

SPOKANE COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL

July 14, 2020, 9 a.m.

Teams Virtual Meeting Only

Council Chair, Adam Richards, called the meeting to order and he confirmed the list of those present for the online meeting.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Members Present:

Deb Bried, Darren Brieher, Jack Busch, Mike Charter, Tom Chavez, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Joel Edminster, Tim Loncon, Mike Lopez, Dr. Mike Metcalf, Veronica Mitchell-Jones, Dr. Jim Nania, Paul Priest, Todd Putren, Lonnie Rash, Jeff Reid, Cody Rohrbach, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, Johnnie Sylvester, Cathy St. Amand

Guests Present:

Jim Akramoff (INHS Training), Kasey Austin (SFD), Dr. Maika Dang (SCFD3), Tammie Drapeau (AMR), Nathan Jeffries (SCFD9), Tom Jenkins (Cheney FD), Deanna Jones (PSHMC), Denise McCurdy (PSHMC), Beth Perkins (PSHMC), Shaun Pitts (INHS Training), Steve Tevlin (NQ), Jim Walkowski (SCFD9),

EMS Office Staff Present:

Cindy Pavlishak, EMS Council Office Administrator/County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of June 2020 minutes

Action: MSP to approve the minutes.

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Adam Richards

➤ EMS Awards reminder (date TBD)

Discussed whether to acknowledge recipients this year or add to next year. Cindy reported there are only about 7 nominations currently.

Action: The group agreed Cindy should re-send the email requesting nominations and list awards that have no nominations currently.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Johnnie Sylvester

➤ Financial reports for June 2020:

Johnnie said there was nothing unusual to report for June expenditures. Cindy said the Council did receive the grant check from Spokane County Medical Society. The Council fronted the money for purchase of CPAP masks with HEPA filters, which Kasey Austin distributed to Spokane County prehospital agencies.

➤ 2021 Draft Council Budget – 1st review

Council members received the draft budget yesterday for review prior to this meeting. Johnnie went over the document with the group. Council members were encouraged to contact Johnnie or Cindy for any questions.

Action: Review budget draft again at the September Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ COVID-19 Discussion/Update (Adam Richards & Mike Lopez)

- David Sewell said MultiCare Deaconess has about 8-10 in-patients with COVID. Adam said SHMC has a total of 18 COVID patients with 9 in ICU. PSHMC has been assisting the Eastern Washington DMCC with patient placements from areas that have exceeded

their capacity. Agencies said they are doing well with PPE and helping each other out as necessary.

- Dr. Cover said he is seeing significant problems for EMS personnel in meeting their intubation requirements. David Sewell said Deaconess currently has paramedic course students but can accept some EMS folks in the OR in the near future. Adam said a concern at SHMC is having EMS personnel using hospital PPE when they are there to get intubations. Both hospital representatives said that EMS personnel also need to provide documentation that their N-95 masks have been fit-tested, otherwise the hospital can be fined \$11,000. The agencies said they would be happy to bring their own PPE and provide the fit-testing documentation.
- Mike Lopez said about 60% of the COVID-positive cases in Spokane County are young people who are symptom-free and the same age as many of our providers. Personnel should be protecting themselves from exposure to COVID during their personal time as well as work time. Also, more children under 10 are testing positive.

➤ Request for East Region Council Reappointments:

- Tamara Drapeau

Action: MSP to approve.

➤ Training Course Applications to approve – INHS:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| • Refresher EMT | Date: 10/05/2020 |
| • Refresher ESE | Date: 12/11/2020 |
| • Initial EMT-SGA | Date: 8/24/2020 – 10/26/2020 |
| • Initial EMT-SGA | Date: 8/4/2020 – 10/31/2020 |

Action: MSP to approve all applications.

