

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom A & 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:

Jim Akramoff, Robin Albrandt, Jack Busch, Tom Chavez, Ashley Christoff, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Travis Dierks, Chris Gibbar, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Paul Priest, Anne Raven, Adam Richards, Deb Walker, Jason Wilkins, Dan Williams

Guest Present:

Daron Besment, Tamara Drapeau, Emily Fleury, Deanna Jones, Dr. Louisa Lavvy, Don Malone, Denise McCurdy, Mike Nokes, Bethany Osgood, Beth Perkins, Shaun Pitts, Trenea Russel, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, Dan Ward

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

**MINUTES:** Approval of October 2023 minutes

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Tom Chavez

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Providence: Adam Richards reported that they continue to focus on staffing. Mostly seeing standard flu and RSV related illnesses as the winter months persist. There have been occasional Covid outbreaks, but overall have had minimal exposures as the hospital acts quickly and aggressively with masking to reduce exposure. Recommending that people wear masks and stated that the Hospital always have masks available. Providence is also working on a No Idling policy specifically for the ambulance bays. Adam stated that he will share this information as it becomes available.
- Multicare: Deb Walker stated that there have been more changes in leadership. Deb will reach out to management to request that a representative attends future Council meetings. Ron Pullen is MultiCare's OR director and Agencies can reach out to him for OR access at [ron.pullen@multicare.org](mailto:ron.pullen@multicare.org)

➤ Chair and Vice Chair Nominations:

Tom thanked Adam Richards, current Executive Chair, for his assistance and support to the Council over the years as his term is ending in December. The Chair and Vice Chair position will need to be filled at the December meeting. Tom opened the floor for any nominations. Jason Wilkins nominated Anne Raven for Chair position and Anne accepted the nomination. Dan Ward nominated Dan Williams for Vice Chair position and Dan Williams accepted the nomination. Randy Olson nominated John Leavell for Vice Chair position. John Leavell was not present at the meeting to accept the nomination. Voting will take place at the December meeting.

➤ EMS Office update:

The EMS Office will begin sending Share Fees Invoices beginning in December. Please review and update agency rosters by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for October 2023

Jack Busch shared the reports with the group.

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

- Finance Committee
  - Funding Requests
    - Train the Trainer proposal: Tom Chavez stated that a formal proposal for an Airway Train the Trainer course has not been submitted to the Finance Committee yet. This is a request for EMS Council funds to support the WA Fire Chief's approved Airway Train the Trainer program to host a course in Spokane County. Four Spokane County EMS Council representatives attended this course in May and believe it would be beneficial to bring to Spokane County. This course would require 16-20 individuals to attend a 2-day course with course materials and equipment provided. The next course would be in March 2024. A proposal needs to be approved by December and would cost approximately \$8,000. Tom opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Nania stated an Airway course for Spokane County has been highly requested and that this course can assist in Paramedics receiving credit towards their intubation numbers for certification renewal. Adam stated that the OR is at max capacity for intubations as they continue to try to get paramedics in, but agencies need to plan accordingly. Concern regarding 'chasing a number' and possibly falsified numbers was brought up, with the request that the MPDD of each agency would review individuals and approve based on their performance and knowledge. It was agreed upon that agencies want OR access to remain accessible but request alternative options to meet the requirements. Dr. Nania stated that the DOH does offer the option of an MPD approved airway training course to be used in lieu of intubation numbers.  
**Action:** it was M/S/P to create a funding request for an Airway Train the Trainer course to be funded by the EMS Council.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Triage Transport Destination Procedures Form: Dr. Maika Dang  
 Dr. Dang shared a Triage and Transport Destination form and requested approval from the Council and Spokane County MPD, Dr. Nania, for EMS crews to keep on hand and share with local hospitals to create clear communication for how transport destination is decided. A few members attended a meeting at Deaconess North FSED and stated that Deaconess North is not able to take combative restrained behavioral health patients due to a lack of resource and concern for patient and provider safety. All local hospitals can accept involuntary psych patients. Adam Richards stated that he would take the document to Providence Hospitals. Tom Chavez stated that the Medical Director of Deaconess North FSED, Dr. Ben Preiss, reviewed the document and agreed to draft a proposal for next protocol meeting.  
**Action:** The Protocol committee will continue to work on this document and create a protocol.
- Lights & Sirens data  
 Tom Chavez and Dr. Nania reviewed data from SREC and shared the reports with the group. The goal of looking into this data was to get a sense of what the general goal is and decide when it is appropriate for crews to transport with lights and sirens. SREC data concluded that Spokane County agencies go code response 50% of the time prior to patient contact. Dr. Nania requested AMR data of code transport to the hospitals. SREC offered a tour to anyone who is interested in seeing how they operate. Tom Chavez emphasized that Agencies need to learn how the system works. The goal is to have better understanding of the process and to make improvements.
- Divert Special Meeting  
 Tom Chavez shared that he and a few other members attended a meeting at Deaconess North FSED and had a lot of discussion regarding divert. Tom requested that the Council set up a special meeting with Council members and Hospital representatives specifically to discuss the topic of Divert and plan for improvement. There was discussion about how divert needs to be

