

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
Spokane Fire Training Center Classroom B & 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, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Mike Dawson, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Chris Gibbar, Amber Jones, Veronica Mitchell-Jones, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Gino Palomino, Anne Raven, Adam Richards, Cody Rohrbach, Dan Williams, Chris Wyrobek

Guest Present:

Deb Bried (Multicare), Bill Dennstaedt (SCFD 3), Tiarra Dreckman (Providence), Tamara Drapeau (AMR), Michelle Enslinger (Providence), Kris Hansen (WADOH), Richard Johnson (Multicare), Deanna Jones (Providence), Lori Markham (SREC), Denise McCurdy (Providence), Nicole Michaud-West (Multicare), Mike Nokes (SCFD 4), Beth Perkins (Providence), Doug Presta (CWU), Kyle Richardson (SRHD), Temple Yardis-Arnold (Multicare), James Young (LFN)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of February 2023 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

- EMS Awards Nominations due March 31st to the EMS Office
Tom reminded everyone to send their nominations for EMS Awards to Berkley. Dr. Nania included that the Medical Society will be presenting an AED to the Paramedic of the year award winner.
- Hospital Status Report
 - Providence report: Adam Richards stated that they continue to work aggressively on staffing and that he has noticed an increase in social work admits. Approximately 80 beds are being occupied by patients who are ready to be discharged but do not have anywhere to go due to full capacity and low funding for long term care facilities. Providence has worked with legislators and local resources in an attempt to resolve this issue, but the challenges with healthcare funding have made it difficult.
 - Multicare report: Richard Johnson, the new ED Manager at Valley Hospital, reported that they are working on implementing a process with EMS to standardize patient hand off from EMS to the ED. Temple Yardis-Arnold (Deaconess) stated that they are working on the same process with EMS. Dr. Nania asked for feedback regarding if Physicians have been able to find and access EMS reports on their EHR. Jaclyn Numata (Deaconess) had sent an email stating that most personnel knew about this option but were not using it, and that they have begun using it more. Deb Walker (Valley) stated that reports are not always crossing over, and emphasized that if the incorrect CSN number is added, that they will not have access to the report. Jack Busch (AMR) stated that they have seen a 10 hour reduction in ED bed delays since implementing this process. Deer Park Ambulance is working to submit the same reports into EPIC.
- Min/Max Assessment
Tom met with the WA Dept. of Health and Rinita Cook (East Region EMS & TCC) on March

13th to discuss the ongoing transport issues in the north region of Spokane County. The DOH has requested that Spokane County resume collecting min/max data to be submitted. Tom and Rinita will review the data and present it to the Council before submitting it to the DOH. The data that has been collected represents min/max numbers through September of 2022. Tom explained that he will need data from November 2022- present, specifically from the north region transport and fire agencies, because this is the primary area being affected. Tom will send an email with a time frame of when this data needs to be submitted by.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for February 2023

Jack presented the reports to the group. Randy Olson asked the group to consider a plan to protect the funds in the savings account after the recent closing of the Silicon Valley bank, considering that amounts only up to \$250k were protected. Tom stated that the council will discuss creating a finance committee to discuss this topic later in today's meeting.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ The Airway Train the Trainer discussion

Tom acknowledged that there will be a class in Wenatchee held by the Fire Chiefs Association to present the 'Train the Trainer' course that was presented to the Council a few months ago. There was continued discussion that Spokane County wants to provide its own customized airway course that local Physicians are willing to assist in creating. Dr. Nania explained that this Fire Chiefs approved course is already established, and that Spokane County can customize it and would not have to put in as much work into creating a brand new course. Some concerns were brought up about who would be able to teach this course, as some members believe that Airway training should be led by Physicians only. It was suggested to send a few representatives to attend this course in Wenatchee on May 24/25 to explore if this would be a good option for Spokane. Dr. Dang suggested a separate meeting with stakeholders of this process to discuss a plan of how an Airway training course would be implemented in Spokane County and believes that there is a good opportunity to get universal airway training to all agencies. It was also suggested that it would be an appropriate use of Council funds to sponsor individuals to attend the course in May. Dr. Nania shared concern that there aren't enough Physicians to teach airway courses regularly, and that sending Paramedics to learn to teach Airway courses would be beneficial and would put an airway expert at most agencies. Tom stated that he will send the approximate total of what it will cost to send individuals to this course in May, and the group agreed that the use of Council funds to sponsor one Physician, two Paramedics and one EMT to attend is appropriate. Tammie Drapeau emphasized that having a training course that was set up by the Council would be beneficial in training all personnel the same. Tammie agreed to send information from Counties that are already implementing county wide training.

