

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2025, 9:00-10:30a.m.  
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom A & Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present

Jim Akramoff, Josh Ambach, Robin Albrandt, David Baird, Tom Chavez, Liz Ciais, Dr. Maika Dang, Bill Dennstaedt, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Amber Jones, Tom Jenkins, Brad Kane, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Jason Mayfield, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Lindsay Payton, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Cody Rohrbach, Adeana Sellars, Dan Williams, James Young

Guests Present

Jeff Anderson, Jacob Atkins, Beth Perkins, Dana Bosworth, Jill Collier, Tamra Drapeau, Joseph Hennessy, Deanna Jones, Tim Loncon, Meagan McCoy, Denise McCurdy, Joey Rodriguez, Treena Russell, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, Kevin Smith, Vincent Speziale

EMS Office Staff Present

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

**MINUTES:** Approval of January 2025 Meeting Minutes

Randy Olson made a motion to approve the January minutes, and Tom Chavez seconded the motion. None were opposed.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Anne Raven

➤ IV Fluid Update

Anne requested a status report of current IV fluid supply for hospitals and EMS agencies. Lindsay Payton reported that Providence have continued to conserve, and Kevin Smith from SFD stated that all backorders have been filled and are back to normal supply. Anne suggested that the conservation notification that was sent to EMS agencies in October by the County MPD, Dr. Nania, be lifted. Dr. Nania agreed to send an updated letter to EMS agencies that IV fluids should be used according to all indications in the current protocols in circumstances and volumes appropriate for best patient care.

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Providence: Lindsay Payton stated that there has been an increase in influenza cases, and that the Special Pathogens Unit is being used for overflow of pediatric patients. The SRECS 800 MHz Radio system updates continue. Holy Family Hospital will host active shooter scenario-based exercises on March 24<sup>th</sup> 1pm-5pm, and March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8am – 12pm. Sacred Heart Medical Center will host the same event in June, and St. Luke's will host in October. Dates and times are TBA. Providence is a sponsor for the First Responder Mental Health Conference that is being hosted by Spokane Police Department in Coeur d'Alene Idaho on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Travis Dierks reported that due to flow issues at local hospitals, EMS crews are delayed at the hospital when no beds are available to transfer care of patients, forcing EMS personnel to remain with the patient at the hospital and delaying their return to service. Dr. Joel Edminster stated that hospitals are admitting large numbers of influenza cases and patients are waiting for beds to become available. Liz Ciais added that nurse safety is also a concern, as nurses are taking on many patients due to staffing shortages, and that they continuing to address this issue at Holy Family Hospital. Tamara Drapeau mentioned that EMS crews are not certified in WA State to work and treat the patient

inside hospitals. The crews are not obligated to stay with the patient but have nowhere to deliver the patient, with average wait times of 40-50 minutes and have reached up to 3.5 hours. The group discussed the possibility of creating a policy for this scenario for EMS crews to follow. The group also discussed the new hospital certification for EMS providers, but that hospital certified personnel would need to be hired by the hospital and not the EMS agencies. Dr. Nania asked if any hospitals have considered hiring hospital certified EMS personnel, and suggested they consider as a possible solution.

➤ EMS Office Program Coordinator Position posting

Anne Raven proposed a vote to determine if the part time position of Program Coordinator for the EMS Council be posted for applications. The Executive board discussed offering the position to the current Protocol Committee Chair, Tom Chavez, as majority of the job duties fall under the current workload of the protocol committee chair. Anne opened the floor for Tom to speak, and Tom added that he currently participates in many projects being worked on for the EMS Council and would be the one to train a new individual for all tasks that the protocol committee chair is responsible for. Anne reiterated that the vote would be to determine whether the position be open to the public or offered to Tom Chavez. Randy Olson asked what the financial impact would be, and Tom stated that it would decrease the total spending for this position as he would not utilize the benefits that would be offered for this position. Brad Kane from SREC suggested an internal application process to ensure transparency. Dr. Joel Edminster made a motion to approve an internal application to be open for 2 weeks, and Cody Rohrbach seconded the motion. None were opposed.

**Action:** It was M/S/P to approve the part time Program Coordinator position application be opened internally for two weeks. Anyone interested can email their resume and cover letter to [bvanhout@spokanecity.org](mailto:bvanhout@spokanecity.org) by Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for January 2025

Jack Busch was not present. The Vice Chair, Dan Williams, shared the financial reports with the group, and there were no questions or concerns.

