

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022 9 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting

EMS Council Chair, Tom Chavez, called the meeting to order and Berkley noted those present on the attendance sheet.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present:

Mike Charter, Tom Chavez, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, John Leavell, Mike Lopez, Veronica Mitchell-Jones, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Gino Palomino, Lonnie Rash, Adam Richards, David Sewell, Dan Williams

Guest Present:

Jack Busch (AMR), Mike Dawson (SFD), Veronica Hamm (SREC), Jess Hopson (Airlift NW), Nathan Jeffries (SCFD9), Deanna Jones (PSHMC), Nichole Michaud-West (Deaconess), Jim Walkowski (SCFD9)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of February 2022 minutes

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the February 2022 minutes

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

➤ Hospital status report:

- Providence SHMC & HFH Report: Adam Richards stated that there is a decline in Covid numbers across Providence hospitals and the Spokane Metro area. Staffing challenges continue, but there is an effort to rebuild a core staff. They are hiring new graduate nurses that are willing to stay in Spokane. There are also shortages in CRNAs and Anesthesiologist which may have an impact on EMS systems.
- Multicare Deaconess report: David Sewell reported that they are also struggling with staffing. The ED is currently undergoing a remodel to ensure patient and staff safety in caring for mental health patients. Construction may increase divert due to having 6 beds out of commission.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cathy St. Amand

➤ Financial reports for February 2022

Cathy St. Amand not present. EMS Council Chair, Tom Chavez, presented the financial reports.

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the financial reports

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Behavioral health patient hospital transport update

Tom summarized the proposal that was discussed at the last meeting. Mike Lopez has written a letter to his contact at the Spokane Regional Health District to begin the discussion with Frontier Behavioral Health and SCSO. Frontier Behavioral Health has suggested an inclusive meeting with Law Enforcement, Social Services from both hospitals, and a few members from the Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council. No meeting date has been decided yet. Mike also shared behavioral response data that represents a significant increase between 2017-2021 to display the impact across all Spokane County EMS agencies.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Request for appointment to East Region EMS & Trauma Care Council: Jaclyn Numata

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the appointment of Jaclyn Numata

- Discuss in person Council Meetings after March
Tom mentioned that the State mandates regarding Covid are expected to lessen after March 21 and proposed a discussion regarding in person meetings starting in April. It was suggested that a virtual component remain an option for those who can't make it to the location or feel more comfortable with a virtual option.
Action: The Council will plan to move forward in planning in person meetings with a virtual option for the April meeting.
- EMS Awards
Tom stated that EMS Awards will return this May after being postponed since 2019. Berkley will send out the Nomination Applications. The deadline for all nominations is April 1st.
- EMS Training Program Applications:
 - Spokane Community College- Renewal of current program
- Recently approved EMS Training Course Applications:
 - Providence Health Training- Refresher EMT course (02/21/2022-02/26/2022)
 - Providence Health Training- Refresher Paramedic course (03/01/2022-03/12/2022)
 - Providence Health Training- Initial EMS Evaluator course (03/04/2022)
 - Providence Health Training- Refresher EMS Evaluator course (03/25/2022)
 - SCFD 3- Initial/Refresher EMS Evaluator course (03/21/2022)
- Dr. Greg Cover: EMS Office data position:
Dr. Cover asked to make a proposal that the EMS Office consider hiring a permanent Data Manager to obtain KPI data from agencies that is requested from Dr. Nania for the EMS QI Committee. A suggested volunteer workgroup was created involving a few EMS Council Members in order to investigate the logistics of creating this position and to create a job description. They will begin meeting and will bring their discussions to the group at a future meeting.

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update:
The Protocol committee will be meeting today during the QI committee meeting. The committee continues to work on the following protocols:
 - Sexual Assault protocol
 - Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen
 - Cardiac protocols

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: Mike Lopez
No new update. The WAC will hopefully begin moving forward as Covid lightens up
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek
Chris Wyrobek not present. Lonnie Rash reported today and stated that at a previous Fire Chiefs meeting, questions regarding the long-term spending plan of the EMS Council funds were brought up. The Executive Chair, Adam Richards, said that the funds are allocated to sustain the Office Administrator position and for funding the MPD with the possibility that state funding gets decreased in the future. Lonnie requested that a report of the goals and future initiatives be sent out in order to demonstrate what the funds will be used for. Adam agreed to work on reports and will bring them forward to the Council.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach
Cody Rohrbach not present. Veronica Hamm from SREC reported that they have been working on targeted QA for CPR calls to determine the timeframe that a bystander calls 911, to when they are in position to start CPR. A summary of improvements displays a decrease from 67 seconds to 60 seconds in the most recent quarter, and they will continue to work towards decreasing the timeframe.
Tom relayed a message from Cody that stated staffing issues remain, but improvements are being made with new staff.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Mike Lopez

The last meeting was in February where an ad-hoc committee was created in order to work with agencies in north Spokane County and Stevens County to address an ongoing issue with ambulance response in the area. A series of meetings will be held weekly until the East Region Council has a mitigation plan to address those challenges. Mike will present the plan to Dr. Nania and the Council once a plan is conducted.

- REDi Healthcare Coalition: Ashley Christoff
Not present
- SRHD: Kira Lewis
Not present
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Michelle Ensminger
Not present
- FAFB: Jason Satcher
Not present
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - The meeting agenda includes:
 - A case review referred from PSHMC
 - Protocol Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for March:
 - 03/15/2022 at 1800 “Patient hand off for EMTs” With Dr. Travis Dierks & Shaun Pitts
- EMS Live @ Nite for March:
 - 03/08/2022 at 1630 “Emergency Vehicle Operation and Patient care while ambulance is in motion” with Rick Owens, Paramedic, EVOC Instructor
 - 03/24/2022 TBA
- Jess Hopson introduced himself as the representative for Airlift Northwest, a new transport service that will be coming summer of 2022, located in Davenport WA.

MEETING ADJOURNED.