

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Annual Meeting Minutes
December 13th, 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:

Brian Barton, Tom Chavez, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Mike Dawson, Dr. Joel Edminster, Chris Gibbar, Amber Jones, Dr. Mike Metcalf, John Leavell, Veronica Mitchell-Jones, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Gino Palomino, Paul Priest, Anne Raven, Adam Richards, Cody Rohrbach, Brian Schaeffer, Cathy St. Amand, Dan Williams, Chris Wyrobek

Guest Present:

Jim Akramoff (Providence), Jack Busch (AMR), Dan Cecil (SCFD 9), Tammie Drapeau (AMR), Michelle Ensminger (Providence), Missy Griffith, Deanna Jones (PSHMC), Dr. Matt Layton (WSU), Nicole Michaud-West (Multicare), Brittany Pascoe (RediHCC), Beth Perkins (Providence), Doug Presta (CWU), Jeff Reid (SCFD 9), Deanna Redmond (Airlift NW), Kyle Richardson (SRHD), Lee Venning (SFD), Deborah Walker (Multicare), Jim Walkowski (SCFD 9), Dan Ward (SVFD), Andrea Yousef (AMR)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of November 2022 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

- Nominations and Vote for Treasurer Position (appointment takes effect Jan. 1, 2023)
Tom thanked Cathy St. Amand for her dedication and involvement to the EMS Council over the last decade and acknowledged Cathy's great accomplishments in all the Council positions that she has held over the years, including being the first female Council Chair. The Treasurer position is a 2 -year term. The only nomination received prior to today's meeting was for Paul Priest, who then nominated Jack Busch. A vote was taken.
Action: It was M/S/P to approve Jack Busch as the EMS Council Treasurer effective January 1, 2023
- EMS Office Administrator Pay Raise for 2023
Tom stated that the December 2022 CPI-U for the West Region report came out, which has been used in previous years to determine the pay raise for the EMS Office Administrator.
Action: It was M/S/P to approve the EMS Office Administrators pay raise
- EMS Office Share Fees Invoices sent Dec. 1st
Tom reminded agencies to check their emails for their Share Fees invoice, and any questions or concerns should be emailed to Berkley.
- January meeting: In-person and Virtual:
The next Council Meeting will be held in person at the Spokane Fire Training Center (1618 N. Rebecca St. Spokane, WA) in Classroom D, as well as be available to join via Zoom.
- Hospital Status Report
 - Providence: Adam Richards reported that patient volume has continued to increase as all kinds of illness and injury increase during the winter months. Pediatric departments continue to stay very busy, and the adult census is high as well. They continue to try to

keep surgeries going to keep patients moving, but hospitals are working at high capacity with continually low staffing numbers.

- Multicare: Nicole Michaud-West stated that Multicare is experiencing the same trend of increasing patient volumes and have continued efforts to keep surgeries going.
- Transport/Fire Agencies: Paul Priest of AMR reported that transport has been extremely busy, and that their daily average number of transports has increased from approximately 200, to 215-230 transports per day. Paul brings up that they appreciate the communication with the local hospitals to ensure that EMS crews are being seen quickly when arriving to the hospitals, so that they can get back out to assist more calls. Fire agencies informed that they have also been seeing record call numbers recently. The importance of patient transport destination continues to be emphasized as the hospitals remain close to capacity.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cathy St. Amand

- Financial reports for November 2022
Cathy presented the financial reports
Action: It was M/S/P to approve the financial reports

OLD BUSINESS:

- Behavioral Health Patient update
Tom updated the group that the Washington Department of Health sent back the Determination of General Patient Transport Destination protocol for editing. Tom requested that the group go over the protocol again to make edits and send it back to the DOH as soon as possible. Once the protocol is approved, the Medical Program Director, Dr. Jim Nania, and EMS Council Chair, Tom Chavez, will draft a letter to send to Spokane County Law Enforcement, and Hospitals explaining the new update. The Protocol will be reviewed and edited today during the QI portion following the Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- "Train the Trainer" Course Presentation: Missy Carter
Dr. Nania introduced Missy to the group, and Missy presented an outline of the Prehospital Emergency Airway Course. The course is a 3-year program which is customizable content that the MPD may tailor to fit the current County Operating Procedures. Missy stated that at least 20 individuals would need to sign up at the cost of \$300 per person. Transport and Fire agency's Physician Advisors have requested to review the curriculum to see if it meets training needs, and the group agreed to discuss this topic again at the next meeting to decide if agencies would like to move forward with this program. EMS Council Funds would also be considered to fund this program.
- BLS Stroke Assessment: Dr. Edminster and Beth Perkins
Beth Perkins requested that the group discuss the possibility of allowing BLS to transport Stroke patients without ALS backup. This was brought up due to some delay of transport from agencies that are distant from Stroke Centers and do not have ALS units easily available. It was suggested that a protocol could be developed for case-by-case scenarios where BLS units would transport stroke patients to hospitals, and that those cases would be reviewed by the agency's Physician Advisor. The group agreed to add this topic to the agenda for January for further discussion.
- EMS consistent Medical Control
Dr. Dang raised the issue of inconsistent on line Medical Control to EMS responders. The group discussed and agreed that a letter from the MPD should be sent to the emergency department personnel to familiarize themselves with local EMS scope of practice, and the contents of the Spokane County EMS Protocol manual, as there is a lot of value in reaching out to a doctor that is familiar with the EMS system and protocols in the circumstance of a difficult case. Dr. Nania

agreed to send a letter to ER Medical Directors to request that their colleagues familiarize themselves with local EMS Protocols and download the Protocol app.

