

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Hybrid – 2703 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia
February 21, 2024**

PRESENT

(In-Person): Stan Moon, Brian VanCamp, Lenny Greenstein, Tom Carroll, Margaret McPhee, Cindy Hambly, John Ricks

PRESENT

(Virtual): Harry Miller, Angela Jefferson, Sheila Fay, Liberty Hetzler

ABSENT:

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla, Matthew Morris, Gary Edwards

GUESTS: Steve Brooks (V), Mindy Churchwell (V), Wendy Rife (V), Shawn Crimmins (I), Derek Smith (I), Brian Hurley (V), Daniel Bivens (I)

STAFF: Ben Miller-Todd, Sandra Bush, Joy Keene, Chris Clem, Clint Wathen, Juan Mejias

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 – (Greenstein/Ricks) move to approve the agenda and this carried.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. EMS COUNCIL – December 20, 2023 (Greenstein/McPhee) move to approve the minutes, and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – January 4, 2024, February 1, 2024 (informational only)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) The Ops committee passed recommendation of a new EMT class handbook to the EMSC. 2) The new MPD PCR policy will be put in place April 1st, which explains how and when patient care reports are submitted. 3) Transfers in/out at the new Lacey off campus ED were discussed. 4) Comments on DOH proposed draft rules for WAC 246-976 (EMS Program) will be received through March 7, 2024.
- B. **WEST REGION EMS COUNCIL:** No regional meeting since the last EMSC meeting. The EMS conference will be in May, in Ocean Shores.
- 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) The spring EMT class is underway with 32 students currently enrolled. 2) Staff is working on paramedic recruitment – ads have been placed with JEMS, Indeed, and Daily Dispatch. Information is on our website and Facebook.

V. OLD BUSINESS – No Old Business

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Medic One Office Hours – Effective April 1, 2024, Medic One business hours will change to 7am – 4pm, Monday – Friday. These hours align with Emergency Management.
- B. EMSC Meeting Day/Time – With the addition of 2 County Commissioner's, there has been a change in the Commissioner's schedules, so the EMS Council meeting will change to the 4th Thursday of each month, effective with the April meeting. We have 3 options for times, either 1pm – 2pm, 2pm – 3pm, or 3pm – 4pm. Staff will send out a doodle poll, asking members for their preferred time.
- C. Regional EMS and Trauma Care Council Membership Application – Position # W-34 & W-35 – An

application was received from Justin Bell for the W-34 position (Emergency Room Nurse rep) and Wendy Rife for the W-35 position (Trauma Program Manager). (Greenstein/Carroll) move to recommend to DOH the approval of the applications for both positions, W-34 & W-35, and this carried.

- D. EMT Class Policies & Procedures – Clem reported: The EMT class handbook had not been updated for quite some time, so the Ops committee chartered a workgroup, with representation from the EMSC, Ops, MPD, Medic One staff, SEIs, EMS Evaluators, and Thurston County Fire Commissioners to review the current rule set. The updated draft included in the meeting packet was presented to the Ops committee for review, and after editing and discussions with the Ops committee and associated agencies, Ops is asking the EMSC for their recommendation to DOH.

Hambly had the following questions/suggestions: 1) Attendance/Absences, #4 – “absences must be approved prior to the missed class”. Who approves this? Clem said the SEI approves it. 2) Make-Up Requirements, #3 – Underline “must” in the first sentence and remove the 2nd sentence. 3) Testing, #5 – strike “the student has 2 retake attempts to achieve the passing score” and replace with “the student will retake the test until a passing score is achieved”. 4) Attire & Hygiene, #1 – Chris will add duty pants and dark colored shoes, to the attire expectations. (Hambly/Greenstein) move to recommend the EMT class policies to DOH, as amended, and this carried.

- E. Board of Health Briefing – Miller-Todd reported: In the current medical environment, a large part of what is being discussed in a variety of committee meetings, is how to break down barriers, or silos, in health care and how to communicate and coordinate effectively across different entities. There are some items that have become prominent, where there is a very clear need to integrate EMS, Public Health and other healthcare entities and make sure there is collaboration, communication, and effective managing to break down silos. Miller-Todd and Fontanilla will present a briefing to the Board of Health on April 9th at 3:45 pm, at the Atrium. The briefing will be presented to the EMS council at the March meeting. Miller-Todd and Fontanilla will routinely brief the Board of Health, on an annual basis.
- F. 8th Medic Unit Anticipated Timeline – Miller-Todd reported: The 8th medic unit will require 10 new paramedics and funding is available in the 2025 budget for this. The biggest hurdle we will be facing is the expected need to hire 20 or more paramedics throughout 2024 into 2025 to not only meet the current shortage of 10 paramedics, but also add the additional 10 necessary for the additional Medic Unit. As mentioned in the staff report, staff is working on national recruiting, and working with military partners up north. Angela Jefferson asked Miller-Todd about speaking to the military medics at Madigan who are nearing their end of time of service. Jefferson also suggested having a recruiter on staff. Trevor Palmer, Yelm City Council, asked about staff speaking to the National Guard.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER - None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:35.