

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 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:

James Akramoff, Robin Albrandt, Josh Ambach, David Baird, Jack Busch, Tom Chavez, Ashley Christoff, Dr. Maika Dang, Bill Dennstaedt, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Anne Raven, Chris Wyrobek, James Young

Guest Present

Kelsey Alexander, Deb Breid, Dr. Greg Cover, Tamara Drapeau, Jacob Grant, Tom Jenkins, Denise McCurdy, Bethany Osgood, Lindsay Payton, Austin Pea, Dr. Ben Preiss, Shaun Pitts, Dillon Russell, Treena Russell, Leah Salmon-Conroy

EMS Office Staff Present:

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of February 2024 minutes

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Anne Raven

➤ EMS Awards Nominations

Anne reminded everyone to submit nominations for 2024 EMS Awards by March 31st. The awards presentation will be held on Tuesday, May 14th following the EMS Council and QI meetings.

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Dr. Nania reported that Providence Holy Family Hospital and Sacred Heart Medical Center had their Trauma Site surveys and thanked everyone who participated in giving feedback.
- No Divert Policy Update: Tom Chavez reported that the no divert workgroup has continued to meet weekly to discuss challenges with the no divert policy for local hospitals and stated that there has been good communication to resolve issues, and the workgroup is moving forward with a direct to triage protocol. Tom thanked everyone for devoting time each week to discuss improvements for the system.

➤ BLS Report

Tom Chavez stated that an email has gone out requesting any interested BLS providers to attend future Protocol Committee meetings, and the Protocol Committee will continue to work on adding BLS skills to protocols.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for February 2024

Jack shared the reports with the group.

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

➤ Finance Committee

Jack stated that the Executive Board will be meeting to discuss investment options and will have more information at the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Butterfly: Pre-hospital Ultrasound Device

Kelsey Alexander from Butterfly attended the meeting to share information about the ultrasound devices and software that Butterfly offers. Butterfly had representatives in town to attend the Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) training hosted by Cheney Fire Department and SCFD 3. Dr. Travis Dierks stated that the goal would be for the EMS Council to purchase a membership to keep all agencies under one system if enough agencies were interested. Kelsey shared the ultrasound device hardware to the group and gave a demonstration of the software capabilities. The software allows access to worksheets, ability to QA the exams, and includes access to education which includes over 250 educational videos and over 50 exams and courses. Images are uploaded in real time where an administrator can review the scans and add notes for QA purposes. Kelsey provided a quote that included pricing for 55 users at \$9,500 per year, and memberships can be set up as annual memberships or multi-year memberships up to 5 years. Jack Busch asked about IT support for the software and probes, and Kelsey stated that the hardware comes with a 3-year manufacture warranty, and that customer support is very responsive. Following the presentation, the group discussed future possibilities and decided that individual agencies would need to purchase the probes for their own personnel, but if enough agencies purchase devices and choose to use Butterfly's software, the Council could discuss the possibility of a County wide membership. Anne Raven emphasized that some agencies would likely have to budget for next year, as budgets for this year are already set. Kelsey included that agencies have used grant funding to purchase hardware in other states.

➤ Spokane County Sheriff's Department- RTF: Detective Samuel Turner

○ Detective Samuel Turner introduced himself and Paramedic Chris Jones from SCFD 9 and stated that they attended the meeting to discuss the Rescue Task Force (R.T.F) and their plan to create a unified deployment model response for all of Spokane County for criminal MCI events. The R.T.F is organizing a 40-hour R.T.F train the trainer academy for EMS providers to teach a unified response model and stated that Spokane Fire Department, Spokane Valley Fire Department and Cheney Fire Department have begun this training. Det. Sam Turner emphasized that the goal of the academy is to train department leaders, who would then train their agency's personnel. Tom Chavez asked if all Law enforcement officers are trained in R.T. F tactics, and Det. Turner stated that they are. The Rescue Task Force team is hoping to get support in annual MCI trainings for the County. The academy will be held in June and is being funded by the Sherriff's Office. Anyone interested in attending the academy, please reach out to Detective Sam Turner.

○ Following Det. Turners report, Chris Jones shared an MCI backpack that the R.T.F team uses and stated that the backpacks are a simplified compilation of medical equipment that are found in the MCI trailers that agencies received following 9/11. The goal of these backpacks is to allow quick access to medical equipment during an event rather than waiting for trailers to be deployed to the scene. The cost of the backpacks was quoted to be approximately \$1700 per bag. Questions regarding the deployment of the MCI trailers was brought up, and Chief Tom Jenkins stated that the MCI trailer deployment model is in the County F.O.G for agencies to review. Det. Sam Turner and Chris Jones instructed agencies to reach out to them with any questions regarding the training academy or the MCI backpacks.

➤ Skilled Nursing Facility Call Assistance: Spokane Fire Dept.

Anne Raven stated that SFD has continued to get an increase in calls to skilled nursing facilities for lift assists or other non-emergent assistance. SFD is working to find a solution as resources are being held up for non-emergent duties. Dillon Russell added that SFD had a letter available in the past that came from the Fire Chief to private entities requesting that inappropriate calls stop and asked if the Council had other suggestions. Dr. Travis Dierks stated that he will reach out to one of his contacts who is an EMS attorney for advice, and Jack Busch mentioned that the 911 abuse rules for Spokane County could assist in finding a resolution. It was also suggested to add a

reference document into the protocol manual for EMS crews to follow, and to share with private entities that would explain the process. The Spokane County MPD, Dr. Jim Nania, stated that drafting a letter suggesting that reporting to the DOH will occur if non-emergent calls continue to occur could be helpful, and suggested that agencies should reach out to the healthcare coalition for recommendation.