➤ Suboxone administration: Dr. Matt Layton

Dr. Matt Layton from the WSU Elson. S Floyd College of Medicine was invited to the meeting to present his current work with Behavioral health resources and transport agencies in EMS Suboxone administration in the field, as an effort to get the Spokane County EMS Agencies on board with this program. Similar pilot programs have taken place in other states with great success in getting continual opioid users into medication-assisted treatment programs directly from the field. A grant is coming out on December 30th to increase the number of EMS and Behavioral Health personnel for this kind of program to work towards having better outcomes of treatments from overdose calls. This program would require the EMS County Operation Procedures to allow all EMS personnel to administer Suboxone. The next steps in moving forward with a program like this would be to create a protocol that is appropriate for Spokane County and bring it to the Council for review. Dr. Dang shared a concern that patients would not be transported and evaluated at the hospital. Dr. Layton stated this this program serves as a great alternative to those who refuse transport, and that patients willing to be transported to hospitals would continue to do so. There are also concerns regarding if EMS personnel would be allowed to give medication to somebody who is refusing transport. Dr. Layton is requesting support to move forward to show what this would look like for Spokane County.

Action: The group decided to bring this topic to the protocol committee, and Tom will keep in contact with Dr. Layton to move forward.

➤ “Infectious Disease Precaution” update- Includes respiratory PPE

Tom presented the updated protocol and stated that the protocol committee discussed and made changes regarding respiratory precautions. The protocol now states that gloves, eye protection, and masks shall be worn when treating patients suspected of having respiratory illness. The group also discussed whether masks need to continue to be worn for all EMS calls.

Action: It was M/S/P to include that EMS responders shall wear an isolation mask prior to any patient contact.

➤ Recently Approved EMS Training Course Applications

- SCFD 9 Initial ESE Evaluator Course (12/28/2022)
- Deer Park Volunteer Ambulance Initial EMT-SGA Training Course (1/23/2023-6/16/2023)
- SCFD 9 Initial EMT-SGA Training Course (01/17/2023-04/01/2023)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

➤ Protocol Committee update: The protocol committee will meet today during the QI portion, as the QI meeting agenda is light. The protocol committee meeting scheduled for December 22nd will be cancelled. The following protocols were sent back by the Department of Health for editing. The group will edit and resubmit these protocols:

- Midazolam
- Adult Seizures & Pediatric Seizures
- Determination of General Patient Transport Destination

REPORTS:

➤ EMS WAC Revision: No representative

➤ Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek

The December meeting was cancelled. No new report.

➤ SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach

The 2023 Budget was approved and the integration of SFD continues, which seems to be going well operationally. Some significant improvements for SREC in 2022 include the hands to chest

times developments, as well as an increase in their protection class rating from the WA Survey and Rating Bureau, which can impact insurance rates for residential and commercial insurance. At the November meeting, they discussed user fees with the potential to decrease fees in the future.

- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau
Next meeting is December 13th. A new report will be coming at the January meeting.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition: Ashley Christoff not present.
- SRHD: Kira Lewis not present.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Michelle Ensminger
Jim Akramoff reported that there are currently two cohorts going on. One is finishing up, and there are 11 of 19 individuals that have finished their requirements and are in the field practicing. The next Advisory Committee meeting will be in February. Date and time TBA.
- FAFB: Johnpatrick Adams not present.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - ACS Summary Report: Dr. Nania presented a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the ACS KPI data that was collected at the November QI Committee meeting.

The QI meeting agenda includes:

 - Voting for 2023 KPI reporting dates

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for December:
 - 12/19/2022 @ 1700 PST “Practice to Penitentiary: Documentation & Liability” with Dr. Stanton

Link to register and JOIN: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6536012114463499861>

- EMS Live @ Nite for December:
 - 12/13/2023 @ 1830 PST “Autism in the Wild Part 1” with Holly Goodman, Isaac Foundation
 - 12/29/2022 @ 1830 PST “Autism in the Wild Part 2” with Holly Goodman, Isaac Foundation
- Chief Schaeffer (SFD) stated that they are planning to meet with responding agencies that responded to the Lewis and Clark High School hoax on December 9th, and that the time to scene was overall good.

MEETING ADJOURNED.