➤ Future approval process for course applications: Adam

The Council office has become aware that having to present EMS Course applications for approval at the once monthly council meetings is creating an additional time lag for training agencies seeking approval from DOH. Mike Lopez said RCW and WAC give the Council and MPD authority to review course applications and make a recommendation to DOH, but course approval is up to DOH. Mike suggested that the Council Chair and MPD sign the course applications when received in the Council office and Cindy will mail them immediately to DOH. An Education Report listing the course applications signed by the Chair and MPD the previous month will be presented at the next scheduled Council meeting. If there is a course application that is questionable, it will be brought forward to the Council Executive Committee or the full Council for further review. Mike noted that this is the process in the larger Washington counties (King, Clark, etc.).

Action: Proceed as noted above.

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

➤ Protocol Committee update:

The next virtual meeting is July 23 at 0930. The committee still hopes to organize protocols into scope of practice.

REPORTS:

➤ EMS WAC Revision: Mike Lopez

The next meeting is July 16, 0930-1130. The group will be discussing WAC 246-976, including -144 and -182 (EMS certification and scope of practice). May create some rule regarding CARES programs. The process is moving forward although slowly.

- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Lonnie Rash
The SREC dispatchers are training on EMD with go-live planned for August 12. This should create some efficiencies and time saved. Operations folks are working on wildland fire issues, response to tones, replacing CO alarms. There was a Red Cross presentation recently regarding wildland fire response and evacuations during COVID-19. The Training group is meeting regularly regarding needs analysis. If you are aware of a need for training, let Lonnie know.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach
EMD will save time. SREC has run understaffed for some time but is staffing up now. The SREC Board approved a user fee methodology. They are looking at the budget for next year as well as funding priorities. Adam Richards, PSHMC, said he has had recent experience with struggles in communications between agencies and hospitals. Cody said he would look into this and asked Adam to send him an email outlining the issues he had run into.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Mike Lopez
Mike said the next regular meeting is October 14. An adhoc group of the Budget Committee agreed to meet in the next couple of weeks to come up with a comprehensive plan to deal with a potential 15% budget reduction.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition: Carolyn Cartwright
No one present.
- SRHD: Mark Springer
No one present.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/INHS Training: Michelle Ensminger
Jim Akramoff reported that paramedic students are doing clinical rotations in the hospitals right now. He said INHS is still accepting applications for the next class. There are not as many applicants so far this year due to budgets and agencies cutting back on hiring.
- FAFB: Jason Satcher
No one present.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - Trauma KPI data for patients seen in 2019
Dr. Nania reviewed his Power Point summarizing the data received.
Action: Dr. Nania requested that agency MSO's or Physician Advisors review cases that hospitals said fell out for intubation or missed spine fractures. Cindy will forward data to the appropriate agencies.
 - **Action:** Dr. Nania would like to re-start regular online separate QI meetings starting in September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMSCoconnect Classes:
 - Tuesday, July 21, 6-8 pm (a free link to attend is posted on EMSConnect's Facebook page)
Topic: Oxygenation, Capnography, and OSI – Dr. Travis Dierks
- Masking - Dr. Edminster:
 - Dr. Edminster asked for discussion as to whether all EMS patients be masked. He said it goes along with the Governor's mandate and is reasonable to protect our providers. He thought it should be a universal approach among the Spokane County agencies. Dr. Nania said that if a patient refuses to wear a mask, transport the patient without a mask, but the provider should use appropriate PPE to protect himself or herself. SCFD8 said they already do this and have not had any patient refuse to wear a mask. Dr. Nania said that patients with facial trauma or airway issues should not wear a mask. Another suggestion was to have 911 instruct the patient or patient's family to put on masks before the EMS providers arrives. The hospital representatives said that universal masking is required at the hospitals anyway.

Action: Dr. Nania will send an email to Dr. Lutz asking for his input and Dr. Edminster will speak to 911 about the issue as well. Ultimately, this information will be included in the protocol document.

- Code leader identification:

Dr. Edminster suggested that in a code using full PPE, the EMS provider that is leading the code should wear a brightly colored lanyard indicating they are the code team leader.

Action: The agencies agreed to purchase red lanyards for this purpose.

MEETING ADJOURNED.