➤ SREC Cardiac Arrest Calls Follow Up: Brad Kane

Brad Kane stated that SREC is requesting assistance in getting survival feedback for cardiac arrest patients to improve their QA process. Dr. Joel Edminster stated that he is currently submitting feedback and has been forwarding messages to corresponding agencies, but requested creating a contact list for SREC to make direct inquiries. David Sewell stated that hospital cooperation might be required to get discharge summaries. The group discussed the possibility of having a county wide ESO account for the MPD or MPD Delegates to access charts, which would likely be an additional cost for the Council. Dillon Russell stated that he has spoken to ESO before regarding a main account with sub users and said that there is an option to have users pay a fee to gain access under a main account. Chief Tom Jenkins stated that a few agencies have not integrated to ESO yet due to budgets. SREC will contact hospital representatives to request summaries.

➤ Recently Approved Training Course Applications:

- SCFD 9: Initial IV Therapy Training Course (05/08/2024)
- SCC: Initial EMT-SGA Training Course (04/01/2024-06/13/2024)
- SCC: Initial EMT-SGA Training Course (07/01/2024-08/21/2024)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

➤ Protocol Committee update

- Airway Train the Trainer update: Tom reported that he has been in contact with the course host and stated that the first available dates for an Airway train the trainer course is September 13th & 14th. The EMS Office has made location requests for the course, and once a facility is confirmed more information will be sent out. The EMS Council approved to fund 20 individuals to attend the course, and for agencies that are interested in sending additional personnel, there will be a website set up to register. This will be a 2-day course that will include pre-course online materials. Tom reminded the group that there are currently 4 individuals who took the course last year and can teach a course in the meantime. More information will be sent as it becomes available.
- Handtevy update: Tom stated that the Handtevy app is updated with newly approved protocols, but they are continuing to work on allowing administrative access for personnel to make changes that pertain to each individual agency. Tom is currently the only administrator on the account and will continue to add protocol updates as they are available. Dr. Edminster asked if it is possible to create a hazmat tab on the app to organize and list all hazmat protocols, and Tom responded that he would investigate this, as he is working with Handtevy support to consolidate all protocols into one place. Tammie Drapeau from AMR requested that adult weights be added to the Handtevy app as well, which Tom will also investigate. Tom reminded everyone that the Protocol manual will continue to be on the EMS website as a PDF version, and that the current protocol app subscription will expire in May. The Council will need to decide to keep the protocol app or not.
- SALT Triage Update: Tom reported that he is working with Dan Ward from SVFD to review protocols from other counties that have implemented SALT triage and will continue to work with the protocol committee to create a new protocol. There has been discussion of a county wide training for SALT triage, but some agencies have requested separate training within their agency before a county wide training occurs. Once a protocol is complete, it will be brought to the Council for review and approval.

➤ Protocols for Approval by the EMS Council: The following protocols were reviewed for approval by the EMS Council.

- Acetaminophen
- Magnesium Sulfate
- Adenosine
- COPD
- Asthma
- Pediatric Fever
- Come of Unknown origin

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the protocols. The approved drafts will be sent to the WA Department of Health for review.

REPORTS:

- EMS WAC Revision: Dr. Jim Nania stated that there was a recent review session to discuss possible rule changes for EMS. Jim Akramoff from Providence Health Training reported that he attended the review session in Olympia WA and stated that there was a proposed rule change that would affect the capabilities for Senior EMS Instructors who are not affiliated with a specific agency, and that he and other Senior EMS Instructors attend the review to voice their concerns if the changes get approved. A request for public comment will be going out.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek was not present. Chief Tom Jenkins reported that the Fire Chiefs are working on the county F.O.G chapters that incorporate all acts of violence, including RTF. At the last meeting, there was a presentation for nurse navigation which is a 24/7 nurse hotline that would allow IT to direct calls to a live nurse if appropriate. Dispatch would maintain navigation of the the calls that can be transferred back to dispatch if necessary. There have been negotiations regarding the Ambulance Service Board.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach not present. Chief Jenkins reported that SREC is continuing to work on getting the new CAD system running, and that there will be training for the new CAD soon.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau not present for report.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt reported that SRHD has been getting questions from healthcare providers about the CDC updated COVID isolation/quarantine recommendations. These are just for the public, so the previous infection control guidance still applies to healthcare settings. The DOH is reviewing CDC's guidance, and SRHD will send out an advisory if there are any changes.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff stated the next Advisory committee meeting will be on April 4th at 9am. Providence Health Training is currently taking applications for the next Paramedic cohort and have made changes to the process. There is now a deadline for applications for the end of June, and interviews will begin after.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine is hosting another Cadaver lab for Airway training on April 23rd. The EMS Office will send information to sign up, and Dr. Nania stated if any agencies have items to donate for the labs, it would be helpful.
 - Today's meeting agenda includes:
 - MPDD lead meeting.
 - Protocol Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for March
 - 3/20/2024 at 1:00pm "Medication Del. & Pain Management/Opioids"
- Providence EMS Live at Nite Classes for March
 - 03/12/2024 @ 6:30p.m "Endocrine Emergencies" with Carrie Gigray MSHS/ Paramedic

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Next meeting: April 9th, 2024