posted to WATrac to be considered on divert for EMS. David Sewell explained that the divert process is different at each hospital and that some require 'permission' before they can enter status change into WATrac. David suggested a standardized process for all hospitals could be helpful. Dr. Maika Dang emphasized that support needs to go out stating that if divert status is not updated in WATrac that hospitals cannot be considered on divert, and reminded that divert is a courtesy, and if ambulances need to arrive to a specific hospital while on divert that they have that right. Dang created a presentation about divert and offered to present at the next meeting. Ashley Christoff, the WATrac system administrator, stated that if there is any requested data to please let her know and she can send it. You can reach her at her email

[Ashley.christoff@nwhrn.org](mailto:Ashley.christoff@nwhrn.org)

**Action:** A special meeting will be held with Council members and Hospital representatives to discuss divert. The meeting date and time will be emailed out once decided.

➤ East Region EMS & TCC Council Membership Applications for EMS Council approval:

- Beth Perkins
- Bethany Osgood

**Action:** it was M/S/P to approve the applications.

➤ Recently Approved Training Course Applications:

- EWU Initial EMT-SGA Training Course (01/10/2024-03/23/2024)
- SCFD9 Initial EMT-SGA Training Course (01/09/2024-03/30/2024)
- SCFD9 Initial ESE Instructor Training Course (12/13/2023)

**PROTOCOL COMMITTEE:** Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: One of the Protocols was sent back from the Department of Health for edits. Tom shared the edits and will send this back to the DOH for approval.
- HandTevy app: Tom brought up that he has been in contact with the HandTevy representative and everyone's HandTevy app should get the next protocol update. There were issues prior to allowing all agencies to have access. Once the protocols are up on the website, they will be added to HandTevy app.
- New protocol for approval: Methylprednisolone  
**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the protocol. Tom will send to DOH for approval.
- The next protocol committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 0900-1100 via Zoom. Anne Raven requested to discuss Acetaminophen at the next Protocol Meeting.

**REPORTS:**

- EMS WAC Revision: no representative
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek not present. Chief Jason Wilkins gave report and stated there is nothing new to report.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach not present
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau: The East Region EMS & TCC met last month and had an outstanding case review from St. Lukes. They worked on Training and Education budgets for areas outside of Spokane and have EMT course opportunities for rural communities. If outlying areas in Spokane are interested, they can apply. Rinita Cook sent an email with the information.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt reported that SRHD provided psychological first aid training to MRC volunteers and partners on Nov 13. The DOH is conducting a survey with REDiHCC members and vested partners. The results will guide in the search for new, sustainable healthcare coalition models. This survey is only a first step in the process. The options presented in this assessment are meant to generate topics for future conversions and meetings, and to encourage new ideas. Please complete this survey by Wednesday, Nov 22. Link to survey:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3WG6DF>
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff: Had the first 5 students from the last cohort meet with Dr Rabe and complete training. All 5 students passed their National Registry exam and are now working in the field. A few more students will

finish this month.

- FAFB: John Patrick Adams not present.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
  - Airway Cadaver Lab summary: Dr. Nania shared a summary of evaluations from the recent Airway Cadaver lab that was held on November 8<sup>th</sup>. 8 different agencies sent individuals to this lab and all reviewed information prior to the lab. Some improvements would be to use equipment that is currently being used in the field. Dr. Nania suggested that it would be best if agencies had the same kits and followed the same procedures. There is a possible upcoming cadaver lab in March.
  - **The meeting agenda includes:**
    - ACS data reporting

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- EMS Connect Classes for November:
  - 11/06/2023 5:00p.m “Infectious Diseases” with Dr. Stanton  
Link to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2139213556092526683>
  - 12/19/2023 at 5:00pm. EMT and AHA courses available. Reach out to Dr. Travis Dierks or Shaun Pitts to register.
- Providence Live at Nite Classes for November:
  - 11/14/2023 6:30p.m “Crisis Intervention training” with Cassie Brantingham.
- WATrac Updates:

Ashley Christoff stated that WATrac is in process of implementing updates which included SMS notification updates. An email went out requesting EMS partners to set up text messages to make sure it works.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED.**