

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.  
Spokane Fire Training Center & 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:

Jack Busch, Tom Chavez, Rinita Cook, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Mike Dawson, Dr. Joel Edminster, John Leavell, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Gino Palomino, Paul Priest, Dr. Jacob Rabe, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Brian Schaffer, Chris Wyrobek

Guests Present:

Bill Dennstaedt (SCFD 3), Tamara Drapeau (AMR), Michelle Ensminger (Providence), Deanna Jones (Providence), Veronica Mitchell-Jones (LFN), Beth Perkins (Providence), Shaun Pitts (EMS Connect), Dr. Ben Preiss (Multicare), Deanna Redmond (Airlift NW), Kyle Richardson (SRHD), Lee Venning (SFD)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

**MINUTES:** Approval of January 2023 minutes

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Tom Chavez

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Providence report: Tom presented the report from Adam Richards, who was not present today, and stated that staffing shortages continue to be the primary challenge.
- Multicare report: Deb Walker reported that Multicare also continues to struggle with staffing.
- Transport agencies report: Paul Priest from AMR stated that things are going well.

Tom asked the group if the hospital status report should remain on the agenda each month now that reports have been consistent each month, which the group agreed that this topic should remain, as it is helpful to know what trends are taking place at the Hospitals.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for January 2023

Jack presented the financial reports

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

- Spokane City Fire Chief, Brian Schaeffer, made a motion to form a mission statement within the EMS Council Financial Policy. The motion was brought up with the intent to identify use for the large sum of funds in the EMS Council account, along with a threshold of what shall remain in the account for future planning and saving. The Inland Empire Fire Chiefs Association has asked previously to discuss the large sum in the EMS Council Savings account as well and had intended to bring up this topic at today's meeting during the reports. After discussion, the group agreed that a workgroup be created to identify items that funds can be used towards for EMS Agencies to utilize. Some suggestions of what funds could be used for included new training courses, switching the Protocol App to HandTevy for all Spokane County EMS providers, regular Airway

Training Cadaver labs, and a Verified Responder Program that Dr. Nania has been working on. The goal of adding a mission statement is to address what agencies are receiving from the funds that they pay into each year for their providers.

**Action:** It was M/S/P to create a workgroup to meet with the Council Executive Board to develop a strategic plan and mission statement of what the savings account funds will be used for, and how much will need to remain in the savings account.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

➤ Behavioral Health Patient update

Tom stated that the Determination of Patient Destination Protocol has been passed by the DOH and brought up that the Medical Writer that the EMS Office has been using no longer has the capacity to edit the approved protocols before they are posted to the App and EMS Office website. Tom stated that with the new EMS Office website update that took place at the end of last year, he can now access Word Press and edit the protocols. Tom has met with the medical writer, who has agreed to assist in training him to use Word Press for future protocol edits. Tom also brought up the option to switch from the currently protocol App to HandTevy, which would be more efficient for providers in the field. The protocol App will remain the same unless the group decides to go with something else.

➤ Hospital Letter

A letter was sent to local hospitals and transport agencies from the Chair, Tom Chavez and Medical Program Director, Dr. Nania, addressing the motion from last months meeting to provide Field Medical reports to move patients to triage sooner to get EMS transport back into the field. Paul Priest from AMR stated that the reports are being printed now with highlighted required fields and will begin implementing these reports once the prints are available. After further discussion, it was confirmed that the EMS reports are available on the Hospital EMR, just in a different tab than the triage notes. Dr. Rabe (Multicare) stated that most Physicians do not know that the EMS report is available and stated that he will bring this information to the next meeting. **Action:** Dr. Nania will send a letter with a description of how to access the EMS transport report for hospital personnel.

➤ Min./Max Update

Tom updated the group on the status of the Min/Max number assessment that began in June of 2022. After a lot of developments and discussions, Rinita Cook of the East Region EMS and Trauma Care Council recommended postponing the min-max assessment until the transport challenges in the North Spokane region are resolved. Rinita stated that a plan is in place with the DOH and North region transport agencies and explained that if there becomes a vacant response area, the DOH is required to open that area and take applications, which would affect min/max numbers for other agencies. Once the Min/Max assessment can resume and is complete, it is important that County councils are completing a Min/Max assessment every 2 years based off geographics and population growth of the area.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

➤ EMS Training Program Applications for approval by EMS Council:

- SVFD Initial EMT Training Program

**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the Training Program

➤ Recently Approved EMS Training Course Applications:

- EMS Connect- Initial EMT-SGA Course (02/21/2023-03/27/2023)

#### **PROTOCOL COMMITTEE:** Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: The protocol committee will meet today during the QI portion. The following protocols need to be approved by the Council before they can be sent to the Department of Health in March.

