

THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES
HYBRID - ESC
October 5, 2023

PRESENT

(In-Person): Todd Carson, Corey Rux, Ray Curtis, Brian VanCamp, Brian Hurley, Anders Conway, Ciaran Keogh, Wendy Hill

PRESENT

(Virtual): Steve Brooks Mark Gregory, Wendy Rife, Mindy Churchwell, Eric Forsythe

ABSENT:

EXCUSED: Carla Carter

GUESTS: Jennifer Schmidt (V), Greg Perry (V), Michael Hughes (V), Chris Patti (V), Mike Buchanan (I), Rian Winter (V)

STAFF: Ben Miller-Todd, Sandra Bush, Chris Clem, Clint Wathen

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC – (Hurley/Carson) move to approve and this carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Operations Committee – September 7, 2023 – (Carson/Curtis) move to approve and this carried.
2. EMS Council – September 20, 2023 (Informational only)

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **West Region EMS Council** – Clem reported: 1) Planning continues for the 2024 EMS conference. 2) The council is moving to hybrid meetings. 3) The next meeting is scheduled for December 6th.

B. **Subcommittees**

1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – Rian Winter reported on the September 27th meeting: 1) Drug shortages include: D50 (we will be moving to D10 as a new standard of care), Albuterol vials (we are moving to fish), Bicarb, 250cc saline irrigation bottles, Ketamine (this drug is expected to be unavailable until 2nd quarter 2024). 2) The McGrath video laryngoscopy was selected by the MPDs and medic work group. 3) Looking at another brand of ET tubes that will fit all syringes. 4) A new BVM is available that will work with peds and adults. 5) Next meeting is scheduled for October 18th.
2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – No meeting, no report.
3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Clem reported on the October 4th meeting: 1) There was discussion on the training plan for the rollout of new AEDs coming in December, so training will need to be held in the first quarter 2024. Train the trainer sessions will be held at the Evaluator workshop. Cardiac Arrest only instructors will come to a segment of the workshop or there will be a separate training session for them. 2) Evaluator participation in EMT class has been low. Suggestions have been made revolving around scheduling, surveys, and class location. 3) There was discussion about the training and rollout of nebulized albuterol at the BLS level, and there has been discussion about this at the protocol committee. If approved prior to the next protocol revision, we will plan on training the skill as a 1st Quarter OTEP assignment.
4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – Brooks reported: There was a meeting in September. August was marked by significant regression on both fronts as it was an extremely high-volume month. There were many challenges, from the staffing levels and the availability of resources, but we were assured by both private providers that things had returned to a more normal base line. The hospitals said they had seen a return of COVID positive patients that was impacting their census, but they reported that they were chipping away at their staffing challenges. The committee talked about ways to have better visibility in real time of the actual staff units available. There was a change of practice by Olympic Ambulance so far that they had had some dedicated units to Lacey, and starting this month in Tumwater. There was feedback from the other agencies that there was a lack of knowledge transparency on what resources were available in the pool that the other agencies were relying on, and there was discussion on how to better track that.
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) There was a zoom interview with 7 applicants for the Paramedic Program Manager position. 3 of them have been invited to Medic One for an in-person interview which will take place October 20th. 2) Interviews are scheduled for October 6th for the BAT II position.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMSC Report – VanCamp reported: 1) There was discussion on the WREMS strategic plan. 2) Miller-Todd reported on the ALS response times. 3) There was discussion on the use of Narcan in Thurston County. 4) The EMT class workgroup charter was presented.
- B. EMT Course Workgroup Charter – VanCamp reported: A draft was presented at last month's meeting and an updated draft is presented today. The purpose behind this was to re-examine the current procedure we have that establishes the EMT initial training workbook. (Gregory/Conway) move to adopt the workgroup charter as presented and this carried.
- C. EMT Course Workgroup Committee Appointment – The EMSC has appointed Commissioner Slater, and the Ops committee will appoint Chief Johnson from McLane Black Lake, as well as the MPD. The BLS Program Manager has appointed Chief Rux and Pete Suver as the SEI representatives and Diana McMaster as the EMS Evaluator. The Chief's Association Training Officer's committee has appointed South Bay Battalion Chief Darrel Clowes. Ops will ask for a recommendation at the December 2023 meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Narcan Discussion at EMSC – Miller-Todd reported: The provider's use of Narcan was discussed at the Fire Commissioners meeting and the EMS council meeting. Fundamentally what we would like to do as a system is to aid these people and address an opioid epidemic that is related to addiction. As described at the other two meetings, think of it as a fishbowl that is filled with marbles and what are the two exits out of the fishbowl, and where are we ultimately trying to help people and what are we trying to help them achieve. To be practical and candid, the two routes out of this fishbowl is mortality and recovery. The protocols are written around how do we not only address that these individuals are hypoxic, and they need oxygen, and they may need CPR, but ultimately, we are trying to promote oxygenation. In the promotion of oxygenation, we are also promoting a titrated application of Narcan, getting the patient breathing again, and then transported to the nearest facility so we can talk about what recovery might look like. We are not against Narcan in law enforcement or Narcan in the public; however, when we have medically trained providers who have access to oxygen and BVM, there is the opportunity to have a better way with oxygenation. Given the current climate, the MPD is considering a very structured systematic approach, potentially considering what it looks like to put Narcan on all units in Thurston County.
- B. CMC Presentation to Comprehensive Plan Committee – As part of the comprehensive planning process, the committee had invited the hospitals to give a presentation on what their strategic approach is and at the last meeting staff from CMC was there. Ray Curtis said MultiCare has owned CMC for a little over two years. There has been a significant increase in volume, and market share. ED volume has increased from 50 patients a day to 100 on some days. Cath Lab is up and running – last year for only having the Cath Lab up for 9 months they did the most interventions CMC has ever seen, and this year they are on track for even more. CMC is planning an expansion that should double the capacity for both the ED and inpatient beds, to start 5 years from now. Miller-Todd said the Lacey stand-alone ED is anticipated to be up and functional December 15th. There is work in place to make sure everyone is on the same page with a very clear list of what can and cannot be transported, which will be messaged out to Chiefs, Ops Chiefs, and MSOs, for dissemination past that. They will be able to take quite a few things with exception of the normal STEMI, strokes and traumas. Ray Curtis added the stand-alone ED is expected to see on an average of 84 patients a day and they will have a full lab, x-ray, cat scan, but no MRI.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 2:35.