

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom A

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

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present

Josh Ambach, David Baird, Jack Busch, Tom Chavez, Ashley Christoff, Rinita Cook, Dr. Greg Cover, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Joel Edminster, Chris Gibbar, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Dr. Jim Nania, Mike Nokes, Paul Priest, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Dan Williams, Chris Wyrobek, James Young

Guest Present

LaDonna Beaumont, Tamara Drapeau, Jake Grant, Chris Maehren, Don Malone, Mike Metcalf, Jaclyn Numata, Lindsay Payton, Joey Rodriguez, Dillon Russel, Treena Russel, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, Chris Wyrobek

EMS Office Staff Present

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

**MINUTES:** Approval of March 2024 minutes

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Anne Raven

- Anne Raven asked if any EMS agencies other than Spokane Fire Department are using the DuCanto suction catheter and stated that it is her hope that all agencies move towards using it. Anne will bring more information about this topic to a future meeting for more discussion.
- EMS Awards Presentation on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
The meeting schedule will be different this day to accommodate the EMS Awards presentation. The QI Committee meeting will be held at 9:00am, followed by a short EMS Council business meeting at 10:00-10:15am. The awards presentation will begin promptly at 10:30am, and Council members are welcome to stay for the awards presentation and lunch. The EMS Office is working on adding the EMS Awards nomination form to the website to access at any time.
- Hospital Status Report
  - Providence: Lindsay Payton reported they are doing well. Nothing new to report.
  - MultiCare: Dr. Joel Edminster asked for a status report from Deaconess regarding the ambulance divert due to an electrical issue at the hospital. ED Manager, Chris Gibbar stated that the initial plan was to divert all trauma and STEMI patients in case of another power outage during scheduled electrical work, and Executive leadership made a last-minute decision to divert all ambulances due to possible power outage. Chris apologized for the miscommunication of the last-minute decision. Dr. Nania asked if the divert status was posted on WATrac, and Chris stated that the original message was sent via email to transport agencies and hospitals, and that the last-minute decision to divert all ambulances was shared by the supervisor to the other hospitals, AMR, and airlift partners. Anne Raven asked that fire agencies be included in these notices as well to allow better communication regarding patient transport destination. Anne asked if there had been a major incident during the outage, how the DMCC would be activated. Chris will discuss with Deaconess leadership what the plan for DMCC would be if Deaconess was unable to respond. Dr. Nania asked who the backup DMCC is, and Lindsay Payton shared that Providence Holy Family was the backup in the past but no longer is. Lindsay connected with the MultiCare coordinator who is working on a brochure to share the

- outlined capabilities and processes of the DMCC, which will be shared once available.
- BLS Report: No report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Busch

- Financial reports for March 2024  
Jack shared the financial reports to the group.  
**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the reports.
- Finance Committee
  - STCU Account Proposal- LaDonna B.  
Jack introduce LaDonna from STCU, and LaDonna gave a presentation to share account options for the EMS Council to invest some of its current assets. Following the presentation, Anne Raven opened the floor for discussion, and Chief Chris Wyrobek (SCFD 8) asked if the legalities of how the Council can reinvest unused fees have been determined, as that could help narrow down the options. Jack stated that legalities have not been clarified and suggested that the group create a 3–5-year strategic plan for spending and decide if funding request should continue to be approved for individual agency's requests, or if the goal is to approve county wide requests only. Council Chair, Anne Raven, suggested that the EMS Office expand by staffing a data analyst for county QI and/or a training coordinator to organize multi-agency training for protocol updates. Chief Don Malone (SCFD10) asked if the annual share fees that agencies pay to the Council should continue to increase or be lowered until a strategic plan is in place. Chief Wyrobek suggested hiring a vendor to assist in creating a strategic plan which could be a \$20k-\$50k project. Jeff Anderson from Cheney fire stated that he has been working with the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs on FOG chapter revisions and stated that revisions used to go out in an email, but there are specific training standards now that agencies have desired to come from the EMS Council. Jack suggested a meeting to discuss how the Council wants to move forward with a strategic plan and stated that if anyone has ideas to send them to him. LaDonna thanked the group for having her to reach out to her with further questions.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Advanced Life Systems: Interfacility Trauma Verified Licensure  
Jacob Grant, General Manager for Advanced Life Systems Ambulance (ALS), introduced himself and Joey Rodriguez, Executive Director of Olympic Ambulance, who attended the meeting to present a request for ALS to upgrade from a non-trauma verified license to a trauma verified license for interfacility transport. This was not a formal request, and an application has not been completed by ALS. The goal of the discussion was to continue to build trust in the local system, express IFT needs that have been brought up by customers and get feedback from stakeholders. The WA Department of Health suggested that trauma verification is necessary for ALS to avoid the current limitations of who they can transport, and Joey expressed that *if* trauma verification is necessary that the license would be for interfacility transport only, and that the trauma service areas would be only the facilities that ALS is servicing. ALS's goal is to eliminate limitations of IFT, and to expand from one 24/7 facility to 6. Following the presentation, Joey opened the floor for any questions, and Anne Raven asked about ALS's mobile integrated health system operating in Spokane and Joey explained that ALS has a contract with Kaiser Permanente for an advanced care at home program for Kaiser patients only. Anne then asked if ALS was requesting another review of the Min/Max numbers, which were just reviewed in 2023, and Joey stated that upgrading their license would require a needs assessment and an increase to the current Min/Max numbers. Rinita Cook, the Executive Director of the East Region EMS and Trauma Care Council, introduced herself and stated that if an application was submitted, the East Region would look at the requirements for the trauma services standards for facilities which states that all trauma

