

**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES  
HYBRID - ESC  
March 2, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Steve Brooks, Derek Smith, Mark Gregory, Brian VanCamp, Wendy Rife, Ciaran Keogh, Todd Carson, Shawn Crimmins, Mindy Churchwell, Wendy Hill, Ray Curtis, Leonard Johnson, Larry Fontanilla

**ABSENT:**

**EXCUSED:** Carla Carter

**GUESTS:** Tony Kuzma, Mike Buchanan, Greg Perry, Kevin Heindel, Adam Golden

**STAFF:** Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Chris Clem, Kurt Hardin

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Chair VanCamp called the meeting to order at 2:00.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC** – Approved.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Operations Committee – February 2, 2023 – (Brooks/Johnson) move to approve and this carried.
2. EMS Council – February 15, 2023 (Informational only)

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **West Region EMS Council** – Clem reported: The WREMS committee has not met since the last Ops committee meeting, however the executive board did meet. 1) The council will move some reserve funds into a certificate of deposit account. 2) They are working through updates to the strategic plan. 3) Chris was reappointed to his position of Secretary/Treasurer on the Executive Council. 4) There was an update on the SEI workshop in Pierce County. 29 people have signed up for the course. 5) An application has been received for a vacant Grays Harbor position on the board. 6) Effective July 1, 2023, a 2.5% cost of living increase has been approved for the Executive Director position. 7) There is a WREMS council meeting scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am via zoom.

B. **Subcommittees**

1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – No report.
2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – No report.
3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Clem reported: 1) TAC meetings were restructured, so the committee will meet Quarterly in person for 3 hours and will meet via zoom on the in-between months. 2) TAC is working on resiliency OTEP which is to be released in the second half of 2023. The goal is to have specific training tailored to give access to resources for Thurston County responders. 3) TAC also touched on MCI. 4) Next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup>.
4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – Brooks reported: 1) Committee met via zoom last month and a large part of the discussion was hospital capacity and stroke transfers.
5. ePCR Committee – Deferred to next month.

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

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. EMSC Report – VanCamp reported on the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting: 1) Chair Moon and Vice-Chair Greenstein were re-elected. 2) EMSC approved a proposed bylaw change, removing “Four” from citizens at large positions because the county is going to 5 commissioners. 3) EMSC recommended approval to appoint Tom Carroll as a Citizen-at-Large. 4) There was discussion on the Medic One tax levy (see New Business, Item C).

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Medic One Website/Social Media – Bush presented Medic One’s new website. Once Medic One has Facebook live, there will be a link to it on the website.

B. Healthcare in Thurston County – System Overview – Miller-Todd presented to Ops the healthcare constraints overview he presented to the EMSC in January: There was a 10.1% growth in population between 2015 and 2020 with an expected increase of 6-7% every 5 years, based on TRPC data. 2) The EMS call volume increased 52.0% between

2013 and 2022. The increase in call volumes increases turn-around times at the hospital. Medic One is once again staffing the ambulance entryway at PSPH with 2 EMTs to help relieve transport units, and this is expected to continue through February. Rural communities with 2 response units are hit exceptionally hard by extended hospital wait times because 1 unit waiting at the hospital drops their available response units by 50%. 3) Increasing community infrastructure is needed, there is a decrease in available workforce, and an increase in complexity of patients (people are living longer so there are more comorbidities seen). 4) Thurston County has 20-30 long term care facilities and adult family homes that are on "outbreak status" for COVID-19, on average. This limits the ability for a hospital to discharge patients from their beds to make room for the needs of the community. 5) Miller-Todd also provided initiatives that are helping to address the healthcare constraints: As mentioned above - staffing of EMTs at PSPH entryway; Providence South Puget Sound is working on infrastructure growth and staffing issues; MultiCare is building an outpatient emergency room in Lacey with the anticipated opening date of Summer 2023; Operations Chief's transport pilot program; MPDs review of alternative destinations; Considerations of alternative methods of medical delivery. 6) Chief Brooks provided information on some legislative updates relating to hospital staffing standards.

C. Medic One Levy Briefing – Hardin presented to Ops the Medic One levy briefing he presented to the EMSC in February: In the spring of 2021 the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) adopted a resolution for language to be used in the Medic One levy. The Department of Revenue and the Assessor's office expressed concern over the language that was adopted. There was a meeting held in April where the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Assessor's office both expressed concern about how the language was written. How it was originally written and the intent for the levy vote was to do a stair step approach to increase the millage up to \$0.50/\$1,000. It would start off in year 1 (2022) at \$0.35/\$1,000 and then increase \$0.03/\$1,000 for each year all the way through 2027, getting us back to our original levy rate of \$0.50/\$1,000. The reason for this was we needed the funds in the outlying years, but not the first year. The public mailing that was approved by the lawyers, stated what was mentioned above. In the April meeting, the DOR and the Assessor's office said we needed to change the verbiage to a percentage instead of the cents increase, so it came out as 107%, which is approximately \$0.03/\$1,000 for the millage, moving forward. Hardin said he agreed to the change of language, provided it still gives us the stair step approach getting us back to \$0.50/\$1,000. In January of 2023 we expected the millage to come up to \$0.38/\$1,000, however the Assessor's office came to us and said the millage is going to be \$0.30/\$1,000 because they applied the percentage against last year's revenue and not against the millage. As a result, Medic One will receive \$4.5 million less in revenue this year which would have been used in the outlying years (replacing medic units, aging equipment, etc.).

Hardin also provided revenue comparisons through 2027, using the fixed 7% stair step, based on the current assessed value: The originally projected revenue at year 2027 would have been \$29,614,698. The newly projected revenue at year 2027 is \$23,594,328. 2023 shows a difference of \$4.5mil, 2024 is \$5.2mil, 2025 is \$5.45mil, 2026 is \$5.7mil, and 2027 is \$6mil, in less revenue Medic One will receive.

The EMSC has appointed a committee to collaborate on what steps need to be taken to address this.

D. BLS Funding Workgroup Update - As a result of the Medic One fund uncertainties, it has been decided to postpone conducting this workgroup.

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER** – 1) Miller-Todd reminded the committee that tomorrow afternoon is Kurt's retirement party and is being held at Emergency Management. 2) Ray Curtis with CMC said the Cath lab failed its final testing, and GE is on site trying to fix the problem. In addition, later tonight CMC will have a major water and heat shut down so they can expand services for the OR and sterile processing area. This should last until about 4 am and they will be on divert during the shutdown.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 3:13.