

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2023, 9:00 a.m.  
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom C

EMS Council Chair, Tom Chavez, called the meeting to order and Berkey noted those present on the attendance sheet.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present:

Jack Busch, Dan Cecil, Tom Chavez, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Joel Edminster, Tom Jenkins, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, John Leavell, Dr. Mike Metcalf, Dr. Jim Nania, Mike Nokes, Randy Olson, Paul Priest, Adam Richards, Dan Williams, Jay Wilkins, James Young

Guest Present:

James Akramoff, Josh Ambach, Craig Bakker, Ashley Christoff, Tamara Drapeau, Dr. Daniel Getz, Dr. Madeline Geraghty, Ken Issacs, Deanna Jones, Dr. Louisa Lavy, Ken Mitchell, Jaclyn Numata, Jake Pirtle, Dillon Russell, Leah Salmon-Conroy, Dan Ward, Deb Walker

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

**MINUTES:** Approval of September 2023 minutes

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Tom Chavez

- Hospital Status Report
  - Providence: Dr. Daniel Getz reported that between Sacred Heart and Holy Family there are approximately 1000 beds filled. Both hospitals continue to struggle with staffing and have received funding for travelers through the winter. Hospitals are committed to staying off divert as much as possible and continue to work through better distribution of stroke patients to all hospitals. As of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, they have implemented plain language alerts throughout the hospitals.
  - Multicare: Ken Mitchell stated that they have been experiencing some challenges with throughput of psych patients. ED leadership has been speaking with providence to plan a 3-day trail of no divert. Possibility of bringing masks back to hospitals has also been discussed.
  - Transport: Jack Busch stated that AMR has had record transport numbers recently.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Busch

- Financial reports for September 2023

**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the reports.
- Finance Committee
  - Funding Requests
    - Pharmacist contract update: Tom Chavez summarized that the Council has discussed the possibility of acquiring a pharmacist contact as a resource for the Protocol Committee and have two pharmacists willing to assist. After discussion, it was agreed that the position could be a volunteer opportunity and can develop into a paid opportunity as it evolves, as both contacts have expressed willingness to be a resource for an as needed basis at no expense.

**Action:** It was M/S/P to reach out to both pharmacists to attend the next protocol committee meeting and to discuss having both pharmacists as a resource.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### ➤ City Wide Stroke Distribution: Dr. Daniel Getz (Providence)

Dr. Getz reported challenges with stroke patient distribution, as most stroke patients are transported exclusively to Sacred Heart which has caused challenges with throughput and care of other non-stroke patients. Dr. Getz emphasized that Holy Family and Deaconess can also offer high quality stroke care, as they are both level 2 stroke centers. Providence has expanded intervention to help with patient transport as needed for high level stroke patients and are eager to get EMS agency assistance and support in improving stroke patient distribution. Dr. Louisa Lavy (Providence) spoke about stroke volumes changing considerably over the last few years and that Neuro beds are limited, which has resulted in stroke patients receiving care in the ED which can put patients at higher risk. EMS should be referring to LAMS scores as a triage tool to determine patient destination. Dr. Madeline Geraghty (MultiCare) stated that Hospitals are required to meet a certain number of stroke cases in order to keep stroke accreditation and emphasized that Deaconess is a DNV certified stroke center. Another matter that was brought up was that when stroke patients are holding beds at Sacred Heart on the Neuro floor, other neuro patients must be transported across the state. Dr. Maika Dang (AMR) shared that EMS transport crews have been deterred from other local hospitals when transporting stroke patients and requested support from all hospital leadership for stroke patient distribution to other hospitals. Concern regarding 'denying' patients of higher level of stroke care was brought up, but the goal is to get patients to Deaconess and Holy Family. Deanna Jones stated that Level 2 Stroke centers have a Neurology Provider available 24/7. Mike Nokes brought up that Spokane County is not the only county bypassing other hospitals to get to Sacred Heart, and that this discussion needs to include other counties that transport to Spokane County for higher level stroke centers. Suggestions included rewording the Protocol for better distribution guidelines, and Dr. Dang stated that if there was a way to filter stroke patients by zip code and get data to describe where the more appropriate destination would have been, that would be beneficial for EMS transport agencies to review and train crews with. It was also suggested that EMS ask patients where they get their primary care to determine destination. For example, if they are a MultiCare patient with a LAMS less than 4 they would go to Deaconess.