- Acute epistaxis
- Asystole
- CPAP
- Adult Epinephrine
- Pediatric Epinephrine
- Excited Delirium
- Chest Discomfort (ACS)

**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the protocols

## **REPORTS:**

- **EMS WAC Revision:** Rinita Cook stated that they are currently working to create a Notice of public meeting (CR-102) to review recent work on Chapter 246-976 which is required to be open for review for 30 days. Once the 30 days is completed, they will move to CR-103 which will also take about 30 days. She said there is an anticipated start date of March 2023, but this is expected to change. WEMESIS rules are also being prepared for public review, which will discuss prehospital rules. Rinita will send the public meeting links once they are available.
- **Inland Empire Fire Chiefs:** Chris Wyrobek reported during the Treasurers report, as the Fire Chiefs wanted an update of the financial plans for the large sum of funds in the Council savings account.
- **SREC Board:** Cody Rohrbach reported that they are looking into options for a new CAD system and stated that there are good options available. They also continue to work on a feasibility study for a new dispatch center to accommodate the growth in the county, and to locate additional staff. They have expressed interest for a specific location with the County Commissioner and are looking into requirements for this location.
- **East Region EMS & TCC:** Rinita Cook reported that the 2023-2025 strategic plan was completed and will be submitted to the DOH this month for review. The Council is working on Injury Prevention proposals, as some facilities have asked for support in injury and violence prevention, and there were funds left over in that budget. If agencies are interested in getting funds for IVP, please reach out to Rinita. The Council also continues to discuss plans for funding for education, as the DOH requires 50% of funds towards programs for EMS education and IVP. The East Region Council continues to provide funds for EMS Connect, and Providence 'Live at Nite'. Rinita reminded agencies that are utilizing Live at Nite sessions to submit their rosters, as attendance has decreased, and they want to confirm if this remains a good use of funds. Information for Conference Scholarships will be sent out this month.
- **REDi Healthcare Coalition:** Ashley Christoff not present.
- **SRHD:** Kyle Richardson sent a report to Berkley which stated that somebody had asked at last months meeting if anybody is monitoring Covid-19. Kyle provided information of how to access this information which include SRHD monthly newsletter, a [Case Data link](#), and that the SRHD Epidemiology Department indicated that wastewater data is a good metric to watch.
- **Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training:** Michelle Ensminger not present.
- **FAFB:** Johnpatrick Adams not present.
- **QI Committee:** Dr. Nania  
The MPDs met recently and discussed Trauma triage tools and stated that these will be revised by a subcommittee. Dr. Nania stated that Thurston County have EMTs in Hospital triage areas which has been helpful in initiating patient treatment. He also attended the NAEMS conference and stated that Physicians and Paramedics discuss many contemporary issues in EMS. The EMS Council funded another Cadaver Lab in January that had 12 students. Dr. Nania is hoping to do another in June and asked that the Council consider funding the tools required for future labs.
- Today's meeting agenda includes:

- Protocol Committee

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- EMS Connect Classes for February:
  - 02/27/2023 1700PST ‘Stroke Assessment and Care in the Field of EMS’
- EMS Live @ Nite for February:
  - 02/13/2023 “Pulmonary Diseases” with Jacob Rabe MD
  - 02/28/2023 “Managing Dementia in the Field” with Amberley Havercroft, RN, BSN
- Tom stated that the EMS Council has been addressed by AMR that they are working to implement using 4-point soft restraints on gurneys on a voluntary basis for Behavioral Health transport calls due to increased safety concerns and incidents with medics. There was concern from some members regarding the current protocol that is in place for Restraints and that voluntary status could change once patients are in transport and one on one with a provider. There was also concern about the criteria that is in place to be placed in restraints. Paul Priest from AMR stated that patients have been compliant so far. It was suggested by the group to consider having more than one provider in the back during transport and to use restraints only when it is a clearly necessary. Dr. Maika Dang emphasized that there needs to be clarity of whether the patient has decision making capacity. Tom brought up the Restraints for Aggressive or Violent Patients protocol, which states that restraints for patients who pose a threat to themselves, or others is indicated as a last resort. Law Enforcement continues to show up to behavioral health calls to help with escalated situations. Chief Wyrobek stated that he can bring this to the Inland Empire Chiefs Association to discuss this further and will be in contact with AMR with any suggestions or concerns that come up.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**