

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Annual Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom D

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

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present: Attendees:

Jack Busch, Dan Cecil, Tom Chavez, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Paul Priest, Dr. Jacob Rabe, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Jason Wilkins, Dan Williams, James Young

Guest Present:

Jim Akramoff, Robin Albrandt, Ashley Christoff, Scott Cosner, Tamara Drapeau, Emily Fleury, Chris Gibbar, Deanna Jones, Jenni Jones, Stacy Kitchens, Don Malone, Denise McCurdy, Ken Mitchell, Jaclyn Numata, Lindsey Peyton, Beth Perkins, Jake Pirtle, Dr. Ben Preiss, Cody Rohrbach, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, Deborah Walker, Dan Ward

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of November 2023 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Tom Chavez

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Providence: Scott Cosner (Holy Family) reported an increase in admissions due to respiratory illnesses.
- Multicare: Ken Mitchell stated that Multicare is also experiencing high census and an increase in respiratory viruses and flu admissions.

- Handtevy Update: Tom reported that he continues to be in contact with Handtevy IT to resolve the issue that agencies cannot access the updated protocols that are submitted by the EMS Council account and stated that Handtevy is working on changing their process so that the EMS Council can act as the main account for all Spokane County agencies, as it was originally intended when the app was purchased. The Protocol committee Chair will be the administrator for the EMS Council account, and one admin from each agency will be able to make changes in the future. Tom will send an update once all issues are resolved. Recently updated protocols have been updated on the EMS website and the protocol app, which agencies will continue to have access to until May 2024. The HandTevy app should be finalized by January.

- EMS Office Update: Share Fees invoicing has begun. Payment is due in January.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

- Financial reports for November 2023

- Financial reports for Year to Date

Jack shared the reports to the group.

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

- Finance Committee

- Funding Requests

- Airway Train the Trainer

The finance committee chair, Jack Busch, reviewed the request and stated that funds are available but there is a commitment that needs to be fulfilled by agencies for the EMS Council to fund this. The Council funds would go towards

training the trainers who would then teach airway courses in Spokane County. The train the trainer course requires approximately 20 hours of instruction and agencies need to provide information of who would attend and how often trainings would occur. The group discussed establishing KPIs for each agency and a county wide airway registry to track what is being taught in the class and what is occurring in the field to be able to adjust courses as needed. Instructors would be required to teach 2 courses per year to stay up to date and would receive updates as the course is modified or updated by the state. Instructors will need to be recommended by each agencies Physician Advisor, and there is a requirement to have a minimum of 16 total instructors to attend a course in March. The deadline to enroll in this course is January 31st, 2024.
Action: Tom will get a letter out with the course information and begin the signup process.

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Divert Special Meeting:

A special meeting to discuss Hospital diversion was held on December 6th with EMS Council representatives and hospital representatives in attendance. Dr. Maika Dang presented divert data at the special meeting and the group discussed options to improve the current system. A small workgroup was created, and hospital representatives agreed to meet with their staff and administration to discuss the idea of a no divert trial from January-March 2024. Another divert meeting will be held on December 15th at 9:00a.m.

➤ Triage Transport Destination Procedures:

The Protocol Committee amended the document that was presented at the November Council meeting to be added to the County Operating Procedures. Tom shared the updated document to the group for Council approval. Dr. Dang reminded the group that these procedures are already listed in the WA State protocols. Jack Busch confirmed that this does not replace the Triage and Transport Destination guidelines, and Tom confirmed that it does not. This document is an operational guide of current state protocols which should be easier for EMS providers to follow. Jason Wilkins brought up that because Valley Hospital is not listed on the document, that they would not be receiving any stroke patients by ambulance and Tom confirmed. Wilkins asked if patients requesting to go to Valley and are a LAMS of 3 or less if they still need to go to a level 1 or 2 stroke center. Maika Dang stated that Valley is a level 3 stroke center and if a patient is 15 minutes or less to a level 1 or 2 center, the level 3 center will be bypassed.

