

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 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 and Berkley noted those present on the attendance sheet.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present:

Jack Busch, Dave Campanella, Tom Chavez, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Chris Gibbar, Amber Jones, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Gino Palomino, Adam Richards, Cody Rohrbach, Brian Schaeffer, Dan Williams, Deborah Walker, Chris Wyrobek,

Guest Present:

Jim Akramoff (Providence), Patrick Bavaro (HandTevy), Ashley Christoff (NWHRN/WATrac), Jill Collier, Rinita Cook (East Region EMS & TCC), Dr. Scott Cosner (HFH), Mike Dawson (SFD), Bill Dennstaedt (SCFD3), Tamara Drapeau (AMR), Michelle Ensminger (Providence), Howard Johnson (SCFD4), Denise McCurdy (Providence), Nichole Michaud-West (MultiCare), Diane Morgan (MultiCare), Bill Neckels (SCFD 4), Mike Nokes (SCFD 4), Jason Norris (DOH), Jaclyn Numata (MultiCare), Beth Perkins (Providence), Jake Pirtle (MultiCare), Doug Presta (CWU), Kyle Richardson (SRHD), David Sewell (Airlift NW), Hailey Thacker (DOH), Lee Venning (SFD), James Young (LFN)

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of March 2023 Minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

- EMS Awards Presentation: Tuesday May 9th

The Executive Committee met and have chosen the award winners. The awards presentation will be held after a brief Council business meeting on May 9th. The location is to be determined, and Berkley will send more information once a location is decided. The meeting schedule for that day will be as follows:

9:00-10:00 a.m. QI Committee

10:00-10:15 a.m. Council Meeting

- Hospital Status Report

- Providence report: Adam Richards stated that Providence is no longer requiring that masks be worn for personnel not involved in direct patient care. Mike Dawson asked if transport agencies should request that their crews wear a mask when delivering patients to the hospitals, and Tom reminded the group that the EMS protocol states that EMS will follow the facilities guidelines. Adam sent out an email stating that Providence will not be requiring EMS personnel to change their current practice but will continue to encourage masking and provide masks for any providers.
- Multicare report: Jaclyn Numata stated that the ER is requiring nurses to wear masks for respiratory patients.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

- Financial reports for March 2023
Jack presented the financial reports

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

➤ Finance Committee report:

The Finance Committee had their first meeting last month and discussed a mission statement and vision statement for the EMS Council and finance committee. Jack presented the proposed mission statement to the group to be reviewed and voted on. The Finance committee also discussed creating a 'rainy day' account which would hold a minimum of two years' worth of the annual operating expenses for the Council, and to create a capital expense fund for larger one-time purchases. Jack explained that he is working on a new funding request process for council members, which would require all funding requests to be submitted to the finance committee for review, and if approved would then be brought to the Council for approval.

Action: Its was M/S/P to approve the following mission statement for the EMS Council: The Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council will work to reduce death and disability from sudden or serious injury and illness in Spokane County through the development and coordination of a comprehensive, progressive, and collaborative EMS system.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Patient Restraints:

This topic was brought up at the last Council meeting, and AMR has agreed to provide data on the areas where they have implemented this strategy. Once this data is received, the Protocol Committee will move forward with reviewing the patient restraint protocol.

- Min/Max Update:

Tom Chavez thanked everyone for completing and submitting their min/max assessments. Rinita Cook from the East Region EMS&TCC prefaced that the East Region Council, Spokane County EMS Council, WA Department of Health, and North Spokane EMS agencies have been in conversation for approximately 2 years regarding the transport situation in the North Spokane area. Rinita requested that the Spokane County Council review the min/max data and decide today to increase the number for ALS services based on the presentation regarding the trauma response area 3201, which encompasses Spokane County Fire District 4 boundaries. Currently, Spokane County has a min/max of 1 BLS license and 2 ALS licenses. Rinita shared a comparison of Spokane County vs Snohomish County, which showed that Spokane County had a larger number of 911 transports, but a much smaller number of AMBV services and ambulance vehicles. The recent data that was submitted shows a significant amount of 911 transports that Deer Park Ambulance and AMR were unable to respond to, which resulted in transport from an outside agency from South Pend Oreille County. It was identified by the East Region Council, and the WA Department of Health that agencies were out of compliance with the regional EMS and trauma care plan. Spokane County Fire District 4 has submitted an ALS level ambulance verification service application, which would require a min/max increase for Spokane County. This topic will be brought to the East Region EMS Council on May 3rd. Mike Nokes (SCFD4) stated that the application is to remain in TRA 3201 and provide backup ALS services to AMR in that area. A concern of non-compliance with the regional plan and WAC relating to response in TRA 3201 came up during this discussion, which has been brought up to the Department of Health. Deer Park Ambulance included that they would remain available to respond if requested, and that they intend to increase interfacility transport. Rinita stated that all min/max data that was submitted for May 2021-November 2022 was reviewed by the DOH and determined significant gaps in response and that there is a need to look at services needed for this response area. Jason Norris from the Department of Health provided a link for the EMS agency trauma verification process for anyone who would like to review.

