

**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES  
VIRTUAL  
September 2, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** LouAnn Morriss, Mindy Churchwell, Mark John, Russ Kaleiwahea

**EXCUSED:**

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Schmidt, Tony Kuzma, Mike Calhoun, Russ Barstow, Matt Gantenbein, Corey Rux, Kevin Denton

**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, EMT Class Update, was added to the agenda. (Clem/Gregory) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Operations Committee – August 5, 2021 – (Clem/Flewelling) move to approve and this carried.
2. EMS Council – August 18, 2021 (informational only)

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **West Region EMS Council** – Clem reported: 1) The council met September 1<sup>st</sup> and voted to send a letter to the Governor, similar to the letter the EMSC sent, supporting the vaccine but asking for alternatives to the vaccination mandate. 2) Cadaver Lab training takes September 9 – 11, and there are still several spots available.

B. **Subcommittees**

1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – No meeting.
2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – Miller-Todd said the committee is still working on the active shooter plan and it will come to Ops when the draft is finished.
3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Clem reported: There is a subcommittee working to identify the challenges that are causing the lack of instructor/evaluator participation. The subcommittee will bring recommended solutions back to TAC, which will ultimately come to Ops.
4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – Brooks was not in attendance at the last meeting but he did say a smaller sub-group met and they will be adding to or reconstituting the scope of the TRU committee going forward, to talk about some of the operational impacts related to the vaccine mandate. Miller-Todd did a survey for alternative meeting dates to de-conflict the TRU meetings with the Fire Chiefs meetings and the meetings will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, however Miller-Todd said there will be weekly meetings through October and he will send an Outlook invite out to attendees.
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 August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting – 1) The ballot measure for the levy lid lift passed. Hardin said the budget was submitted to the budget office on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The first or second week of October will be the presentation to the BoCC. 2) Ambulance delay crisis was discussed, as well as LE/EMS response modifications based on recent legislation. 3) The EMSC sent a letter to the Governor, asking for an amendment to the vaccine mandate to include alternatives (i.e. daily testing).

B. Transport Issues – Hardin said there are two defining problems: 1) Ambulances waiting to transfer patients to the emergency department and the back log that is created as a result of this; 2) Transport units unavailable in the field. There was a decision made to stand up the HPU (High Probability Unit) process, which brings in additional providers, and/or fire agencies staff a rig to provide BLS low acuity patient transports to help augment the situation, in which case Medic One would reimburse the agency for their cost. Medic One may also hire temporary employees to help staff the HPU. Miller-Todd also provided some information on the HPU process and he said there are 7 more shifts that need to be filled between now and September 17<sup>th</sup>. Miller-Todd presented the Medic One Hospital Turnaround Dashboard, which also shows if round robin has been activated. The dashboard is web access and cannot

be accessed from a computer dispatch terminal. Over the next couple of weeks, staff plans on installing this on the desktop of every tablet.

C. LE/EMS Response – Hardin said there continues to be conversations about this but not much change. Brooks said this is still working through the legislative process.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates – The Governor’s vaccine mandate includes EMS to be vaccinated or they lose their credentialing, effective October 18<sup>th</sup>. The EMSC wrote a letter to the Governor, supporting the vaccines, but suggests other alternatives to the mandate, i.e. daily/weekly testing. Hardin has reached out to Chief Johnson and Chief Brooks asking if we should request resources based on anticipated personnel short falls coming up. After some discussion, it was recommended by Chief Johnson and Chief Brooks to go through the emergency management route and request resources. This process will begin by using the TRU committee format and expanding the stakeholders to some extent, making sure TCOMM is represented as well as the hospitals on the planning process. The goal is to identify short falls in personnel, which will be presented to the State.

B. EMT Class Update – Mitigation measures are in place for on-line training and lectures, while in-person training requires masks and following COVID-19 protocols. An EMT student tested positive for COVID who was part of the in-person session this past Monday. Staff is following CDC guidelines and notified students of this positive case. Staff also notified the Fire Chief of any EMT student in their district about the exposure. Students who are fully vaccinated and are showing no symptoms, do not need to do anything other than continue to monitor themselves for symptoms that may appear. In accordance with Public Health and CDC, the student who is COVID positive is in isolation. Students who were exposed and are not vaccinated, are in quarantine, following CDC guidelines.

## **VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER –**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** – (Hurley/Clem) move to adjourn at 2:38, and this carried.