

**SPOKANE COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 11, 2017**

Council Chair, Cathy St. Amand, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present:

Tom Chavez, Sharon Colby, Steve Cooke, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Joel Edminster, Rich Llewellyn, Mike Lopez, Veronica Mitchell-Jones, Dr. James Nania, Dr. Bob Notske, Randy Olson, Paul Priest, Patrick Ramsey, Jeff Reid, Adam Richards, Cody Rohrbach, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, Johnnie Sylvester

Guests Present:

Dr. Thomas Coomes (PSHMC ER), Tammie Drapeau (AMR), Michelle Ensminter (INHS Training), Sherryl Hart (SFD), Tim Loncon (SFD), Travis Nichols (SRHD), Sharon Rainer (Valley Hospital Trauma), Dave Baird (SVFD), Marty Shier (SCFD10), Steve Tevlin (Northern Quest)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Cindy Pavlischak, EMS Office Administrator

**MINUTES:**

It was M/S/P to approve the June 2016 minutes.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Cathy St. Amand

➤ Pulse Point/ALERT Project update

Rich Llewellyn reported that SVFD reached the necessary goal of 70% of their personnel responding to the ALERT Project survey. He encouraged other agencies to work on their numbers as well and said that SVFD worked on a labor policy addressing participation in the project that they are willing to share with the other agencies. Rich said that another county has jumped in on this trial so there aren't as many AED units available (only about 100 now) to Spokane County for this trial.

**Action:** Contact Cathy St. Amand if you have any questions about the ALERT survey and Rich Llewellyn for questions regarding the labor policy.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Adam Richards

➤ 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2016 report

Adam reviewed Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

➤ Dr. Thomas Coomes, PSHMC ER: Psychiatric care and transports to the ER

Dr. Coomes said the company building the new 100-bed psychiatric hospital at 5<sup>th</sup> & Browne near SHMC has decided they will not be accepting ambulance transports. There will be no ambulance bay built at the facility. All psychiatric patients will have to be

transported to local ER's for initial care and medical clearance. (The new facility will be accepting patients from all hospitals, not just SHMC.) Dr. Coomes also said that the problem of psychiatric patients tying up ER beds will only get bigger since the city will start seeing more of these patients because of the free-standing psychiatric hospital. Dr. Coomes said he would like EMS transport agencies to consider distributing these patients evenly over the city ER's rather than SHMC getting the majority of these patients. He said these patients tying up hospital beds effects their ability to care for all patients.

Mike Lopez noted that for decades SHMC has been perceived as the "psychiatric hospital" and that both EMS and the community will need to be re-educated that these patients can go to other facilities as well. Mike said that frequently the patients and/or patient families make the decision before EMS even gets there that they want to go to SHMC. Another concern Mike noted is that in 22% of psychiatric calls to EMS (SFD & SVFD), the patient refuses transport when they get there and they almost always hear back from these patients within the same 24 hours. He said this is also a drain on prehospital resources.

Dr. Edminster suggested asking Frontier Behavioral Health to move their office at SHMC to somewhere more neutral to slow this flow to SHMC and redistribute these patients more evenly. Adam suggested to Travis Nichols that SRHD get together a non-partisan group (SFD, SVFD, hospitals, etc.) to meet with Jan Dobbs from Frontier Behavioral Health to discuss the issues and come up with a plan.

**Action:** Travis Nichols, SRHD, will organize a meeting to discuss the issues noted above.

➤ EMS Training Course Applications INHS:

- EMT-SGA                      Start date: 9/7/17
- Paramedic                      Start date: 10/23/17

**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve both courses.

➤ EMS Training Program Applications:

- SCFD4
- Deer Park Ambulance
- SCFD3

**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve both OTEP applications.

**REPORTS:** None

➤ Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Greg Godfrey, SCFD8

- Spokane police and fire talking about integrating their call centers.
- Will be working on updating the FOG again.
- Sky Fest on July 29-30 at FAFB. Working to have extra manpower there.

➤ 911 Board: Cody Rohrbach

- New Alerting system in Spokane County. Ed Lewis is helping out with this for a period of time after retiring from GSEM.
- An integrated communications center for police and fire was also discussed. The concept has support but there is a lot to overcome before this will be a reality (5+ years out). The Regional Communications Director position is on hold for now to review job description.

- East Region EMS & TCC: Adam Richards  
The two EMS Evaluator Renewal courses put on by INHS were well-attended. The class tuition was paid for by the East Region EMS and Trauma Care Council. There will be another EMS Evaluator Renewal course coming up this fall. The DOH didn't have a curriculum for the course so INHS created one.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/INHS Training: Michelle Ensminger  
The current paramedic class is starting field internships. INHS staff are interviewing and testing candidates for the Oct. 24 paramedic class.
- FAFB: Jason Satcher  
Not present today; no report.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
  - Dr. Bray came to the June QI meeting last month to talk about transport of hospice patients from the hospital to hospice facilities. The Protocol Committee is working on a protocol for transport of these patients with input from Dr. Bray. The POLST form is being revised at the state level.
  - Dr. Geraghty made a strong plea at the June QI meeting for EMS to provide stroke severity score (LAMS) to the receiving hospital during patient transport.
  - Reviewed Trauma KPI's at the June QI meeting and the cases that fell out for those KPI's will be discussed at QI Committee today.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The NW EMS Conference is coming up Saturday, Sept. 30, at Northern Quest. There are discounts available.
- The Team Conference has been moved from end of this month to October.
- The Washington State Cardiac & Stroke Conference will be October 26-27 in Spokane.

**ADJOURN:**