<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/530149.pdf?uid=643587e660a07>

Action: It was M/SP to approve the increase of the ALS min/max number by 1 with the amendment to include that the increase would be specific to TRA 3201.

- The Airway Train the Trainer discussion:

3 Paramedics and 1 EMT were selected to attend the Airway Train the Trainer Course in Wenatchee, WA on May 23rd - 24th. The attendees will meet with Dr. Nania and Tom Chavez to discuss the guidelines of what Spokane County would need for the possibility of adopting this program. Tom encouraged any Physicians to join this meeting to discuss their expectations and questions. There is still concern regarding funding a County-wide airway course, the experience and quality of airway training, and the time commitment of this course. Dr. Nania stated that if this course seems beneficial from the attendees, the group could create a clear plan on how to implement the course locally. Tom states that the plan is to send 4 ambassadors to the course with a set of parameters to get preliminary questions answered. The ambassadors will then report what they learned. If they are in support of this course to be implemented county wide, then the Council and local physicians can discuss the next steps.

- **HandTevy Update:**

A county wide HandTevy program was discussed at last month's meeting and a plan was made to request reimbursement for agencies that have already paid their subscription for the year. HandTevy has agreed to reimburse agencies a pro-rated amount once a purchase date is decided. Tom explained that the set-up fees are required for all agencies so that they can access individual accounts under the County. New clients (agencies) that do not currently use HandTevy will have higher set up costs. The Council is being offered a discounted rate if they agree to a 3-year term. Patrick Bavaro from HandTevy attended the meeting to answer any questions. Patrick stated that a migration to the new system will take place in the next 45-60 days, and that set up fees cover the integration from the old system to the new system. Tom stated that because this topic was brought up before the finance committee was created, this purchase would not go through the committee. Jack Busch, finance committee chair, quickly reviewed the budget and stated that this purchase is sustainable.

Action: It was M/S/P to purchase a County wide HandTevy program with EMS Council funds. Tom Chavez will move forward with this process and send an update once information is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Recently Approved EMS Training Course Applications:

- Providence Health Training Initial EMT- Supraglottic Airway Endorsement Course (04/18/2023-08/03/2023)
- Providence Health Training Initial ESE Instructor Course (04/20/2023)
- SVFD Initial EMT-Supraglottic Airway Endorsement Course (04/19/2023-06/01/2023)
- SVFD Initial ESE Instructor Course (04/28/2023)
- Providence Health Training Renewal ESE Instructor Course (05/05/2023)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update:

The following protocols were approved by the WA Department of Health:

- Adult Seizures
- Pediatric Seizures
- Midazolam
- Infectious Disease

The Infectious Disease protocol was approved by the Dept. of Health, and because of new State masking guidelines, the protocol was slightly changed to state that EMS responders shall don medical gloves, eye protection, and consider an isolation mask, and that EMS responders shall abide by the healthcare facilities requirements for wearing a mask. Dr. Edminster asked to include a note including a statement based on the Secretary of Health updates in the case of a future

pandemic. A vote was taken to modify the protocol to state that Spokane County EMS will comply with the Secretary of Health order while it is in effect.

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the edits to the protocol. Tom will submit this version to the WA Dept. of Health.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: Mike Lopez stated that the revisions will be completed by the end of the year.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek reported that a workgroup was created to look at the process for burn restrictions and how to communicate those restrictions with the public for better understanding. Wildland refreshers and recruit academies are ongoing and completing a lot of training. The FOG revision continues, and Chief Wyrobek asked about a review of triage protocols. Tom stated that he will bring this to the protocol committee and report back to the fire chiefs.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach stated that they are continuing the process of a new CAD system and have 5 submissions that they will be looking at and hoping for a decision soon.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau reported that a special meeting for strategic planning took place on May 31st. A Special meeting to approve the final draft of the strategic plan will be held on May 3rd.
- SRHD: Kyle Richardson: no report.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Michelle Ensminger stated that the last meeting held in March had good attendance, and the application for 2023-2024 for the Paramedic course is now available. The current class has had good field involvement, and Michelle thanked SFD and AMR for their contribution. There are open positions for EMS Instructors on the Providence job portal.
- FAFB: Johnpatrick Adams: no report.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - Today's meeting agenda includes:
 - Airway KPI data reporting

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for April:
 - 04/12/2023 @ 1700PST "Keeping your Head & Neck in the Game" with Dr. Stanton
Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6578467559201982301>
 - Dr. Travis Dierks asked agencies if they have supplies that they can donate or need to get rid of for upcoming EMT courses, please reach out to Dr. Dierks or Shaun Pitts
- EMS Live @ Nite for April:
 - 04/11/2023 @ 1830PST "Language Matters" with Carrie Gigray, Paramedic, BS, MS
 - 04/27/2023 @ 1830PST "Simple" Complicated Falls with Oliva Logan, Paramedic, BS.
- WSU Cadaver Lab for Airway training is being set up for June. Berkley will send an email with more information once it is available.
- Chief Schaeffer presented a badge to Dr. Joel Edminster and gave a short speech to recognize Dr. Edminster continued service with Spokane Fire Dept.

MEETING ADJOURNED.