

**Thurston County Medic One  
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting  
Hybrid – 2703 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia  
September 20, 2023**

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**PRESENT**

**(In-Person):** Stan Moon, Brian VanCamp, Frank Kirkbride, Lenny Greenstein, Tom Carroll, Margaret McPhee, Todd Carson, Cindy Hambly, Gary Edwards, Sheila Fay

**PRESENT**

**(Virtual):** John Ricks, Harry Miller, Angela Jefferson

**ABSENT:** Wayne Fournier

**EXCUSED:** Larry Fontanilla

**GUESTS:** Dan Bivens, Shawn Crimmins, Mindy Churchwell (virtual)

**STAFF:** Ben Miller-Todd, Sandra Bush, Joy Keene, Scott Brownell

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Chair Moon called the meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Council (EMSC) to order at 3:30 PM.

**I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC** – (McPhee/Carson) move to approve the agenda and this carried.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. EMS COUNCIL – July 19, 2023. (Hambly/Greenstein) move to approve the minutes, and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – August 3, 2023, September 7, 2023 (informational only)

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) Discussion on COVID restrictions we may be seeing at the hospitals. 2) Introduction of new ALS Training Coordinator, Clint Wathen. 3) Overview of the comprehensive planning process. 4) Miller-Todd briefed the committee on the 2024/25 budget. 5) Briefing on EMT class and workgroup charter, which is on today's agenda.
- B. **WEST REGION EMS COUNCIL:** Kirkbride reported on the September 6, 2023: 1) Committee and Financial reports were provided. 2) There are a variety of grants to different organizations. One organization in particular is dealing with fall prevention and that is going well. 3) The last section of the WREMS comprehensive plan has been completed and will be shared under new business. 4) DOH presented information on WEMSIS (Washington EMS Information System). They take all the data that comes in from service providers and keep track of it on tables and charts. This information can be found on DOH's website.

Kirkbride shared a roster of the WREMS members - there are 49 members on the WREMS council, which is a significant improvement.

- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/committees/medic-one). Miller-Todd highlighted on the following: 1) Thurston County Manager resigned, effective October 4<sup>th</sup>. He has accepted the position of Director of Public Works in Tacoma. The interim County Manager is Robin Campbell. 2) Paramedic hiring process is in October. 3) 18 students are enrolled in the EMT class. 4) Initial panel interviews for the Paramedic Program Manager position will be held the end of September. Interviews for the BAT II position will be held October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Medic One 2tr YTD Expenditures – Joy Keene reported: Overall YTD expenditures, through June 2023, is

at 36%. Admin is 45% overall with 60% expended in salaries/benefits due to a payout for the previous Emergency Services Director and a short time overlap for the previous ES Director and the current ES Director. ALS is 36% overall with 11% in salaries/benefits due to vacant positions. Misc. participant training is 161% due to a \$1,000 budget and an expended amount of \$1,605, which includes travel reimbursement for Paramedic Program Manager interviews. Professional services are at 36% which is ALS contract services, and this typically runs 2 months behind. BLS is 52% overall with 36% in salaries/benefits due to a vacant position. Small tools & minor equipment is at 78% however this is expected to be within budget by year-end. IT is 41% overall. Small tools and minor equipment are at 100% for replacement of computers. IT is expected to be within budget at year-end. ER&R is 0%, however expenses are expected to occur in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

- B. WREMS Strategic Plan – Kirkbride reported: The new strategic plan is complete, and it will run 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025. Kirkbride shared a copy of this with the council members. Kirkbride shared some specific wording from the plan: The 2023 – 2025 West Region Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Strategic plan applies to a 5-county area, Grays Harbor, Lewis, North Pacific, Pierce, and Thurston. The purpose is two-fold: 1) sustain a robust continuum of care that effectively reduces injuries and fatalities; 2) maintain a continuum of care which treats and rehabilitates victims of trauma and medical emergencies.
- C. ALS Response Times – Miller-Todd presented the Thurston County Medic One 2022 ALS response time compliance report. Calls are filtered based on what's reasonable, and it is expected to have a 6-minute reaction time, which is the point at which the call is dispatched, and the provider is then enroute. It is also expected to meet a 60-minute standard for enroute time, and the provider must be on site greater than 30 seconds, to be considered an actual call for this arena.

Changes have been made to some of the jurisdictions. For example, the report shows FD9 instead of FD9 & FD5, FD12 instead of FD12 & FD16. In addition, UGA was added to every city. We are required by the State to be 80% compliant in every one of the categories and we start looking at problems if we hit 90%. For 2022 we are compliant in every category. 2021 was rough because of the COVID implications to it. The ALS workgroup looked at a variety of data points and whether the addition of an 8<sup>th</sup> medic unit would be necessary to make sure we are maintaining the response times, especially seeing that we starting to drop a little bit in the urban section of the county. The EMS council approved the budget to incorporate an 8<sup>th</sup> medic unit in 2025.

- D. Narcan – Miller-Todd reported: Washington State DOH sent a notice to fire agencies saying rural departments can receive Narcan for free. Thurston County does not qualify as a rural county, based on the Office of Financial Management. The response time compliance report may show an agency as rural but that does not translate to Thurston County as a whole. Thurston County does not protocolize Narcan at the EMT level. Thurston County is looking at a process of 'how do we treat' the patients in terms of their needs. Opioids do not stop the absorption of oxygen, they stop the respiratory drive, which stops ventilation, which stops ultimately the ability for oxygen to reach the circulatory system. Since 2018 Thurston County has wanted to promote a system that addresses the oxygen issue prior to administering Narcan. What we are looking to do, and address it from the front end, is initiate bag valve mask ventilation with 100% O2 which fundamentally and mathematically increases the amount of oxygen we are putting into the patient's system right out the gate. We want to promote early and effective oxygenation to promote ultimately better outcomes for individuals. What Narcan fundamentally does is induces a withdrawal by binding to receptors irreversibly, kicking off the opioid, so you are fundamentally inducing a withdrawal. If you are doing this in a hypoxic state, there are a lot of questions about what the continued damage can be for reversing time and time again. The MPD's directive is the promotion of recovery and the only way in which we can promote recovery is by getting these individuals to fix facilities, and the only way to promote the drive to fix facilities is by showing up, oxygenating effectively, waiting for ALS to show up and titrating the Narcan to effect, instead of blasting with the spray of Narcan, and suspending mortality.

- E. EMT Class Workgroup – EMT course rules have not been updated since 2011 so a workgroup has been appointed to look at handbook requirements and procedures. The workgroup will conduct a process to solicit and evaluate stakeholder input of current and historical issues and interests regarding initial EMT training course rules. The workgroup will consist of a representative from the EMS council, a representative from the Ops committee, the MPD, the BLS Program Manager, a Senior EMS Instructor, an EMT Instructor-Evaluator, and a representative from the Thurston County Fire Chief's Association Training Officers Committee.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – None**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:37.**