

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
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:

Deb Bried, Darren Brieher, Tom Chavez, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Veronica Mitchell-Jones, Dr. Jim Nania, Paul Priest, Adam Richards, Cody Rohrbach, Brian Schaeffer, David Sewell, Dan Williams, Chris Wyrobek

Guest Present:

Jack Busch (AMR), Tamara Drapeau (AMR), Michelle Ensminger (Providence), Tom Jenkins (Cheney FD), Deanna Jones (Providence), Denise McCurdy (Providence), Dr. Mike Metcalf (Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol) Nicole Michaud-West (Multicare), Kurt VandeVanter (SFD), Bethany Osgood (ALTCEW), Jess Hopson (Airlift NW), Deanna Redmond (Airlift NW), Lindsay Pestana (SCFD2), Dan Ward (SVFD)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of July 2022 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

➤ Hospital Status Report:

- Providence: Adam Richards stated that Covid numbers are down in house and that they are working on procedures for infectious disease visitation to normalize visitation at the hospital. Staffing shortages continue and Providence is now experiencing challenges with finances following the increase of expensive travel nurses to lessen the burden short staff, which has created required cutbacks and reorganization to reduce overhead costs. Adam explained that cuts are not being made to those in bedside care but will affect all employees.
- Multicare Report: David Sewell reported that they are also experiencing cutbacks and reorganization. David brought up a concern that names of patients are not accurate when being transported to the hospital, and asked that agencies verify patient's name and date of birth or validate with an ID.
- AMR Report: Paul Priest stated that AMR recognizes the struggles and frustrations with the hospital staffing crisis and that they will continue to work through issues as they come up. AMR has continued with good staffing and recruiting numbers.

➤ Live vs Virtual meetings:

Tom Chavez asked the group to discuss whether the EMS Council Meetings should remain virtual only. Concerns about flu season, and meeting logistics from the Chair's perspective were brought up. After discussion, the group agreed to return to in person meetings while continuing a virtual option beginning January 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cathy St. Amand

➤ Financial reports for July & August 2022

Cathy St. Amand not present. Tom presented the financial reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Final Review of 2023 Budget for approval

Tom presented the final Budget proposal to the group which was approved by the Council. The Medical Program Director, Dr. Nania, requested to speak about the opportunity to expand the Spokane County Verified Responder program and shared a budget proposal with the group. The EMS Office sent a survey last month and received a response of over 400 EMS personnel interested in becoming a verified responder. Dr. Nania proposed that the EMS Council funds could be used to support this program, which would cost approximately \$18,000 per year to cover the PulsePoint app for all Verified Responder. It was suggested that the Council use funds from the current savings account to support funding this program. SFD Chief, Brian Schaeffer, included that the EMS Office will need to be relocated in 2023 from the Fire Training Center to the old INHS Paramedic School building, and proposed that the Council fund approximately \$20,000 for relocation and new office equipment.

Action: it was M/S/P to approve the 2023 budget with the addition of \$20,000 for verified Responder Program, and \$20,000 for EMS Office Relocation.

➤ Spokane County Min/Max Update

Tom Chavez reported that he has sent all agency's min/max reports to Rinita Cook for review. This project remains in the early stages, and Tom will continue to give updates as necessary. Tom Jenkins suggested that Cheney FD will need S.R.E.C and AMR involvement to get accurate data for their area. There was concern within the group that the pandemic has affected normal numbers and data may not be accurate if collecting numbers from the past 3 years. Tom stated that it will be difficult to identify the areas that are underserved due to population fluctuation due to Covid. Tom Chavez suggested that the Council create a County Min/Max spreadsheet that agencies can periodically update for real time information. Tom stated that we will move forward with the information that we have now and can revisit new data points if necessary.

➤ Behavioral health and transport destination update:

Tom brought up the ongoing concern of behavioral health patients being transported mainly to Downtown hospitals and that he has continued to work on setting up a meeting with Fire agencies, Law Enforcement and Spokane Regional Health District to discuss a solution. The group agreed that this topic needs to remain a priority, and that EMS may need to clarify to Law Enforcement that this is an issue, as they may be unaware. There is currently nothing in the Spokane County protocols that states that behavioral health patients need to be transported to the most appropriate, closest hospital, or that EMS personnel are responsible for determining destination. Tom will add this topic to the Protocol Committee agenda for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Request for Reappointment to East Region EMT & Trauma Care Council

- Dominic Pomponio

Action: It was M/S/P to approve reappointment

➤ EMS Training Program Applications for approval by EMS Council

- Deer Park Volunteer Ambulance Renewal of Current Program- EMR, EMT, & AEMT

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the renewal of Deer Park Ambulance's current Training Program

➤ Recently Approved EMS Training Course Applications

- Providence Health Training Refresher AEMT/Paramedic Course (09/08/2022-09/10/2022)
- Providence Health Training Initial EMT-SGA Course (09/13/2022-12/15/2022)
- Providence Health Training Refresher ESE Instructor Course (09/16/2022)

- Providence Health Training Refresher Paramedic & AEMT Course (10/03/2022-10/08/2022)
- Providence Health Training Refresher EMT Course (10/13/2022-10/14/2022)
- Providence Health Training Initial EMT-IV Course (10/03/2022-11/05/2022)
- Providence Health Training Initial Paramedic Course (10/17/2022-05/17/2023)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: Next meeting is Thursday, September 22nd
 - All protocols that were passed by the Council at the July meeting have been updated on the app and EMS website. Another group of protocols will be sent to the Department of Health for approval this month.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: No representative
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris WYROBEK
No new report as they have not met since the last EMS Council meeting. Chris made an old business request of to get a report of the long-term financial plan of the EMS Council funds.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach
Currently budgeting for 2023 and are working with the merger of city dispatch and SREC. They had a check in from priority dispatch and continue to improve, as they are only 3 points away from accreditation, which they believe they will achieve at first quarter of next year.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau
The next meeting is October 12th at 1100 PST
- REDi Healthcare Coalition: Ashley Christoff
Not present.
- SRHD: Kira Lewis
Not present.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Michelle Ensminger
The next PM Advisory meeting is October 4th at 0900 PST. There will be an open house prior at 0800 PST for anyone who would like to see their new location.
- FAFB: Jason Satcher
Not present.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - Proposal for Expansion of Verified Responder Program
 - The meeting agenda includes:
 - Follow up of Trauma KPI
 - Stroke KPI

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for September:
 - 09/13/2022 @ 1800 PST “To Seize or Not to Seize” with Dr. Travis Dierks
Link to register and join
LIVE: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7664549747516029453>
- EMS Live @ Nite for September:
 - 09/13/2022 @ 1830 PST “Care of the trauma patient” with Cassie Brantingham, Paramedic.
 - 09/29/2022 @1830 PST “Patient Assessment/Differential Diagnosis” with James Akramoff, Paramedic SEI

- Region 10 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC)
 - 10/06/2022 @ 1400-1500 PST “EMS Consideration for Special Pathogens” (Virtual Live event) Presented by Dr. Alex Isakov, MD, MPH, FACEP, FAEMS
 - Following topics will be presented:
 - Covid-19 EMS lessons learned
 - Special Pathogen EMS self-assessment tool
 - Current EMS Monkeypox issues
 - Special Pathogen transport best practices for EMS partners
 - + more with a Q&A

MEETING ADJOURNED.