**REPORTS:**

- BLS Report: Dr. Travis Dierks stated nothing new to report.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek not present. Tom Chavez reported that the meeting date was changed and nothing new to report.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach reported that the SREC Board and City of Spokane are nearing a decision regarding if City of Spokane will join the regionalized model or have their own dispatch center. House Bill 1258 was introduced on January 10<sup>th</sup>, which lead to the recommendation that City of Spokane become their own primary dispatch center. Chief Rohrbach explained that HB1258 seeks apportionment of the 911 excise tax dollars for a secondary PSAP with language regarding call transfers and stated that currently 100% of 911 calls go to SREC, and all calls for the Spokane Police Department are transferred. The Board discussed the current apportionment of funds for SPD based on call volume, and CAD system maintenance, and expressed the City of Spokane has higher call volumes compared to the population, and from 2020-2024 have received \$3.26 million more in services than they generated. Discussion regarding governance, finances and service level continue. Chief Rohrbach reported to be working with officials to try to ensure that everyone understands the context of the bill and why the board made their recommendation. Correspondence is ongoing between the city and county to determine how to proceed. Chief Rohrbach opened the floor for questions, and Randy Olson asked how a secondary dispatch center will impact dispatch times, and Chief Rohrbach stated that there are inevitably some delays, but that all transfers are already taking place for all SPD calls. A Geofence or geographic barrier could be used to separate calls in the future, but the 20 other member agencies believe that the current system is meeting their needs. Lindsay Payton from Providence asked if there are discussions for both dispatch centers to be on the same CAD system, and Cody reassured that

there is, and that the board will continue to work through fair and equitable agreements for both sides.

- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau stated that the next meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00a.m to go over the strategic plan for the next 3 years and discuss impacts of some Washington State contracts. The training and education, and prehospital committees' reports have been canceled for the meeting. Dr. Nania asked how to pursue the potential funding of Buprenorphine or Naloxone leave behind programs from the East Region Council, and Tammie stated there is an application, and once completed will be reviewed by the East Region. Dr. Nania emphasized that Spokane County agencies are interested, and Tammie agreed to get more information regarding who would get the funds.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt reported that Shigella is back at some level in the homeless population, and flu and other respiratory illnesses are on the rise. SRHD is working with the WA Department of Health and Washington Emergency Management Division on a FIFA public health medical planning group for the World Cup that will take place in 2026 in Washington State. Spokane has been identified as a base camp for a training facility, and as a fan site. A subgroup for EMS and site security will be created for plan for this event, and anyone interested should reach out to Robin.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff stated they will begin accepting applications for the next cohort on March 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>, and testing will take place in July. Interviews will be held in August, which is the same process as last year which worked well. If anyone is interested in the Paramedic program, reach out to Providence Health Training for more information. Randy Olson asked if Spokane county EMS agency's personnel get priority, and Jim emphasized that the past two years there has been a waiting list, and that they do prioritize local applicants.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
  - Today's QI meeting agenda includes:
    - Case review

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- County wide OTEP Discussion

Tom Chavez gave an update since the last EMS Council meeting; the Washington Department of Health has not yet finalized the new OTEP application process. Tom shared the draft application with the group and revealed the inconsistencies that are being address by the DOH. The DOH suggested that Spokane County agencies can move forward by discussing a plan with the County Medical Program Director, Dr. Nania, and agree on a plan before submitting an application. A list of required components for OTEP are included in the application process, and Tom emphasized that the county OTEP plan will be a minimum requirement for all county agencies and that individual agencies would be able include their own additional training if they choose. The EMS Council does not have a DOH service number for the application, and Tom will be working with the DOH on how a county wide application can be submitted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- House Bill 1545

Dr. Nania shared a summary of HB 1545 related to improving cardiac and stroke outcomes to the group and suggested the EMS Council create a letter of support.
- DOH Opioid Funding for Naloxone or Buprenorphine Leave Behind Programs

The topic was discussed during East Region EMS Council report. Tamara Drapeau, East Region EMS Council Chair, will get more information out for this program.
- Recently Approved Training Course Applications
  - Lincoln County FD4- IV Endorsement Course
  - Providence Health Training Initial EMT-SGA Course (03/03/2025-06/6/2025)

#### **PROTOCOL COMMITTEE:** Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update: The protocol committee have completed updates for half of the pediatric protocols and hope to finish the rest at the next meeting. The last set of protocols that

were approved by the EMS Council were submitted to the DOH in November but have had delay due to DOH staffing changes. The protocol update group continues to move forward consistently, and Tom will share some of the completed updates for approval by the protocol committee soon.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- EMS Connect Classes for February
  - 02/18/2025 at 2:00 PM “Street Smarts: Mastering Toxidromes and the World of Street Drugs for EMS” with Officer Mike Thomas and Dr. Ryan Stanton  
(Register to watch live [link here](#))
- Upcoming Providence EMS Live at Nite Classes
  - 2/11/2025 at 6:30 PM “Behavioral Emergencies” with Cliff Hadsell, EMT-P, PhD
- Providence Health Training offering AHA advanced stroke and life support classes
- DOH Online Certification Freeze on February 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> as DOH transitions to a new system.
- RTF Update: Jeff Anderson reported that SVFD has finished training, and SCFD 9 & SCFD 4 are finishing their classes soon. Law enforcement and SFD will begin training next, and a few more agencies will begin in April. It is anticipated that by May most county agencies will be trained for RTF operations.
- First Responder Mental Health Conference February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Register [here](#)

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:22AM.**