region EMS Council
 - B. Subcommittees
 - 1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – Chair or Representative
 - 2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – Chair or Representative
 - 3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Chair or Representative
 - 4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) – Chair or Representative
 - 5. ePCR Committee – Chair or Representative
 - C. Staff Report - <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/m1/Pages/meetings.aspx>
- VI. OLD BUSINESS

	ITEM	PRESENTER	EXPECTED OUTCOME
A.	EMS Council Action Report	VanCamp	Information
B.	Transport Issues	Hardin	Discussion
C.	LE/EMS Response	Hardin	Discussion
D.			

VII. NEW BUSINESS

	ITEM	PRESENTER	EXPECTED OUTCOME
A.	COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates	Hardin	Discussion

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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September 2, 2:00 (PDT)

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**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL
August 5, 2021**

PRESENT: Brian VanCamp, Larry Fontanilla, Shawn Crimmins, Russ Kaleiwahea, Wendy Rife, Steve Brooks, Alex Christiansen, Chris Clem, Mark Gregory, Jeff DeHan

ABSENT: LouAnn Morriss, Mindy Churchwell, Mark John

EXCUSED:

GUESTS: Jennifer Schmidt, Karen Weiss, Leonard Johnson, Chris Patti

STAFF: Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Anna Lee Drewry

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC – New Business, Item E, Virtual Meetings, was added to the agenda. (Brooks/Kaleiwahea) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Operations Committee – June 3, 2021 – (Brooks/Gregory) move to approve and this carried.
2. EMS Council – June 16, 2021 & July 21, 2021 (informational only)

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **West Region EMS Council** – Clem reported: 1) Greg Perry is the new Executive Director for WREMS. 2) Cadaver Lab event takes place September 10 – 11 and is in lieu of the conference. The fee is \$125 for ALS providers and \$100 for BLS providers, which will cover the cost of bringing the organization in. The focus will be on advanced airway skills as well as IO (interosseous) skills. 3) The next meeting is September 1st and will be held at the old station 34, from 10 – 12. From 12 - 2 there will be a retirement celebration for Anne Benoist.
- B. **Subcommittees**
 1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – Crimmins reported: 1) No drug shortages. 2) Good stock on PPE at Medic One, working on a 6-month supply. 3) Continuing to order parts for enviro masks to replace the cartridges. 4) Discussion on a way to keep agencies aware of changes in equipment. 5) The next meeting is scheduled for September 29th at 0930.
 2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – Crimmins reported: There has not been a meeting since the last Ops meeting. Committee is still working on a draft active shooter plan.
 3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Drewry reported: 1) There is a sub-group working on how to bolster the instructor/evaluator participation. 2) There is discussion about using the Accuplacer test as an entrance exam for the EMT course. The Accuplacer test is used at SPSCC, and District 8 uses this testing model. TAC would like to take a closer look at this before making a decision. 3) See New Business, Item C for information on the EMT class schedule.
 4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – Brooks reported: The committee is trying to shift the focus back to its original intent. The meetings migrated over the past couple of years as a shared meeting with transport utilization and diversion issues. The committee is also trying to de-conflict the meetings with the operation's chief meetings. Miller-Todd and Chris Patti are working on the schedules going forward. There is work being performed on staffing issues with the private and public entities for transport issues. Miller-Todd has been working on pulling the data from a change made almost 3 years ago, which was removing BLS transport units from BLS yellow dispatch calls. The preliminary data indicates this was a wise decision and it needs to be reinforced with providers to let this system work and minimize the number of times we are requesting transports on BLS yellow calls prior to patient engagement. Hardin reported on Old Business, Item C: PSPH has placed 4 gurneys in a vestibule going into the emergency department which will be staffed with EMTs to care for patients while they are waiting to be seen by hospital staff, relieving transport units from being held up at the hospital. This area is staffed Monday – Friday, 1400 – 2200, when staff is available.
 5. ePCR Committee – No report.
- C. **Staff Report** – Staff report is located on the website at – <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/m1/Pages/meetings.aspx>
Hardin noted that the last paramedic recruitment process was successful, bringing in 10 applicants.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMS Council Action Report – VanCamp reported – 1) EMSC made a recommendation to the BoCC on the 2022/2023 budget, with two difference scenarios (with and without a levy lid lift). 2) There was a briefing on the EMS transport issue. 3) WREMS council reappointment for Sue Poyner (Public Health) was approved, and there was discussion regarding a new appointment application. 4) There was a briefing on the LE response HB1310. 5) In-person vs. virtual meetings was discussed – see New Business, Item E.
- B. Review Ambulance Ordinance – The ambulance ordinance calls for Ops review twice a year; there were no recommended changes at this time. Next review will be in 6 months.
- C. Transport Delays/Diversions – See TRU report. Brooks said if anyone is not on the distribution for meeting notices, please let staff know. Hardin said there is conflicting guidance being shared from a transport billing agency on whether the transporting agency can bill for a transport if the patient is left in the care of EMTs at PSPH. Clem said Olympic's compliance officer is working with Systems Design to get this figured out.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. PSPH Clinical Agreement – PSPH has agreed to a 5-year term. County Risk department has reviewed and approved the agreement so it will go back to the PAO for their approval. Once this has been approved by the County, PSPH will send this out to all agencies. Gregory asked if there is an option for students if their agency does not sign the agreement. Drewry said they would not be able to go into the emergency department to do a rotation, which is a State requirement, however if it's an individual there could be a work around with additional field time.
- B. Medic One Budget Submission on August 6 – the Medic one budget will be submitted to the BoCC August 6th, which includes 2 versions, one with a levy lid lift and one without a levy lid lift. It appears the levy ballot is passing so the budget without a levy lid lift does not need further attention.
- C. Fall EMT Class – Applications are due August 9th and orientation is scheduled for August 23rd. There has been a change in the schedule to assist with having ample instructors. Skills testing will take place November 1 - 5, and these will be all-day events. Drewry also noted that the classes will continue to be hybrid. Staff was contacted by an agency outside of Thurston County, asking if they could participate in Thurston County's EMT course, and they would pay for the course.
- D. New LE response/EMS Protocol – The MPD has issued a protocol regarding the new LE response, HB 1310. The purpose of the protocol was to eliminate the risk of providers getting into a situation where it could be detrimental to their safety. Within the last hour, the Attorney General's office released a confidential memo on LE response, saying the LE response should not change regarding HB 1310.
- E. Virtual Meetings – At their July meeting, the EMSC chose to delay in-person meetings thru October and revisit this at their November meeting. Ops will follow this as well.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER –

