

**THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ~ MEETING MINUTES  
HYBRID - ESC  
March 7, 2024**

**PRESENT**

**(In-Person):** Brian Hurley, Larry Fontanilla, Wendy Hill, Mark Gregory, Steve Brooks, Ray Curtis, Eric Forsythe, Matthew Morris

**PRESENT**

**(Virtual):** Ciaran Keogh, Mindy Churchwell

**ABSENT:** Leonard Johnson, Wendy Rife, Carla Carter

**EXCUSED:** Brian VanCamp

**GUESTS:** Derek Smith (I), Jennifer Schmidt (I), Joey Rodriguez (V), Kevin Heindel (V), Rian Winter (V), Greg Perry (V), Michael Hughes (V)

**STAFF:** Ben Miller-Todd, Sandra Bush, Chris Clem, Scott Brownell

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

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC** – The agenda was amended to add item (G) to New Business: Appoint Special Project Committee. (Brooks/Hurley) move to approve the agenda as amended and this carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Operations Committee – February 1, 2024 – (Curtis/Brooks) move to approve the minutes and this carried.
2. EMS Council – February 21, 2024 (Informational only)

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **West Region EMS Council** – Clem reported on the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting: 1) EMS Conference planning is still underway. Registration opened last week, and 50 attendees have already registered. 2) There was discussion about mental health patient volumes and a lack of access to appropriate resources. Mental health reimbursement from the state is very low so facilities are struggling to afford to offer the services. As a result, 2 facilities in Pierce County are closing. It was suggested that the WREMS council draft a letter to DOH. 3) The Quinault Nation applied to upgrade their licensure to ALS, and it was approved by the council. 4) 2023 taxes were filed without issues.
- B. **Subcommittees**
1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – Rian Winter reported on the February 29<sup>th</sup> meeting: 1) National drug shortages – Saline irrigation bottles (semi-mitigated with Saljet), lidocaine, ketamine (semi-mitigated with concentration change), Albuterol vials (semi-mitigated with fish rather than vials), and Sodium Bicarb. 2) Video Laryngoscopy (McGrath) has arrived. Training and rollout are being planned. 3) OFD is trialing a steerable bougie. 4) New BVM trial is underway at TFD. Rollout for rest of county is anticipated to start second quarter 2024. 5) New AED rollout is underway. There have been some issues with the trainers, and an alternate was found with no significant cost change. 6) Next meeting is March 21<sup>st</sup> at 0930.
  2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – No report.
  3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Clem reported: The trial of a new BVM was just wrapped up at Tumwater and we are releasing the training that the Tumwater crews developed to the rest of the agencies this month. The new BVM works for both adult and pediatric patients, so we can reduce the number of BVMs we are carrying on the rigs. It also has a smaller volume, limiting the risk of volutrauma and barotrauma.
  4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – No report.
  5. ePCR Committee – Clem reported: 1) The MPD's ePCR policy is effective April 1<sup>st</sup> and can be found on Medic One's website. 2) Scott is working on ordering replacement ePCR tablets.
- C. **Staff Report** – Staff report is located on the website at – <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/m1/Pages/meetings.aspx> Miller-Todd highlighted on the following: 1) Paramedic testing is April 10 – 11 and staff is working on a nationwide recruit. JOLT pulled information from Medic One's FB page and wrote an article that said Medic One is just starting the 1<sup>st</sup> tier system this year. The FB page has been changed.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. EMSC Report – Gregory reported: 1) EMSC meetings will change to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, and they will meet 1:00 – 2:00 pm. 2) The EMSC recommended two WREMS applications, one for Wendy Rife (W-35) and one for Justin Bell (W-34), to DOH. 3) EMSC approved the EMT class policy, with recommended changes.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Medic One Office Hours – Effective April 1, 2024, Medic One business hours will change to 7:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- B. Semi-Annual Review of Ambulance Ordinance – No recommended changes.
- C. Medic One Committee Structure – Miller-Todd asked the committee for adoption of a new committee structure for Medic One, which would take effect April 1<sup>st</sup>. (Hurley/Brooks) move to adopt the new committee structure, and this carried.
- D. EMSC Bylaws Update – Miller-Todd reported: An EMS Council Bylaw committee was formulated to review possible changes to the bylaws. The committee consisted of EMS Council members, as well as the Chair of Ops. The proposed changes will be presented to the EMS Council at their March meeting and will be asked for recommendation to the BoCC. If the recommendation is made by EMSC then it will go to the BoCC in April. Miller-Todd presented the proposed changes that affect Ops: MultiCare and Capital Medical Center will share a position on the Ops committee; TCOMM's representative position will change from Department of Communications to TCOMM911; and the committee added a representative position for South Sound Behavioral Hospital. Brooks recommended changing "South Sound Behavioral Hospital" to "a receiving behavioral health hospital". Miller-Todd will take the recommendation to the Bylaw Committee.
- E. Paramedics Staffing Update – Miller-Todd reported: We are expecting a shortage of 10 paramedics as we move into the summer months, and we will need an additional 10 medics in early 2025 when we staff an 8<sup>th</sup> medic unit. This will be an ongoing conversation as we move forward, and staff has bolstered the recruitment process to nationally. As we go forward there may be an opportunity to potentially host our own paramedic training program locally.
- F. Zoom to Teams Transition – Effective April 1<sup>st</sup> virtual meetings will be held via Teams instead of Zoom.
- G. Appoint Special Project Committee – Eric Forsythe, Shawn Crimmins, and Ray Curtis will be reps on the committee. The goal is to have applications reviewed and presented to Ops at their April meeting.

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER** – 1) Miller-Todd presented initial impacts of the MultiCare Off Campus Emergency Department (OCED) for transport destination of patients, and this showed Providence having a decrease of 9%, Capital Medical Center having an increase of 2%, and the OCED showing a 7.2%. These are public transports only. Also, there has been a flattening in wait times of over 45 minutes, and a reduction in the 90+ range. This report will be emailed to Ops members. 2) Brooks announced LFD's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at LFD headquarters.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 2:32.