### ➤ POCUS (Point of Care Ultrasound)

The Protocol Committee discussed this topic at the last meeting in September. The consensus was that individual agencies can use this device with MPDD oversight without a Protocol being done for training purposes. The Protocol Committee will continue to work on a protocol and will bring it to the Council for approval to use County wide.

### ➤ SALT vs START triage

Tom Chavez shared a video presentation from Pierce County that described SALT triage. Currently, the County FOG and Protocol Manual use START triage, but have interest of changing to SALT. Tom opened the floor for discussion, and it was expressed that SVFD, MultiCare and Providence have begun to teach SALT. Dan Ward from SVFD stated that they have received training materials from Pierce County and are willing to share the material and assist with trainings for any interested agencies. SVFD have two trainings coming up in November. Dr. Dang made a request for a county wide drill to include hospitals, prehospital EMS and the DMCC.

**Action:** It was M/S/P to have the Protocol committee adopt SALT and recommend to the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs Association to adopt SALT in the County FOG. Once a protocol is created, it will come back to the Council for approval.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- **DMCC:** Ken Mitchell shared that the DMCC has been consolidating its transfer centers, and that the previous numbers to activate the DMCC are no longer in service or go to Tacoma. Deaconess Hospital is going to check in quarterly to update bed numbers to help create an accurate list. The intent of these number changes is to focus on the importance of distribution of patients across all hospitals based on injury. Ken stated that initial numbers should be 95% accurate of what

- hospitals can take immediately.
- Recently approved EMS Training Course Applications:
  - Providence Health Training: Refresher EMT Course (11/13/2023-11/18/2023)

**PROTOCOL COMMITTEE:** Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: Protocols for Council approval:
  - Pediatric Seizures
  - Head Trauma (renamed to Traumatic Brain Injury)

Tammie asked if updated protocols will be going out to everyone- but having pushback. Tom reached out to Patrick to fix. Should be going through the EMS Council account.

**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the protocols. These will be sent to the state for review for approval.

**REPORTS:**

- EMS WAC Revision: no representative.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek not present. Jay Wilkins gave report: They are working on an after action report regarding the Gray and Oregon road fires. Keep an eye out for the AAR for updates. There were challenges regarding evacuations in the affected areas.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach: not present
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau: The next meeting is Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at AMR and an annual case review from St. Luke's will be discussed.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt not present. The report was sent via email:
  - COVID is on the rise again. We have several facilities in outbreak status. Please let us know if you would like to receive the weekly **Long Term and Congregate Care COVID 19 Update** sent out by our Epi program.
  - COVID vaccine has been commercialized and the supply of the new vaccine is limited due to availability from manufacturers and supply chain constraints, but we are hopeful we'll see more supply within the next few weeks.
  - SRHD's focus remains on providing vaccine to those who are uninsured or underinsured.
  - MRC continues to be active in supporting our vaccine clinics, community events, QPR and Naloxone trainings.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff- The Advisory committee meeting will be October 12th. The next cohort begins on October 16<sup>th</sup> with 26 students and a waitlist, as they could not take everyone who applied.
- FAFB: John Patrick Adams not present.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
  - Summary of Pre-Hospital Stroke KPI data
  - Two Case Reviews

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- EMS Connect Classes for October:
  - Hypothermia & Altered Mentation
- Providence Live at Nite Classes for October:
  - October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 P.M "Fatigue in EMS" with James Akramoff, Paramedic/SEI
- Vice Chair and Chair Nominations for December:

Tom Chavez shared that Chief Wyrobek has resigned from the Vice Chair position. The Council will need to fill the Vice Chair and Chair position prior to January. Elections will be held in December. Please send any nominations to Berkley.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**