

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
Spokane Fire Training Center Classroom D & Zoom Virtual Meeting

EMS Council Chair, Tom Chavez, called the meeting to order. Berkley noted those present virtually on the attendance sheet, and those present in-person introduced themselves.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present:

Jack Busch, Mike Charter, Tom Chavez, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Mike Dawson, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Gino Palomino, Paul Priest, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Adam Richards, Chris Wyrobek

Guests Present:

James Akramoff (Providence), Dan Cecil (SCFD9), Nathan Denison (EMS Connect), Bill Dennstaedt (SCFD3), Tammie Drapeau (AMR), Linette Gahringer (Airlift NW), Deanna Jones (PSHMC), Denise McCurdy (PSHMC), Nicole Michaud-West (Multicare), Ken Mitchell (Multicare), Jaclyn Numata (Multicare), Bethany Osgood (ALTCEW), Bethany Pascoe (RediHCC), Lindsay Payton (Providence), Beth Perkins (PSHMC), Shaun Pitts (EMS Connect), Kyle Richardson (SRHD), Cody Rohrbach (SCFD3)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of December 2022 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

- EMS Office Share Fees Due this month
Tom reminded agencies to submit their share fee payments to the EMS Office by January 31st.
- Hospital Status Report
 - Providence Report: Adam Richards stated that staffing continues to be a challenge, and that they are continuing efforts to keep staff up to support patient volume. The Pediatric surge has slightly decreased, and there is currently lessened overflow of pediatric patients. They continue to work on hiring now that the winter graduating class is ready to begin working.
 - Multicare Report: Ken Mitchell reported that they also continue to have significant challenges with staffing, and many holds in the ED continue while patients wait to be admitted.
 - AMR: Paul Priest stated that staffing struggles continue everywhere, but they have been successful maintaining good staffing lately. Transport volumes have continued to increase, and the December report shows transport numbers close to Portland Oregon's numbers.
 - Fire Agencies: Tom Chavez stated that there seems to be no significant issues with fire agencies staffing, as most can maintain staffing numbers without challenges.
- Point of order: Infectious Disease precaution
Tom brought up that after last month's Council meeting, there was an error with how the Infectious Disease Protocol was submitted to the state, the error being that once the EMS Council discussed the Protocol, the protocol committee made edits to the Protocol and submitted it to the DOH before bringing it back to the Council to review and approve. It was the understanding of the Protocol committee that the edits discussed by the Council would be ready to submit to the State. This protocol is currently on hold with the WA Dept of Health and was brought back to the

Council today for review and discussion. Tom shared the most recent Order of the Secretary of Health Amending Order that was updated November 2022 which summarizes that every person in WA state must wear a face covering in healthcare settings. It also states that in some cases, in home settings could be considered healthcare settings if home healthcare services/hospice care is occurring. The order states “people who are not paid to provide health care, long term care, or personal care are exempt from the requirements to wear a face covering in that setting. Tom states that the conversion continues to be “when to wear a mask”. Chief Jenkins of Cheney Fire stated that the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs discussed this topic at a recent meeting and are in agreeance that a mask is important for suspected respiratory related illness calls, but not in agreeance that a mask needs to be worn during all patient contact. After further discussion, it was requested that the definition of healthcare setting and healthcare provider be clarified regarding EMS personnel to better understand when a mask is required. Dr. Nania included the question of whether this issue was dependent on indoor vs outdoor patient contact, or if there was a way to cover specific circumstances in a protocol. EMS Council Chair, Tom Chavez, called a special meeting to order specifically for this topic.

Action: A special meeting for this topic will be held within one week. At least 40% of Council Members will need to attend for any vote to be made.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Jack Busch

- Financial reports for December 2022
- Year-end Report for 2022

Jack presented the reports to the group.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Behavioral Health Patient update:
Tom stated that the Department of Health has sent the Determination of General Patient Transport Destination protocol back again for more edits. The protocol committee will review and make the appropriate edits to resubmit.
- “Train the Trainer” Course update:

There has not been any movement forward on adding this program for Spokane County. The Spokane County MPD, Dr. Jim Nania, supports this program as an advanced airway management course, and states that it is similar to what local physicians have been working towards creating. Members discussed the challenge across agencies to complete the required number of intubations and wonder how to move forward with another expense on top of the expense of getting EMS personnel into ORs for intubation training, which seems to be the main concern in Airway Training. This program would ideally be a part of OTEP. The group also discussed the possibility to decrease or removing the required intubation numbers, and Dr Nania stated that he believes decreasing intubation numbers would be a mistake, and that there may need to send out formal surveys of OR experience, so that there can be improvements made for the future. The group agreed that survey would be beneficial, and Tom stated that he will create a survey that include opinions on adjusting the mandatory intubation numbers, workings towards a new local airway training course, or moving forward with the state chiefs approved course that was presented to the group last month.

Action: Tom will send out a survey to be returned in April, following the Airway KPI reports for QI.