Action: It was M/S/P to send one Physician, two Paramedics and one EMT to the train the trainer course which will be funded by the Council.

➤ Patient Restraints

At last month's meeting, there was a discussion that AMR was working on a policy to implement using restraints for behavioral health patients and possibly sending two riders in ambulances during behavioral health patient transport to ensure the safety of providers after having multiple instances of dangerous scenarios for their crew. Concerns were brought up regarding if this followed the County Protocols, which Tom Chavez suggested that this topic be discussed by the protocol committee. Chief Wyrobek acknowledged that this proposed procedure is in conflict with a current standard protocol and there needs to be a formal request to review the current protocol. The Council cannot give a blanket statement that an extra rider can ride along with every behavioral health transport, as this would affect many agencies ability to continue full

operations. Jack Busch supports a formal request to review the Patient restraint protocol. Tom asked AMR to provide specific instances in order for the Protocol committee to make the best recommendations. It was also brought up that any change to this protocol will need to be vetted by legal counsel, as the use of restraints may be in violation of patients' rights.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Finance committee creation
- Tom shared that a work group was created after the February Council meeting to discuss the accumulation of Council funds, and to create a plan of what these funds will be used for in the future. After reviewing the Council bylaws, it was acknowledged that the Council needs to have a finance committee, in addition to having a Treasurer. Tom proposed that the council have a Financial committee report at future meetings in addition to the treasurer's report, and that the Council Treasurer position, currently held by Jack Busch, would be the chairperson of the Finance committee. The Executive council will meet to discuss the direction of a finance committee, but Tom stated that the EMS council needs to create a mission statement that will guide the EMS council and its finance committee. Jack made a motion to have the finance committee take part as a mission statement committee. Chris Wyrobek amended the motion to include that the finance committee also take part in short and long term planning, and all financial responsibility for the EMS Council. Jack stated that the finance work group met and created a list of goals which includes establishing a mission statement, annual budget proposals, review and edits of the bylaws as appropriate, create a 2, 4, and 6 year strategic plan, and identify investment strategies. The first official meeting of the finance committee will focus on creating a mission statement and a 2 year strategic plan. The finance committee will be made of up the same members who attended the original work group meeting. Tom also asked the group to send any ideas for a mission statement to Berkley.

Action: It was M/S/P with for the finance committee to create the EMS Council mission statement with the amendment of the finance committee being responsible for all fiscal planning for the EMS Council.

- County wide Handtevy app
Tom Chavez brought up that the finance work group discussed the cost of a county wide Handtevy program that would be funded by the Council. Most agencies, with the exception of Cheney Fire Department and Spokane County Fire District 3 already use Handtevy independently. Tom suggested that this would create a seamless transition between agencies for patient records, and protocol updates if the EMS Council was the 'parent' of this application. Tom shared the quote that he received from Handtevy which included a one-time set up, as well as the annual cost which was quoted to cost \$39,460. Each year after that would cost about \$31,820 which would be the contracted rate for 3 years. Tom explained that agencies that have already paid for their agencies individual Handtevy access would either finish their contract, then later filter into the EMS Council account, or suggested a possible reimbursement. Tom will ask the vendor what they can do for the agencies who have already paid. Dr. Nania asked if the EMS Council could withstand this amount annually, which the finance work group decided that it was sustainable. Anne Raven (SFD) made a motion to move forward with the discussion of a county wide Handtevy account.

Action: It was M/S/P to move forward with discussion a County wide Handtevy account with an attempt to renegotiate or receive reimbursement options from the vendor for agencies that have already paid.

