

SPOKANE COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL
March 10, 2020, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Spokane Fire Training Center Classroom C

Council Chair, Adam Richards, called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Members Present:

Dave Baird, Darren Briher, Tom Chavez, Sharon Colby, Steve Cooke, Greg Cover, Mike Lopez, Dr. Mike Metcalf, Dr. Jim Nania, Aaron Possin, Paul Priest, Lonnie Rash, David Sewell, Cathy St. Amand

Guests Present:

Mike Dawson (SFD), Tammie Drapeau (AMR), Michelle Ensminger (INHS Training), Ben Sabori (SCC), Steve Tevlin (NQ Casino), James Akramoff (INHS Training)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Cindy Pavlischak, EMS Council Office Administrator/County Coordinator)

MINUTES: Approval of February 2020 minutes

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the Feb. 2020 minutes.

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Adam Richards

- EMS Awards reminder
Submit nominations by Mar. 31.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Johnnie Sylvester

- Financial reports for February 2020:
Johnnie could not attend today's meeting so Adam reviewed the financial reports. No issues or concerns are noted.
- Investment options
Adam reviewed an email from Johnnie regarding investment options. Johnnie spoke with an investment banker through STCU who recommended the Council put some of the savings (\$50-\$100K) in a one year CD and move the rest to a Presidents Premium Savings Account. Anything over \$2,000 in a CD right now is earning 1.55% interest and anything over \$250,000 in a Presidents Premium Savings Account earns 1% interest. These would be safe options with guaranteed returns and little to no fees.
Action: The Council M/S/P to keep the money in the money market savings account for now due to current market issues and review again later.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- COVID-19 Discussion (Adam Richards & Mike Lopez)
 - Mike Lopez said he is summarizing the DOH sitrep reports and emailing that out every day.
 - Best ways to protect EMS responders. It will be mid-April before extra supplies are available.
 - Dispatch has been triaging calls with questions about travel, close contact, etc, so they can alert crews.
 - AMR said assisted living and long-term care facilities are screening prehospital personnel before letting them in to their facility. SHRD said that long-term care facilities should test routinely for COVID when there is a respiratory illness and asked if there is any way to track calls to EMS from these facilities.
Action: Mike Lopez said he would see if this info can be added to ESO to provide data

to SRHD.

- Dr. Nania said every patient should be screened by ambulance personnel prior to transport and then alert the hospital en route if isolation precautions are in effect. Questions to ask: fever in last 72 hours, cough or shortness of breath, travel. Dr. Nania has asked Dr. Lutz for input on a 1-page screening document if more cases continue to be identified. He said EMS should provide an information sheet to patients on what to do if they have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.
- EMS personnel should know that SHMC is not the only hospital to take patients with potential exposure and symptoms. All hospitals are capable of caring for these patients. Dr. Nania said that until the health officer says potential exposures should quarantine at home, ambulance personnel should not refuse to transport any patient.
- Adam said that the hospitals are working on opening up temporary screening locations staffed by the hospitals to test the public and relieve stress on the prehospital system and ER's. He said there is ample capacity locally for testing at U of W. Test turnaround time for COVID is about a week.
- Should there be another meeting/update in a week?
Action: Adam asked the group to send any topic ideas to himself or Cindy. Another meeting may be scheduled in the next 1-2 weeks.

➤ Training Course Application – INHS:

- Refresher ESE Date: 05/08/2020
- Refresher EMT Date: 05/25/2020 – 06/06/2020
- Initial EMT-SGA Date: 04/14/2020 – 07/11/2020
- Initial Advanced EMT Date: 04/14/2020 – 06/06/2020

Action: It was M/S/P to approve all the above course applications.

➤ Dispatch Health Update – Mike Conrad (15-20 min)

Mike provided a short update on the types of cases they see. He also explained how they package patients who require ambulance transport (patient info, EKG and IV if done).

Dispatch Health collaborates with MultiCare but anyone can use them. The goal is to keep folks at home that can stay at home. He said there is always an ARNP or PA on the vehicle that can write prescriptions. They do not currently have COVID testing but do have the rapid flu test. There is a meeting this Friday to discuss, among other things, whether to add an AED or Life Pak to the Dispatch Health vehicles and if Dispatch Health can see patients at home who are concerned they might have the COVID-19 virus.

Action: Dr. Nania asked for an accounting of cases including outcomes and follow-up as well as a summary of the Dispatch Health protocols. He said he will look at county protocols and interfacility transport guidelines to see if Dispatch Health could/should access AMR or Deer Park Ambulance (transport services) directly rather than call 911. Adam suggested Dispatch Health meet with Dr. Nania initially then prepare a report for the EMS Council.

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

➤ Update on ad-hoc meeting regarding inter-facility transport of critical care patients:

Tom said the group has met twice and will revise protocol. There were concerns about LFN flying patients from one facility to another. LFN will give patients the annual coverage after the fact and the patient will only pay \$69. They may also add a ground ambulance.

➤ Protocol Committee update:

Still working on protocols that came back with recommendations from DOH. Next meeting Thursday, March 19, at 0900.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: Mike Lopez
No substantive changes at the last meeting, just some clarification. There will not be a meeting in March and the April meetings are via GoToMeeting.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Lonnie Rash
Lonnie said there was no meeting in March so no report.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach
Cody could not be present but emailed his report. The SREC board continues to work with a consultant to establish methodology and a formula for user fees. Objectives include finding a formula that is fair, equitable, and easy to explain. SREC is also taking steps towards moving EMD to call takers then dispatch. The implementation of EMD is projected to save call-processing time. Next steps include purchasing the appropriate software and then training dispatchers. EMD could be implemented as soon as this summer.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Mike Lopez
The East Region Council approved additional funds available to rural providers for upcoming conferences. There is a push at the legislative level to improve assistance to rural agencies.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition: Carolyn Cartwright
No representative present today.
- SRHD:
No report.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/INHS Training: Michelle Ensminger
Michelle introduced their new EMS instructor, James Akramoff.
- FAFB: Jason Satcher
No report.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - Airway data – some difficulties getting the data.
 - At the May QI Meeting Dr. Nania will present the 2019 CARES data.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Live@Nite:
 - March 10 – BVM/Airway Management with Shaun Pitts
 - March 26 – Professional EMS with Shaun Pitts

MEETING ADJOURNED.