

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom D

EMS Council Chair, Anne Raven, called the meeting to order and those present were noted on the attendance sheet.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present:

Robin Albrandt, Josh Ambach, Jim Akramoff, David Baird, Jack Busch, Dan Cecil, Tom Chavez, Ashley Christoff, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Paul Priest, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Cody Rohrbach, Dan Williams, Chris Wyrobek

Guest Present:

Bill Dennstaedt, Tiarra Dreckman, Emily Fleury, Jake Grant, Nathan Jeffries, Tom Jenkins, Kris Johnson, Deanna Jones, Don Malone, Dr. Luis Manriquez, Denise McCurdy, Dr. Mike Metcalf, Ken Mitchell, Diane Morgan, Jaclyn Numata, Lindsay Payton, Shaun Pitts, Jake Pirtle, Leah Salmon-Conroy, Ethan Senn, David Sewell

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of December 2023 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Anne Raven

➤ Recognition of Tom Chavez, Executive Chair

Anne presented a plaque to Tom Chavez for his outstanding performance as Spokane County's EMS Council Chair the past 2 years.

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Providence: Lindsay Payton reported that effective March 6th, all overhead updates at providence hospitals will be switched to plain language. Tiara Dreckman added that staffing capacity remains to be a challenge, and that patients are overfilling into the ER. Respiratory illnesses are on the rise which has impacted staff as well. Providence is working on plans for the no divert policy that is expected to take place at the end of the month.
- MultiCare: Ken Mitchell reported that respiratory illnesses are keeping the ED exceptionally busy at Valley Hospital. They are requesting that masks be worn in clinical areas and stated that MultiCare has also been planning for the no divert policy.

➤ BLS Report:

Tom Chavez stated he spoke with some BLS agency representatives who shared that there is interest from BLS providers to be a part of the protocol committee, and to have more engagement at the EMS Council meetings. Tom will extend the invite for the next Protocol Committee meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for December 2023

Jack shared the reports with the group and shared that the EMS Office is currently working to find an investment option for additional funds.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Frost bite: Dr. Luis Manriquez:

Dr. Manriquez, the lead provider for CHAS street medicine, gave a presentation about frostbite. The presentation has also been shared at shelters to give the public a better understanding of the steps to take for anyone with a concern of frostbite. CHAS street medicine is in the community Monday through Friday making rounds to shelters and to the homeless community working to bring healthcare to people on the street. There is a rising concern of frostbite in the community as the temperatures are dropping to record lows this month. Dr. Manriquez explained that they are seeing patients back into the community without proper follow up leading to greater risk of infection and amputation, as most of these patients do not have phones or transportation for follow up appointments and are at risk for refreezing. CHAS street medicine uses 911 services and AMR for transport. Following the presentation, Dr. Manriquez opened the floor for questions and comments. Concern about busy emergency departments and getting patients to warm beds was brought up as hospital staff have not been successful finding available shelters for homeless patients and with long wait times, some patients are leaving the hospital before being seen. It was suggested that CHAS street medicine create a form for hospital staff that states what the patient is being seen for, as often the report does not get passed along. It was also suggested to transport to all local hospitals, as the downtown hospitals are the busiest most of the time. If patients have a form stating that they are waiting to be seen for frostbite, it is possible that hospital staff can begin rewarming in the waiting room. Dr. Manriquez shared that House of Charity has available beds. EMS and hospital staff can contact CHAS street medicine at (509) 481-3152 for patient follow up, which is a protected line to leave a message with patient demographics.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Recently Approved Training Course Applications:

- Providence Health Training: Refresher Paramedic Course (01/29/2024-02/03/2024)
- Providence Health Training: Refresher AEMT Course (01/29/2024-02/03/2024)
- Providence Health Training: Refresher EMT Course (02/05/2024-02/10/2024)
- Providence Health Training: Refresher ESE Instructor Course (02/23/2024)
- EMS Connect: Initial ESE Instructor Course (02/05/2024)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: The protocol committee met today following the QI portion of the EMS Council meeting and continued to work on pediatric protocols.
- Handtevy update: Tom reported that issues getting agencies listed under the Spokane County account should be fixed soon. Protocols that were recently approved were updated on the EMS council website.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: no representative.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris WYROBEK reported that there have been conversations regarding updates at SREC and they are working on document updates in 2024 including resource planning, FOG chapters, and documentation to support the rescue task force program. Updates will be sent as available.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach reported that SREC is working on strategic planning and goal planning for the new year. The board made a final decision to proceed with the Hexagon CAD system, which will go live in 18-24 months. SREC has had recruitment staffing challenges but have a good number of trainees going through the training process now. There was a discussion at the Fire Chiefs meeting about evacuation zone planning and how dispatch would play a role. They are working to front load evacuation zones before events take place and improving interactive maps for the public.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau not present.

- SRHD: Robin Albrandt stated that the MRC has been working with Clark County on the opioid response system to utilize pulse point. More information will be shared as the project progresses. There has been an increase in flu and covid numbers at resource centers and shelters. If anyone is interested in receiving long term and congregate care updates, reach out to Robin.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff reported that some agencies may have received rider agreements, as they are working on streamlining the process for rider and clinical agreements. AEMT patient contact requirements have increased at the state level, so there will be more AEMTs needing training in the field. Please reach out to Jim or Emily Fleury if you have questions.
- FAFB: Jeff Sanborn not present
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania encouraged agencies to send representatives to the NAEMSP meeting each year and reminded hospitals and EMS agencies to get their data into the CARES registry.
 - Today's meeting agenda includes:
 - Case review

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for January:
01/24/2024 @ 1:00 p.m. "CHF management & LVAD emergencies" with Dr. Dierks
 - Providence Live at Nite Classes for January:
01/09/2024 @ 6:30p.m "Delivery Emergencies" with Rebekka Berg, Paramedic
 - Zoom meeting license Agreement: Tom Chavez made a motion to have the EMS Council purchase a license agreement with Zoom to have an EMS Council account to run meetings. The Council is currently using Tom's account. The account would allow access for the current Council Chair and the EMS office administrator, which would cost approximately \$345.70 per year.
- Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the EMS Office purchase their own zoom account.

MEETING ADJOURNED.