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the document be added to Spokane County Operating Procedures. The County Medical Program Director, Dr. Nania and the Council Chair, Tom Chavez, will sign the document and it will be sent out to EMS crews and hospitals.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Vote for Chair & Vice Chair EMS Council

Nominations took place at the November meeting, where Dan Williams and John Leavell were nominated for Vice Chair, and Anne Raven was nominated for Chair. John Leavell was unable to accept the nomination, as he is entered a new roll at SVFD beginning in January. Dan Williams accepted the nomination for Vice Chair, and Anne Raven accepted the nomination for Chair. There were no other nominations.

Action: Dan Williams will begin duties as Vice Chair beginning January 1st, 2024. Anne Raven will begin duties as Chair beginning January 1st, 2024. Tom thanked the nominees and will get in contact with them before their term begins.

➤ BLS: Dr. Travis Dierks

BLS representative, Dr. Travis Dierks, stated that BLS providers have brought forward concerns and feelings of being disengaged with the Spokane County EMS Council and feel that the EMS Council is set to improve ALS related issues. Dr. Dierks shared comments from BLS providers, and the consensus was that there is not a lot of engagement from BLS providers because the

Council does not focus on BLS related issues. There is also a lack of clarity for BLS providers with the Spokane County Protocols. WA State Protocols provide a list of approved BLS interventions that are not clearly listed in the Spokane County Protocols, which causes confusion for what BLS providers are allowed to do. Dr. Dierks suggested adding a BLS agenda item to the monthly Council meetings. Anne Raven asked if the protocol manual could include a scope of practice list for EMTs and AEMTs and Tom shared the additional approved skills and procedures for EMS providers from the protocol manual which is in Appendix C. A BLS line item will be added to future meeting agendas.

- Frostbite: Dr. Luis Manriquez: not present. This topic will be added to the January meeting agenda.
- Shop Talk: Stephanie Thoet not present
Jim Akramoff reported for Stephanie. Stephanie is a licensed therapist that specializes in first responders and hosts debriefing sessions called Shop Talk which are open to all responders. Dan Ward stated that SVFD was able to get a meeting set up with Stephanie a few years ago and encouraged everyone to attend.
- Training Program Applications for EMS Council Approval
 - EMS Connect: Amendment of Current Program
Action: It was M/S/P to approve the application
- Recently Approved Training Course Applications:
 - Providence Heath Training: Initial EMT-SGA Course (01/04/2024-03/31/2024)
 - Providence Health Training: Initial EMT-SGA Course (01/02/2024-04/20/2024)
 - Spokane Community College: Initial EMT-SGA Course (01/03/2024-03/14/2024)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update:
 - 9 new protocols were approved by the Department of Health and have been updated on the EMS website and the protocol app. The protocols will be updated on Handtevy once the IT process is completed.
 - KPI modification group: Dr. Nania has requested that KPI reporting be reviewed to improve that data being submitted. Tom suggested getting a workgroup back together to discuss reporting beginning in January. Tom will be reaching out to agencies and will discuss data reporting through ESO or other systems.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: no representative
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek not present.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach reported that they have set user fees for all agencies and continue working on parts and agreements for the new CAD systems.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau stated that the next meeting is December 13th at AMR.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt stated that there has been some covid outbreaks within homeless shelters and long-term care facilities, while low activity for flu virus remains.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff stated that current students are through the first in class module and students are still graduating from the last cohort. They have had a 100% pass rate this year.
- FAFB: Jeff Sanborn not present
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - ACS data summary: Dr. Nania shared a PowerPoint summary of the ACS data that was presented at the November QI Committee meeting. Nania expressed gratitude to those who submitted data.
 - Today's meeting agenda includes:
 - Case review
 - Vote 2024 KPI reporting dates.

- Protocol Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for December:
OB Emergencies & Field Delivery
- Providence Live at Nite Classes for December:
12/12/2023 “legal pitfalls and documentation”
- SALT vs START triage tool: The protocol committee is working on a protocol which will be sent to the Fire Chiefs Association to be updated in the County FOG. A County wide drill to implement SALT triage is also being worked on and information will go out once available.
- Tom Chavez formally thanked Adam Richards for his service and commitment to the EMS Council. Adam’s term as the Executive Chair will expire on December 31st. Tom also thanked the Council members for their time and commitment to the Council this year.

MEETING ADJOURNED.