

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

PRESENT: Steve Brooks, Derek Smith, Mark Gregory, Brian VanCamp, Carla Carter, Wendy Rife, Ciaran Keogh, Todd Carson, Brian Hurley, Mindy Churchwell, Tammy Kallgren, Leonard Johnson

ABSENT: Ray Curtis

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla

GUESTS: Tony Kuzma, Mike Buchanan, Shawn Crimmins, Michael Hughes, Rian Winter, Karen Weiss, Jennifer Schmidt, Joey Rodriguez

STAFF: Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Jerett Latimer, Alan Provencher

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MSC – (Carson/Brooks) move to approve the agenda as presented, and this carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Operations Committee – November 3, 2022 (No December meeting) – (Hurley/Carson) move to approve and this carried.
2. EMS Council – November 16, 2022 (No December meeting, Informational only)

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **West Region EMS Council** – Miller-Todd reported on the December 7th meeting: 1) WREMS did very well on the State audit. 2) Discussion on investing some of the reserve in short-term CDs. 3) Discussion on hospital divert and long-term bed availability. DOH has been asked if they have people or resources dedicated to the analysis of this issue. 4) Chris Clem's application to be re-appointed to WREMS has been processed and he is once again serving in the Thurston County pre-hospital position. 5) Lewis County FD8 applied to upgrade their licensure to ALS verified, which was recommended for approval. Lewis County Medic One is dissolving so there is a need for ALS coverage in their district. 6) Olympic Ambulance applied to upgrade their licensure in Pierce County to ALS verified. This was recommended for approval.

B. **Subcommittees**

1. Equipment Committee (EqC) – Rian Winter reported: 1) Drug shortages on D50, D10, basically all forms of saline, lidocaine and OPA kits. 2) Medic One still has robust stocks of PPE. 3) Continuing to work on a "check the dose" app for ALS and potentially BLS providers. 4) Looking at video laryngoscopy options. Hope to have a couple of reps in within the next month or two. 5) Discussion on old/obsolete devices/equipment we continue to carry. Members will make a list of what items need to be considered for removal from units and/or protocol. 6) Expire/Don't expire list will be reviewed. Leyva will work on revision and consult with the MPDs. 7) Next meeting is January 19th at 0930.
2. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee – No meeting, no report.
3. Training Advisory Committee (TAC) – Miller-Todd reported: The last meeting was held on November 17th. The committee continues to process the review of certification procedure documents. There is an Evaluator workshop on January 15 – 18 and we are expecting around 70 evaluators. New candidates need to attend the 15th and one of the other 3 days, returning evaluators only need to attend one day on the 16th – 18th.
4. Transportation Resource Utilization Committee (TRU) / Hospital Diversion – Brooks reported: There has been a struggle with representation, particularly MultiCare, which undermines the facility capacity discussion, which is where the focus has shifted. It has been recommended to re-staff the breezeway at PSPH.
5. ePCR Committee – Miller-Todd reported: ePCR committee met in December. They will be discussing when and how reports are written in the patient care environment, and it's also on today's agenda under New Business.

C. **Staff Report** – Staff report is located on the website at – <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/m1/Pages/meetings.aspx>

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMSC Report – VanCamp reported: 1) Hospital staffing and ambulance wait times were discussed. 2) 2023 ambulance license applications were recommended to the BoCC. 3) The change to min/max was recommended to WREMS.
- B. ALS Unit Utilization Workgroup Committee – A charter was created, and a team was formed. The meetings will be January 10th at 1 pm and January 24th at 9 am at Medic One.
- C. Transport Pilot Update – Chief Schmidt provided an update: The pilot ran August – October 2022. Data was compiled and there was a lot of collaboration with different groups. In November and December, the “no-load” and “drop-calls” data was reviewed.

May – June of dropped calls were reviewed and it was found that both private partners had high numbers for when they were able to provide a unit. During that period there were 300 - 400 times when both ambulances were not able to provide service. July improved with the numbers between 150 – 250. Once the pilot was instituted drops were seen for both companies, in August, to 70 – 80 time range. During the last two months of the pilot, they both dropped down to the 30's and 40's, and it was very consistent.

May – July, both agencies had numbers as high as 40 – 60%. When the pilot started in August, the number went down to the high teens and low 30's. During the remaining time of the study the numbers hovered around the high 20's and low 30's.

After the study closed, the pilot committee tried to figure out what the best data was to use for addressing the first responder stressors and on-scene time seemed to be the most common. On-scene time data was pulled from all three ALS agencies. May – July OFD had a 00:30:21 on scene time, TFD had 00:28:27, and LFD had 00:28:31. During the pilot study OFD took 22 seconds off their on-scene time, and TFD took 48 seconds off their on-scene time. LFD went up by about 1.5 minutes.

There was a consistent approach among all Thurston County agencies, however data challenges still exist, and this is being worked on. Change of practice was also difficult, and the explanation to our citizens as crews were on-scene. The Fire Chiefs have been asked for a 6-month extension of this pilot, to prepare data and time and impacts, from January – June 2023. The committee asked for adjustments to the pilot – protocol and dispatch procedures (i.e., private ambulances to be removed from MVAs). It was also asked that private ambulances be removed from ALS calls for certain agencies, and adding noOLY and noAMR units for CAD to keep track of those when each agency is unavailable to help collect data. The final ask is a transparent share of data to responders. The committee meets again on January 12th.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Medic One Staffing – Miller-Todd reported: Kurt retires effective March 31st however is last day in the office is March 15th. Please be patient with Medic One as we will be at 40% staffing capacity once Kurt departs.
- B. Stroke Protocol Update – Miller-Todd reported: Effective December 15, 2022, positive stroke scores are transported to Tacoma. There have been 4 transports to date.
- C. ePCR Policy – Miller-Todd reported: Ops Committee members will receive a calendar invite for a January 19th meeting at 11am. We would like to hear from staff for input on this policy, which will illustrate when to write a patient care record.
- D. EMT Entryway Process – Miller-Todd reported: We are staffing the entryway at PSPH with 2 EMTs from 1300 to 2100, Monday – Friday, to help free up transport units from needing to wait for staff to take over care of a transported patient. This may run through February until we can find other alternatives.
- E. Appoint Nominations Committee – The committee will consist of Brian Hurley, Mike Buchanan, and Leonard Johnson. Chief Hurley will Chair the committee and nominations will take place at the February meeting.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 2:40.