

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023, 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:

Jack Busch, Tom Chavez, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Bill Dennstaedt, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, John Leavell, Randy Olson, Dr. Jim Nania, Paul Priest, Anne Raven, Adam Richards, Cody Rohrbach, Dan Williams, Deborah Walker

Guest Present:

Jim Akramoff, Joshua Cast, Dr. Scott Cosner, Ashley Christoff, Tamara Drapeau, Emily Fleury, Mike Forbes, Tom Jenkins, Timothy Johnson, Deanna Jones, Don Malone, Denise McCurdy, Ken Mitchell, Bethany Osgood, Lindsay Payton, Beth Perkins, Jeff Reid, Deanna Redmond, Christian Rorie, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, James Young

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of June 2023 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

- EMS Office new location: 1610 N. Rebecca St. Spokane WA, 99217
Berkley will send notice once the transition to the new office is complete. The EMS Office will be moving to digital copies due to a decrease in storage space and to streamline processes. EMS Agencies that are submitting certification applications should only send the MPD signature form to the EMS office and mail the rest of the application directly to the Department of Health.
- Hospital Status Report:
 - Providence: Adam Richards stated that Holy Family Hospital is getting an MRI replacement and the Ambulance loop will be blocked for approximately one hour. Adam will send an email to agencies to give notice.
 - Multicare had nothing new to report.
 - Fire/Transport:
 - Paul Priest (AMR) stated that AMR is in the middle of Labor negotiations, and that they remain busy with transport activity.
 - Dan Williams (SCFD4) reported that SCFD4's ALS transport license is active with the state and that they are moving forward. He thanked everyone for their support in the process.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

- Financial reports for June 2023
Jack presented the reports.
Action: It was M/S/P to approve the reports
- Finance Committee
 - Funding Request: Tech Rescue Pt Packaging:
The finance committee met and discussed the funding request that was submitted last month and had returned the request with some questions. Mike Forbes was present to answer any questions that the Council had. This request is for a one-time cost of approximately \$32k for technical rescue equipment for SCFD 9, SFD and SVFD to

utilize. Dr. Nania asked how the agencies came to consensus on what equipment to use, and Mike explained that the agencies have been through joint training with different equipment. Tom asked if this equipment would be available for other agencies and response areas, which Mike stated that a request for this equipment would go through the same standard process as any mutual aid request. Mike also stated that if approved, he would create a tutorial of the funding request and project for other agencies that may be interested in requesting funding for similar equipment for their agency in the future. The Finance committee chair, Jack Busch, stated that this request was attainable to be supported by Council funds.

Action: it was M/S/P to approve the request. The Spokane County EMS Council will fund the requested Tech Rescue package.

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Surge of Patients Pre-Hospital: Denise McCurdy

Denise reported that she met with Sacred Heart ED leadership and AMR a few months ago to discuss a surge of trauma patients in the ED that don't meet MCI standards. Denise asked the Council to discuss and create a plan to disperse less critical patients to other local hospitals, as to not overwhelm Sacred Heart ED. Lindsay Payton stated that the goal is to avoid having any single hospital inundated with patients while they are not at the point to activate DMCC. It was suggested that training within transport agencies could organize this message better, but overall it is the role of the officers/supervisors on scene to decide where patients go. It was also suggested that practicing small scenarios would assist in better preparedness for MCIs. Dr. Joel Edminster stated that "the policy would be to give patients a choice of what hospital to go to, but 5-6 critical patients who would bypass triage would be sent to the highest trauma center." Dr. Maika Dang explained that two separate incidences around the same time brought a lot of patients into Sacred Heart ED, and he advised that open communication between hospitals and transport could help in future situations. Denise asked how dispatch plays a role in these situations, but there was nobody from dispatch in attendance. Jack Busch suggested working with Incident Command on scene to notify dispatch about multi patient incidents and have dispatch contact hospitals. Ken Mitchell stated that he works with the DMCC team at Deaconess hospital and offered to give an update on the DMCC process or visit any agency to give a presentation for knowledge and training. Chief Tom Jenkins reminded the group that the Fire Chiefs have the County FOG and have reviewed the mass casualty chapter and expressed the need for better communication between transport and hospitals, and suggested getting back to regional trainings to get refreshed on the FOG. Tom added that regional training used to practice with DMCC and should be resumed. Dr. Nania brought up that the WA state MPDs are working on updating trauma triage guidelines, but these won't be vetted until the fall.

Action: The group agreed that the DMCC should attend a council meeting to discuss training and that agencies conduct training to improve communication with the hospitals by having crews contact the appropriate hospital prior to transport.