patients must be transported by a trauma verified prehospital transport agency, and confirmed that the Min/Max numbers would need to be increased for prehospital. Rinita reminded the group that the current minimum is 2 and maximum is 3 for ALS verified license, which is currently being met. The increase would be suggested by the East Region to the Steering committee based on what the Spokane County EMS Council requested. Rinita suggested to include the facilities if this request moves forward and to get data that supports a need for more services. Paul Priest from AMR advised that the Min/Max assessment that was recently completed in 2023 expressed that the community is being substantially served and the need for trauma level IFT is very low, and that AMR is 100% compliant with IFT requests. Tammara Drapeau (AMR) shared concern of an IFT Trauma verified request turning into a request to complete 911 services, and Joey expressed that is not the intention and that ALS wants to be compliant in transferring their patients, as Jason Norris from DOH explained that patients are considered a trauma patient until they are no longer in the system, including those that get transferred to rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities. Chief Chris Wyrobek asked if it would be appropriate to ask the East Region to assist in getting data to review to have an educated conversation about this topic at a future meeting, and Rinita agreed to pass along the request to the East Region. Rinita will request data from AMR, ALS, Deer Park Ambulance, Life Flight, and Pend Orielle County FD 2 for the total number of interfacility transports, where patients are being transferred to, types of patients, and response times. Joey thanked the group for their time and consideration and expressed that this discussion was intended to socialize the group to the idea, and that he understands if a needs assessment is not necessary at this time.

➤ PD Medical Clearance

Chief Dave Baird from Spokane Valley Fire Department stated that he has been asked by personnel for clarification on what to do when law enforcement requests EMS medical clearance to take patients directly to jail rather than to the hospital, as there is not a guideline in the EMS protocol manual. Dr. Nania emphasized that if other agencies begin to experience these same requests for medical clearance, the Council or Protocol committee can make recommendations. It was suggested that agency supervisors advise their personnel to treat all patient as they would if a bystander had called and take law enforcement out of the scenario. Chief Chris Wyrobek stated that he has requested that this topic be brought up as an education point during the next meeting with stakeholders from law enforcement and fire agencies in a collaborative leadership setting and hopes to get feedback from their perspective. Anne Raven added that she recently went to the jail and described that intakes are not thorough, and not done by nurses. Dr. Nania stated that that the Department of Health is working on the WAC regarding alternative destination, and that the criteria requires that patients be screened and identified as being in stable condition in the field prior to an alternative destination decision.

➤ Recently Approved Training Course Applications:

- SVFD: Initial ESE Training Course (04/18/2024)

## **PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez**

- Protocol Committee update: The protocols that were approved by the EMS Council at the March meeting have been sent to the WA Department of Health and are awaiting approval.
- SALT Triage Update: The protocol committee has continued to work on a SALT triage protocol, and Tom spoke with Lt. Jason Howell from Pierce County about how they have implemented SALT triage. Pierce County has shared their protocols and guidelines which will be brought to the Protocol Committee to create a protocol for Spokane County. Agencies will begin training SALT triage once the protocol is finalized and approved, and a multi-agency training will take place next year which will include all transport agencies, hospitals, and the DMCC.
  - Next Protocol committee meeting: April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m.
- Handtevy Update: SCFD 10 and Newman Lake Fire and Rescue (SCFD 13) have been added to the Handtevy account. Adult weight based has also been added and agencies should see the updated on their app. If there are any issues or questions about the app, please contact Tom.
- Airway Train the Trainer Update: This course is currently scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

at the Spokane Fire Training Center. More information will be sent out once the course registration is opened.