- IX. ADJOURNMENT** – (Gregory/DeHan) move to adjourn at 2:50, and this carried.

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
August 18, 2021**

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

ABSENT: Wayne Fournier

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla, Lenny Greenstein

GUESTS: Chris Clem, Shawn Crimmins, Brian Hurley, Daniel Bivens, Steve Brooks

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 – New Business, Item D. Governor’s vaccine mandate was added to the agenda. Old Business, Item B. Medic One 2022/2023 Budget Submission expected outcome was changed from Information to Amended Recommendation. (Ricks/Edwards) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. EMS COUNCIL – July 21, 2021 (Edwards/McPhee) move to approve the minutes and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – August 5, 2021 (informational only)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) TAC is working hard to sustain the training cadre for various reasons. 2) TRU reported on the continued issue with transports. Hardin reported the choke point at PSPH has eased up a bit – at this time the choke point appears to be more in the field. 3) Ambulance Ordinance calls for a semi-annual review by the Ops Committee. There were no recommended changes. 4) PSPH updated the clinical agreement with EMS agencies. The clinical agreement provides practical training for EMS personnel. 5) Staff is preparing for the fall EMT class. Orientation is August 23rd, and Drewry reported 21 students have enrolled. 6) LE response to field activity and the impact on EMS was discussed. 7) The Ops committee has elected to continue with virtual meetings at least thru October and the committee will base further decisions on EMSC’s decision.
- B. **WEST REGION:** Perz reported: The next meeting is September 1st. This will be an in-person meeting at station 34 in Lacey. Immediately following the meeting there will be a farewell party for Anne Benoist.
- 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).

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. August 3 Medic One Ballot Measure – Hardin reported: The Auditor certified election results yesterday and the Medic One ballot measure passed at just under 64%. Hardin’s initial analysis is that every Fire District and/or Department across the county passed the Medic One ballot measure by at least 50% or more. Official results will not be available for a couple of weeks. Moon acknowledged Cindy Hambly for her effort on the pro committee.
- B. Medic One 2022/2023 Budget Submission - The budget was submitted to the County on August 6th. The following changes were made to the budget: 1) The EMSC recommended putting into the budget the outlined equipment for 2023 if funding was available. After re-running the numbers, staff did find the funding to be available, so the equipment replacement was put into the budget. 2) It was found that the BLS increase in 2023 could also take place in 2022, and since BLS funding had not been addressed or

changed since 2017, and based on medical inflation, \$250,000 was added to the 2022 budget. The amended recommendation is to add the \$250,000 to the 2022 BLS support.

There is an EMSC rule in place that requires budget related issues to be discussed and then action would be taken at the following month's meeting. (Kirkbride/McPhee) move to suspend the policy concerning budget considerations, and this carried.

(Kirkbride/Jefferson) move to amend the 2022 budget by adding \$250,000 to the BLS account and maintain \$250,000 in the 2023 budget, and this carried. Edwards abstained.