- BLS Stroke assessment update: No new update.
- EMS Suboxone administration update:

This topic was brought up to the Council at last month’s meeting, and Dr. Edminster stated that the next steps of this process would be to expand Paramedic scope of practice to allow Paramedics to administer Suboxone in the field. This will likely need to be a pilot study, which

would likely be through the Behavioral Health unit, to get approved by the DOH. A group is meeting in February to discuss a plan to move forward through the behavioral health unit. If this program gets approved, Dr. Edminster would be able to design and create curriculum for those in the behavioral health unit to pilot this program, which could lead to an opportunity to expand this throughout the County.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Spokane DMCC system

Mike Lopez brought up the “hoax” active shooter situation that occurred at Lewis and Clark High School that had initial reports of multiple active shooter victims. Through further discussion it was identified that there is a need to improve the communications technology for mass care incidents of any kind. Multicare and Providence hospitals are currently working on creating a solution by adding new technology. Ken Mitchell from Multicare stated that in the original DMCC system that was last modified between 2016-2017, hospitals could accept patients without any warning, but with the recent event, recognized vulnerabilities in the matrix and that numbers needed to be updated. The DMCC plan currently in place requires many calls and radio tracking. The solution seems to be to move to a new radio system. Dr. Nania asked if DMCC was activated during this incident, and Ken stated that the phone number on the matrix was incorrect which caused a delay in activating the DMCC. By the time the incident was activated, it was already determined to be a hoax. Dr. Nania stated that external triage teams from hospitals team could be available when needed, and that there may be a need to practice this purpose. Ken included that Emergency response teams have quarterly trainings. Ken said that the group working on updating this system will put together a report and look into updating to more current technology communication. Another update will come in the upcoming months.

➤ Hospital Tracking and Delays...: Paul Priest

Paul presented a motion to the Council for a letter from the MPD, Dr. Nania, to go to local facilities and EMS Providers addressing the need to maintain accurate hospital status in WATRAC, clarify that divert status is a request not to receive ambulances, and to inform facilities that transport agencies will no longer be waiting to give additional report when sent to triage. Paul stated that the system is overwhelmed, and we are seeing some failure points, and unnecessary delays in turnover that can be easily alleviated. Paul presented a report of OOS unit detail, which displayed over 500 bed delays for December 2022. Dr. Edminster suggested documentation that accompanies that patient in the case that they are not seen right away. After discussion, it was also stated that vitals taken during transport may need to be added to documentation, as some patients are not seen immediately. There were some questions regarding the statement ‘if the patient still requests to be taken to a specific hospital, regardless of divert status, it is in the protocol, that EMS transport personnel is obligated to take the patients there’ and Paul stated that he clarified this with the MPD. Adam Richard included that divert status needs to be respected as best as possible to maintain patient care in Emergency Departments. The motion has been amended to incorporate a protocol, and a letter with advisement of this protocol.

Action: It was M/S/P with the amendment to incorporate a protocol to send a letter from Dr. Nania and cosigned by EMS Council Chair, Tom Chavez

➤ Trent Shelter: Dr. Joel Edminster

Dr. Edminster proposed that the protocol committee discuss creating a ‘return to service’ protocol. The Trent St. shelter has highlighted a system weakness, and a protocol in place that address low acuity return to service, including an alternative mode of transportation to reduce the use of non-emergency utilization of EMS resources.

Action: This topic will be discussed at the next protocol committee meeting in February.

➤ Recently Approved Training Course Applications:

- Deer Park Ambulance ESE Instructor Course (02/04/2023)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

➤ Protocol Committee update:

There are 14 protocols that are ready to be reviewed by the EMS Council and approved before March, which is when the next round of Protocols will be sent to the WA Dept. of Health. Tom will present some of them next month. The protocol committee will meet today, during the QI portion, as the QI meeting agenda was light. The Protocol committee meeting that was scheduled for January 19th is cancelled.

REPORTS:

➤ EMS WAC Revision: No representative.

➤ Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek

Chief Wyrobek stated that the Chiefs met last week and discussed recruitment efforts county wide and formed a recruitment A Subcommittee, and that the annual training calendar is being created by the training committee. Revisions of the MCI chapter of the Fog is almost complete. John Leavell asked about if any RTF Training was being discussed, which Chief Wyrobek stated that it has been discussed at previous training committee meetings.

➤ SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach

There was no meeting in December. Cody told Adam Richards and Ken Mitchell that he would assist with any further discussions with SREC if needed regarding updating dispatch systems within the hospitals.

➤ East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau

The East Region EMS & Trauma Care Council met on December 14th. Tammie asked that any Spokane county agencies that use Providence's Live @ Nite to turn in their rosters to Providence so that they can verify their numbers. The East Region Council is reviewing the budget for next year and is looking at repurposing funds. If turnout for Live @ Nite is not good, they may provide those funds towards something else. There is the need for SEI's across the region, and if anyone is interested, please reach out for more information. Tammie addressed the North Spokane County response issue and said that an AMR unit was put into Station 41 (SCFD4), which seems to be working well.

➤ REDi Healthcare Coalition: Ashley Christoff not present.

➤ SRHD: Kyle Richardson not present.

➤ Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Michelle Ensminger

The next Advisory committee meeting will be held in March.

➤ FAFB: Johnpatrick Adams not present.

➤ QI Committee: Dr. Nania

Dr. Nania reminded the group that the 2023 KPI Reporting dates were sent out and to get Airway KPI data ready for April. An Airway Training Cadaver lab will take place on January 23rd. All 12 spots have been reserved, and there are hopes that there will be another opportunity in the future.

The QI meeting agenda includes:

- Protocol Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

➤ EMS Connect Classes for January:

- 01/24/23 @1800 PST "When Shit Hits the Fan" 2023 Pre-hospital Cardiac Arrest Update with Dr. Travis Dierks.

➤ EMS Live @ Nite for January:

- 01/10/23 @ 1830 PST "The ABCs of Pediatric Respiratory Emergencies" with Carrie Gigray, Paramedic, BS, MS
- 01/26/23 @ 1830 PST "A Systematic Approach to Primary Assessment" with Daniel

Ingalls, Paramedic

- Tom stated that live meetings will continue and suggested that the EMS Council fund a meeting owl (conference meeting video and microphone) to continue having hybrid meeting models. This cost would be approximately \$1200

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the purchase of a meeting Owl.

MEETING ADJOURNED.