

**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES
HYBRID - ESC
September 7, 2023**

PRESENT

(In-Person): Steve Brooks, Todd Carson, Corey Rux, Derek Smith, Ray Curtis, Brian VanCamp, Shawn Crimmins, Larry Fontanilla

PRESENT

(Virtual): Elizabeth Gore, Mark Gregory, Wendy Rife

ABSENT: Mindy Churchwell, Carla Carter

EXCUSED: Wendy Hill

GUESTS: Jennifer Schmidt (I), Eric Forsythe (V), Greg Perry (V), Kevin Heindel (V), Michael Hughes (V), Chris Patti (V), Joey Rodriguez (V), Anders Conway (I), Kevin Bossard (I)

STAFF: Ben Miller-Todd, Sandra Bush

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC – Agenda was approved.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Operations Committee – August 3, 2023 – (Crimmins/Curtis) move to approve and this carried.
2. EMS Council – No August meeting (Informational only)

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **West Region EMS Council** – Greg Perry reported: 1) The council met September 6th and there was a presentation of financial and historical information. Dr. O'Mahony reported that the board continues to meet monthly to review the financial information. 2) 13 Prevention Grant applications were received for 2024. A committee was created, and it was decided to fund 10 of the applicants, either fully or partially. It was also noted that the approved applications spanned across all 5 counties within the west region. 3) There was discussion on the TED (Training, Education and Development) committee about the EMS conference for May 2024.
- B. **Subcommittees**
1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – No meeting, no report.
 2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – No meeting, no report.
 3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Clem reported: TAC met as a work group in person and started discussing development of the MCI OTEP.
 4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – No report.
 5. ePCR Committee – No meeting, no report.
- C. **Staff Report** – Staff report is located on the website at – <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/m1/Pages/meetings.aspx> Miller-Todd highlighted the following: 1) Paramedic Program Manager interviews will begin the end of September. 2) Thurston County Manager, Ramiro Chavez, resigned and his last day will be October 5th. The county has not yet named an interim. 3) 18 individuals are enrolled in the fall EMT class.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMSC Report – No August meeting.
- B. HPU Agreement Renewals – Miller-Todd reported: HPU agreements will expire the end of 2023 and Medic One is asking the committee if there is any reason to renew. No objections from the committee so Chair VanCamp said we will let them lapse.
- C. COVID Restrictions/Precautions – Miller-Todd reported: In large part this has been handed back to county health jurisdictions. As it sits right now, with an uptick in COVID, there is no indication that there will be broad mandates for masking, or any of the other measures that were taken during the pandemic. Requirements will be on an agency to agency, or entity to entity basis; however, if MultiCare, Providence, or long-term health care facilities, require masking

in their facility, then providers will need to comply. Miller-Todd reminded everyone that Medic One covers 100% of vaccine costs for EMS providers, on Washington State or Thurston County recommended vaccines. Miller-Todd also said that a COVID/flu combo vaccine is on the horizon.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Annual Review of Ambulance Ordinance – The committee has no recommended changes.
- B. Introduction of new ALS Coordinator – Ben introduced Clint Wathen as the new Medic One ALS Training Coordinator, and Dr. Anders Conway as the interim MPD Delegate.
- C. Comprehensive Planning Process – VanCamp reported: The EMS Council appointed a joint committee, looking at the previous 5-year comprehensive plan, and updating it. The committee met in August and much of the discussion suggested that the committee meet with hospital staff to review their strategic plans. At the last meeting Miller-Todd said there was broader discussion on what was envisioned for a 20-year comprehensive plan, with community involvement, i.e., hospitals, hospital growth, etc. An invitation was given to MultiCare and Providence to provide a presentation of their strategic plans to the Comp Plan committee meeting following the September and October Ops meeting.
- D. 2024-2025 Budget Process & Implications on Ops – Miller-Todd provided high points on the 2024-2025 Medic One budget. The budget has been submitted to the County Commissioners and we will know what approval has been made in December. There was one component that was approved in August, which is the ARPA funding to offset the purchase of 4 of the 5 new medic units, which will allow us to purchase and staff an 8th medic unit. The funding also allows us to replace AEDs, tablets, and the continued replacement of units and ventilators, as well a minimum of a \$120,000 increase in BLS funding. Brooks asked what the growth factor being rolled in is because the levy allows for 7%. He said Lacey was surprised to see their preliminary value assessment because it regressed for the first time since 2008. Miller-Todd said we are fixed at 7% growth until we hit \$0.50/\$1,000, however he will check with the county to find out if the regressed value Brooks is referring to is county wide.
- E. Initial EMT Training - Clem reported: The fall EMT class started August 17th, with 20 applications accepted, and the class is down to 18 (1 is a self-drop). Tom Sexton is the lead SEI and Erin Burgman with Medic One is working thru SEI candidacy. Medic One is working on a handbook revision.
- F. EMT Class Workgroup - Procedures for initial BLS training (Procedure #5) was approved by the EMSC Operations Committee in May 2011 and has not been reviewed or updated since then. A workgroup and charter have been created to develop a consensus-based recommendation for changes to the **Procedures for Initial BLS Training**. The workgroup will consist of: EMSC representative; Ops Committee representative; MPD or designee; TCMO BLS Program Manager; (2) SEIs; and one representative from the Thurston County Fire Chief's Association. The goal is to have a draft recommendation by the end of the fourth quarter 2023 and present it to the EMSC Operations Committee for their January 2024 regular meeting.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – 1) VanCamp mentioned an article in the September 6th JOLT written by a doctor on her interpretation of the dilemma with through put at the hospitals and the impacts it's having with prehospital staff. 2) Miller-Todd said staff is coordinating with Lacey Stand Alone ED to provide a presentation to the Ops Committee before they open.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 2:44.