- Protocol App Renewal: Subscription ends June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

## **REPORTS:**

- EMS WAC Revision: Rinita Cook stated that WAC 246-976 had public comment on the CR 102 on March 7<sup>th</sup> and suggested changes will be looked at by the department and will soon be in the CR 103 process. The goal is to have revisions implemented by the end of June 2024. The WEMSIS rules that state that all EMS agencies, regardless of transportation or not, will need to submitted data is currently in the CR 102 process and a public hearing is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chief Chris Wyrobek stated that the DMCC FOG chapter is currently in revision, and if the backup DMCC needs to change to let him know. At the last meeting, the new Incidence of Violence chapter in the FOG was approved and will be added to the next update. This chapter includes a variety of different incident types, including Rescue Task Force (RTF) which was discussed at the last Council meeting. There is collaboration between the operations group and the training group to work towards a joint RTF training, and Chief Wyrobek encouraged the protocol committee to connect with Chief Jeff Anderson from Cheney Fire who is a part of the training group to work together on a SALT triage training and protocol. Chief Anderson added the FOG guidelines break out 3 training standards for RTF specifically. An awareness level RTF training will likely include 2 to 4 hours of video-based training for agencies that are not going to need RTF operational training with safety equipment or medical gear. Departments that decide to staff an RTF operational component will be trained to a 16-hour curriculum that follows ALERT, and training on a technician level is also being planned. More information about the RTF training will be sent out soon.
- SREC Board: Chief Cody Rohrbach reported that City Fire is continuing work with Nurse navigation, and many agencies are waiting to hear about the anticipated benefits of that program. Regarding the new CAD system, there has been evaluations of a mobile application which has received good input from the field, and there has been discussion of the potential to unify all agencies in the county onto a single platform. Recent bills to look at the distribution of tax funds for 911 have begun to be reviewed, which could affect distributions of funds between the city and county. It is still undetermined if City of Spokane will move to the Hexagon CAD system, which would result in there being two different CAD systems between the regionalized center and the City of Spokane. Chief Rohrbach stated that there could potentially be discussions around another public safety answering point (PSAP) for City of Spokane as well. There are impacts of having 2 separate CAD systems and the interoperability and impacts to having a second PSAP. A decision is getting closer, but it is unsure what the outcome will be. Trying to plan is challenging with uncertainty, and there have been discussions about a new dispatch facility to support operations in the future based on potential growth, and not knowing if the City of Spokane will be a part of that could have big impacts. This topic and a potential timeline for decisions will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau next meeting April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00a.m at AMR.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt sent a report via email. The Emergency Response Specialist Karsyn Hason, and MRC Coordinator, Kyle Richardson, have resigned from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program. SRHD extends their gratitude to them for their work and wish them much success in their new adventures. The MRC Coordinator positions is posted, and the Emergency Preparedness Response Specialist position will be posted soon. If you need MRC support, please send your request to [mrc@srhd.org](mailto:mrc@srhd.org). In addition to the weekly flu and outbreak reports, a snapshot of the weekly respiratory illness dashboard season overview will be posted to the SRHD website soon.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff not present. Emily Fleury reported that students will begin clinicals in the hospitals starting May 17<sup>th</sup>, and their ride time and field time will begin in July & August. Emily thanked agencies that are

allowing students to ride along. Providence is now accepting applications for their next course that will start in October.

- QI Committee: Dr. Nania reminded agencies to submit individuals to attend the Airway Cadaver lab on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to Berkley.
  - Today's meeting agenda includes:
    - Case review from MultiCare Deaconess
    - PD Transports to Hospitals
    - Airway KPI reporting

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- EMS Connect Classes for April
  - 04/24/2024 at 5:00p.m “Immunology & Cancer Patients” with Dr. Joel Edminster
- Providence EMS Live at Nite Classes for April
  - 04/09/2024 at 6:30p.m “Now I know my ABC’s...What Now?” Pediatric with Jason Doonan, EMS Instructor MSN
- EMS Journal Club
  - 04/15/2024 at 7:00p.m at No-Li Brewing: Tranexamic Acid

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**