- Recently Approved EMS Training Course Applications:
 - EMS Connect- Initial EMT-SGA Course (03/28/2023-04/17/2023)
 - SCFD9- Initial IV Therapy Endorsement Course (04/08/2023-05/11/2023)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: Protocols for approval by Council:
 - Unstable Narrow Complex Tachycardia

- LVAD
- Pulmonary Edema
- Spinal Motion Restriction
- Stable Narrow Complex Tachycardia
- Stable Wide Complex Tachycardia
- Unstable Wide Complex Tachycardia
- Vfib. Pulseless Vtach

Action: It was M/S/P to approve protocols with the exception of the Unstable Narrow Complex Tachycardia and Unstable Wide Complex Tachycardia protocols, which will be sent back to the Protocol committee to edit.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: No representative
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek
They continue working on the hiring and have 5 academies between career and volunteer positions, and the Training division remains very busy. Wildland season is approaching as well which also is requiring training. They are working on a process to simplify burn restrictions for the public to better understand as there are conflicts between local, county, state restrictions. The FOG revisions are continually ongoing, as they are consistently reviewing the many chapters.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach
Chief Wyrobek gave the SREC Board report and stated that the 2 week radio updated went well, and that work towards new CAD system updates continue.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau
No new report. Tom reminded that group that Min/Max data collection will resume and Tom will work with East Region EMS & TCC to get the data reviewed.
- SRHD: Kyle Richardson
The Medical Reserve Corps of Spokane County's last day providing medical triage at TRAC was March 9th. The Camp Hope/TRAC emergency proclamation ended on March 3rd. SRHD's immunization team has been doing immunization outreach and various shelters, providing COVID-19, Flu and adult vaccines.
- REDiHCC: Kristina Hansen
The REDi Health Care Coalition's contract ended at Spokane Regional Health District on March 3rd. An email was sent out to the Coalition members and partners from Travis Linares-Hengen from DOH announcing changes to who to contact about REDi and Health Care Coalition work. The administrative body and fiduciary component for the Health Care Coalition are temporarily with DOH/Healthcare Preparedness Program. The Health Care Coalition has not folded. The membership and partnerships remain in place. Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) grant deliverables are required to complete. One of the activities is the Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE). Kristina and the exercise designers are wanting to partner with EMS agencies across the Health Care Coalition to exercise and identify the gaps in our system including prehospital. Reporting these gaps will help inform future work and inform ASPR about what is needed in our Rural Communities across the state. The Northwest Healthcare Response Network has taken on statewide activities to maintain for the Health Care Coalitions. The activities include: WATrac, Statewide Situational Awareness and Situational Reports for Healthcare, Engaging with Stakeholders across the state to develop the report further, Communications Drills, Hazards Vulnerability Analysis (HVA), and Engaging with Coalition members and Stakeholders across the state to inform the HVA for each region. Please contact redi-info@nwhrm.org for any questions regarding the statewide activities identified above.

Please contact Kris Hansen at Healthcare.Prepare@wa.gov for partnerships and information regarding REDi Health Care Coalition, ASPR grant deliverables and activities, and attending meetings that REDi employees would have attended

- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Michelle Ensminger
The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held March 30th at 9:00 am.
- FAFB: Johnpatrick Adams not present.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - Today's meeting agenda includes:
 - Adult Case Review referred by PSHMC

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for March:
 - 03/20/2023 @ 1700 "Lines/Tubes and Catheters" Register online:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/583991736932071261>
- EMS Live @ Nite for March:
 - 03/14/2023 @ 1830 PST "Dealing with Death and Dying in EMS" with Crystal Garcia, RN, BSN
 - 03/30/2023 @ 1830 PST "TBD"
- Central Washington University: Doug Presta
 - March 24th -26th CWU Conference. Registration still open.
- EMS Journal Club
 - Dr. Maika Dang and Dr. Joel Edminster are hosting a meeting at Lumberbeard Brewing on March 18th at 7pm to discuss an article on Dual Sequential Defibrillation
- Diversion status
 - Anne Raven brought up a concern with the downtown hospitals frequently being on divert at the same time, and that patients that don't have accessible transportation once discharged are taken to hospitals further away and are struggling to return home. This is specifically a concern for the homeless population who frequent the downtown area. Anne brought up a specific instance with the BRU, that crews did not want to take a patient to the ED on divert, regardless that it was on the Hospitals campus. The EMS Council Chair and Medical Program Director created and sent a letter to hospitals to address this issue, which addressed that the County EMS protocols suggest that patient destination is to be determined by the patient and/or transport agencies. Members of the group stated that this letter was a step in the right direction, and Tom emphasized that as long as communication remains open on this topic, there is opportunity to work towards improvement.

MEETING ADJOURNED.