➤ Advance Life Systems: Yakima County Inter Facility Transport Update

After the Council meeting in June, Tom sent a letter back to the WA Department of Health letting them know of the council's discussion but has not heard back from the DOH or Advanced Life Systems. Dr. Joel Edminster stated that A.L.S personnel were in the ER passing out information. Tom will reach out to the Department of Health again.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Initial Review of 2024 Budget

Jack Busch shared an initial proposed 2024 annual operating expenses budget and discussed each line item. With income increases, the Council would have over \$2,000 to put into a separate savings or investment account, which has been discussed at past meetings. Dr. Nania asked about keeping a line item for the verified responder program, which Jack explained there was not enough information about when the funding would take place, but that funds are available to

budget for this project when the time comes. If you have questions, please reach out to Jack. The final budget proposal will be voted on at the September meeting.

➤ Julota Presentation: John Leavell

John attended EMS World last October and learned about Julota- a program intended to connect all community providers together. SVFD has had Purdue University intern, Christian Rorie, working with this program over the last year. Christian gave a presentation and explained the goal of Julota in Spokane County is to reduce the emergency response burden of excessive 911 service users, advance patient care continuity, and improve communication between organizations. These areas of need were determined by a survey taken within SVFD. Proposed partners of this program would include first responders, mental health and substance abuse programs, long term care, and transport services. Christian explained that the more partners that are involved, the better the outcome of this program. Following the presentation, John Leavell opened the floor for questions. Jack Busch asked if anyone else in WA state is utilizing this system, and Christian answered that there are about 50 EMS agencies currently using Julota. There were also questions regarding if there was data to show a reduction in 911 calls, or to prove the program effectiveness, which Christian stated that other agencies in WA have shared their data which have shown a decrease in costs after adopting this program. Tom Chavez suggested that SVFD submit a funding request form to the Finance Committee to be reviewed. Anyone wanting more information should reach out to John Leavell or Christian Rorie, or go online to www.julota.com

➤ EMS Training Program Applications for Council approval:

- SCFD3: Renewal of Current EMT Training Program
Action: It was M/S/P to approve the application

➤ Recently approved EMS Training Course Applications:

- EMS Connect: Initial EMT-SGA (07/24/2023-08/28/2023)
- Providence Health Training: Initial EMT-SGA (08/24/2023-12/16/2023)
- Providence Health Training: Initial EMT-SGA (09/01/2023-12/21/2023)
- Spokane Community College: Initial EMT-SGA (09/20/2023-12/14/2023)
- Spokane Community College: Initial EMT-SGA (09/20/2023-03/14/2024)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: Next meeting is Thursday July 20th at 0900
- There is still discussion on having a MPD / Physician Advisors led meeting once per quarter to streamline the protocol process and have all Physicians present at quarterly meetings.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: no representative
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek was not present. Chief Jenkins gave report and stated they are geared up for wildland fire season. Chief Jenkins asked Chief Rohrbach if he had anything to add, and Chief Rohrbach stated that fire potential in the NW is the highest in the nation and is predicted to continue through September. Mobilization and Incident Management team deployment is ongoing.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach: The Board of County Commissioners is discussing the potential new dispatch facility to be collocated with the Sheriff's and Fairchild Airforce Base shooting range. This project continues to get preliminary support and funding is well established. SREC is close to a final decision for a new CAD system, and they will be traveling to different states to see real life applications of different systems. There will hopefully be a decision in September.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau: The last meeting was in June and the election of officers took place. The SCFD4 ALS license and Strategic plan were approved.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt was not present, and sent report to Berkley: On June 29th, provided Preparing for Hot Weather- A Community Discussion. A one-hour discussion that provided the opportunity to receive and share information with community partners who have a shared goal of

preparing their communities for staying safe and healthy during hot weather. Big thank you to Sarah Nuss for her presentation on lessons learned from a local municipality perspective.

- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff: Interviews for the first round of Paramedic students taking place now. They are taking applications through September. If interested, send applications to Jim.
- FAFB: John Patrick Adams not present.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
Shared the JAWS report from CARES which shows resuscitation rates and emphasized that our EMS personnel are doing a good job.
 - The meeting agenda includes:
 - Trauma KPI
 - Case Review referred from SCFD10

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for July:
 - 07/11/2023 @ 1700 PST “Run Review/Ask the Medical Director Panel”
 - EMT Courses available. If interested, reach out to Dr. Dierks or Shaun Pitts
- EMS Live @ Nite:
 - On a break and will return to classes in September.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:53AM