

**SPOKANE COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2015**

Dr. Metcalf called the meeting to order at 0900 and those present introduced themselves.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present:

Sharon Colby, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Mike Lopez, Dr. Mike Metcalf, Ray Moeckel, Dr. Jim Nania, Adam Richards, Jim Schaeffer, Wade Scoles, Cathy St. Amand, Jim Walkowski,

Guests Present:

Shaun Pitts (INHS), Samantha Roberts (INHS), Vince Speziale (SCFD4), Robert Ladd (SCFD10), Dr. Madeline Geraghty (Deaconess)

Staff Present:

Cindy Pavlischak, EMS Office Administrator

MINUTES:

It was M/S/P to approve the June 2015 minutes.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

➤ Responses from Chair's letters to hospital CEO's:

Dr. Metcalf sent a letter to the CEO's of the four hospitals. He received a response letter from Alex Jackson, CE for Holy Family and SHMC, saying they are very aware of the concerns and listing some of the actions they are taking to reduce ED diversion hours at their facilities. The CEO of Deaconess, Maurine Cate, has been in touch and is trying to find a time to speak with Dr. Metcalf.

Dr. Metcalf said the issues are going to be tough to resolve. The EMS Council can only let the hospitals know what EMS's concerns are and send suggested guidelines. The hospitals don't have to adopt those guidelines. Robbie Thorn said the hospital ER Directors are meeting again later this month. The four ER Directors all agreed on diversion guidelines but need help with the second piece, which is someone tracking where patients go during the diversion time and AMR has said that they are too busy to track this piece. Robbie said they are stuck on that point. Dr. Edminster noted that each hospital has to come up with a plan to deal with "surge" in ER (i.e. increase staffing, move pts out of ER, etc.).

Action: Add to Old Business on the September agenda to discuss again.

➤ Letter from East Region EMS & TCC re: education for EMS Evaluators:

Mike Lopez explained that the DOH has created an EMS Evaluator endorsement on the EMT or Paramedic certification, which allows the system to renew the EMS Evaluator recognition. Currently, there are no educational requirements or a process in place for EMS Evaluator renewal. The East Region EMS & TCC sent the letter asking MPDs to consider requiring the EMS Evaluators to attend an update workshop as part of the requirements to obtain MPD recommendation for approval. The MPD can also choose to have additional requirements to obtain their recommendation for renewal. Dr. Dierks

said that EMSConnect is working on a didactic program and INHS a skills program for these EMS Evaluators.

Action: Dr. Nania proposed that he would agree to request EMS Evaluators to attend an update workshop per certification period and perform an EMS Evaluation once per year as a minimum requirement for recertification. The requirement would start with certifications expiring in January 2017. The workshop also has to be one approved by the MPD. It was M/S/P to approve this motion.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Jim Schaffer

- 2nd Quarter Financial Report: The report was not reviewed but the document was emailed to all Council members along with the agenda prior to this meeting.
- Proposed 2016 Budget:
The Budget Committee met recently to review the budget draft and noted that the budget surplus is decreasing by about \$10,000/year (surplus was \$43,272 in 2014, is projected to be \$34,264 at the end of 2015, and is projected to be \$24,319 in 2016). The Budget Committee is suggesting a small increase of \$.50/year in the BLS fee for volunteers and an increase of \$1.00/year for paid BLS personnel. Jim said he is working with DOH to get a count on how many EMTs there are in the county, paid and volunteer, and then he will calculate how much of an increase in income that would generate. His plan is to look at incremental increases in BLS fees over the next several years.
Action: Review again at the September meeting after Jim gets numbers and explores different increase options.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Psychiatric capacity bed planning – Susan Stacey, CNO, Providence SHMC:
Regarding diversions, Ms. Stacey said she has responsibility for ER and Psych and is very aware of the diversion problems. She said it is difficult to find applicants right now for nursing care positions, but they are working to fill positions as they come open.

Regarding psychiatric bed capacity, Ms. Stacey said that recently, and over a period of time, all seven of the SHMC psychiatrists gave 90-day notice of resignation. PSHMC has tentatively re-recruited 5 of the 7 providers who were leaving as well as some locums MDs and NP’s. They are also working to reconfigure workload for these folks to make it sustainable. This Fall SHMC may have to close some of the adult and pediatric psychiatric beds (about half), for the short term. She was asked about the free-standing psychiatric facility that Providence has proposed and how long it will take. She said they have not heard anything from the state yet but hope to hear back on the CON by the end of the year. Once they hear back, it will be a 2-year process to build so the whole process could take 2-3 years.
- New website for SCA survivors (www.lifeaftersca.org) – Cathy St. Amand:
Cathy said the national committee launched the new website recently. Cathy showed the website and what resources are available there.
- Renewal Application for Senior EMS Instructor – Benjamin Sabori:
Action: Reviewed and M/S/P to approve.

- EMS Course Completion Verification – SCFD9:
 - Completion date: 6/13/15 EMR (I1532010)**Action:** Reviewed and will process to DOH.
- EMS Course Completion Verification – INHS:
 - Completion date: June 2015 Paramedic (I1432013)
 - Completion date: 6/26/15 EMT-SGA (I1532012)
 - Completion date: 6/23/15 EMT-SGA (I1532014)**Action:** Reviewed and will process to DOH.
- EMS Course Completion Verification – SCC:
 - Completion date: 6/18/15 EMT-SGA (I1532010)**Action:** Reviewed and will process to DOH.
- EMS Training Course Applications – SCC:
 - EMT-SGA (9/22/15 – 12/10/15)**Action:** Reviewed and M/S/P to approve.
- EMS Training Course Applications – INHS:
 - EMT-SGA (9/9/15 – 9/19/15)
 - IV (9/27/15 – 10/3/15)
 - EMT-SGA (9/15/15 – 12/19/15)**Action:** Reviewed and M/S/P to approve.

REPORTS:

- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs - Kelly Jennings: No report.
- East Region - Adam Richards:
Adam said they are still going through the education budget. He was recently re-elected as the Chair and now has a full complement of officers on the Council for support.
 - Community Paramedicine Ad Hoc Committee - Mike Lopez:
Currently in a lull but some sub-groups are still meeting. Meetings will ramp up again in Sept/Oct to work on defining what a paramedic will look like in the State of WA.
- Curriculum & Paramedic Advisory Comm./INHS Health Training - Samantha Roberts:
No report.
- Fairchild - Don “DB” Ballard/Dawn DePriest: No report.
- QI - Dr. Nania:
Updates to Protocols should be out sometime in July. Today the QI Committee will be looking at stroke data for 2014. The entire September QI meeting will be a WEMIS update. October QI meeting will look at cardiac data.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wade Scoles announced the very recent and sad news that Tom Fritz, about 6 months retired from INHS, died over the weekend in drowning accident.
- Dr. Geraghty said that Sept. 12 is the Stroke & Heart walk put on by AHA. She is hoping to have a PulsePoint information station at the walk. She encouraged all EMS folks to participate in the walk.
- No meeting of the EMS Council in August. Next meeting is September 8.

ADJOURN