- C. Ambulance Delay Update – Hardin presented information on transport delay issues, related to ambulance availability and hospital capacity. The transport delays occur during peak EMS911 call times and are compounded by reduced staffing associated with workforce shortages. Solutions to this include, ambulance companies hiring to fill vacancies, fire agencies staffing additional aid cars, and Medic One activating the High Probability Unit (HPU) process.

A contract is in place with fire agencies to place transport units in the field, using the HPU process. The HPU is staffed 0900 – 2100 daily, depending on staffing availability. Medic One prefers the fire departments/districts staff the HPUs and remain out of EMS operations. However, since the fire departments/districts are short staffed, Medic One is hiring EMTs as extra help to assist with staffing the transport units. The cost to staff an HPU is approximately \$24,000 per month, which includes personnel, fuel, medical supplies, etc. This is an unbudgeted expenditure, therefore Medic One is suspending citizen CPR classes until further notice, which will contribute approximately \$12,000 to the HPU cost. Olympic Ambulance has offered to reimburse Medic One 50% of the cost to staff an HPU, up to \$12,000. If additional HPUs are required then EMT classes and OTEP may be cancelled, to help fund the additional cost. Staff may be asking the EMSC at the September meeting for approval to reallocate additional resources. Prior to the September meeting, Moon asked to convene the budget committee to look at fund sources.

Chris Clem said this has been a very challenging year for Olympic Ambulance, regarding recruitment and retention. Olympic Ambulance in Kitsap County will send down surge units to help in Thurston County. The surge units will be used primarily for interfacility transports so the local units can stay freed up for 911 response. This should be activated September 1st. Additionally, Olympic Ambulance has discussed staffing a surge unit with management staff, since most of their management staff still have their EMT certification. They have also doubled down on their recruiting efforts, i.e. sign-in bonuses, recruitment bonuses, etc.

Kirkbride raised the idea of Medic One charging for BLS transports since the transport agencies and private ambulance companies charge. Hardin said this is a very short time frame, and Medic One does not have the time or resources available to set up charging capabilities. If this become a long-term situation, then Medic One will explore a billing model.

- D. LE/EMS Response – Miller-Todd said this ties back to HB1310 which went into effect July 25th. Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's office (PAO), as well as city attorney's, are discussing how this will affect law enforcement specifically, and after they have determined how law enforcement needs to change their response, they will look at EMS response. Staff worked with the PAO and the MPD to create a protocol that allows for EMS providers to walk away from an unsafe scene. Perz asked if there is a legal expectation to respond to every emergency call. Miller-Todd said all calls will be responded to, however if the providers arrive on scene and it is deemed as unsafe, then the providers can walk away.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Long-term Care Facility EMS 911 Response – Hardin said there have been challenges again where residents at a long-term care facility have a fall, for example, and 911 is called, when the long-term care facility staff should be making an assessment for the medical necessity of a 911 call. This issue is primarily in the Lacey and Tumwater area.
- B. WREMS membership application (Frank Kirkbride) – (McPhee/Perz) move to approve the renewal of a 2-year appointment for Frank Kirkbride, as a WREMS alternate to Paul Perz for the EMSC, and this carried.
- C. 2021 2nd Qtr. Budget vs Actual – Miller provided a 2nd Qtr. 2021 budget vs actual report. Overall, the budget is 41% expended. A partial cause for this is ALS contract billings that have not been processed.
- D. Governor's Vaccine Mandate – The Governor has recently issued a proclamation mandating vaccination of healthcare workers, amongst others, and DOH has confirmed that healthcare workers include EMS personnel. Hardin said approx., 75% of EMS personnel in Thurston County are vaccinated. Effective October 18th, if someone is not vaccinated, they will lose their ability to practice as an EMT or Paramedic in Thurston County. This could have a significant impact on our EMS personnel and EMS capabilities. Brooks said they are working at the local and state level on an inquiry to the Governor's office for possible alternatives or mitigations. (Kirkbride/Fay) move to approve a letter drafted by staff, representing the EMSC, that will be signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair, to the Washington State DOH, to identify the emergency delivery issues as a result of this mandate, and ask them to explore alternatives to only vaccination, and this carried with Edwards abstaining. Hardin asked for clarification on the following: 1) Who should the letter be addressed to. The council agrees to address the letter to the Governor and copy DOH and the BoCC. 2) Would the council like the letter to say they strongly encourage and support vaccination and the council said yes. 3) Would the council like to specify options or just ask for other alternatives, and the council said to ask for other alternatives. 4) Hardin said Medic One has the actual number of providers who have or have not been vaccinated so does the council want to include these numbers in the letter, and the council said yes. Kirkbride agrees to amend his motion to include Hardin's clarifications. Kirkbride suggested to the EMSC WREMS representatives that this issue be brought up at their September 1st meeting. Perz said he will bring it up.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Moon reported a change in leadership at FD6. Chief Mark Nelson will be retiring the end of September. East Olympia Fire District will contract with SETFA so Chief Mark King is the new Chief as of this past Monday.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 5:05.