

**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.