

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 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 and those present were noted on the attendance sheet.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present

Jim Akramoff, Josh Ambach, Robin Albrandt, Jack Busch, Tom Chavez, Liz Ciais, Rinita Cook, Bill Dennstaedt, Dr. Travis Dierks, Chris Gibbar, Brad Kane, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Lindsay Payton, Dr. Jacob Rabe, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Dan Williams, Chris Wyrobek, James Young

Guest Present

Jeff Anderson, Eyla Baltazar, Dana Bosworth, Jill Collier, Tamara Drapeau, Beth Hansen, Sierra Knutson, Tim Loncon, Meagan McCoy, Denise McCurdy, Beth Perkins, Shaun Pitts, Dillon Russell, Leah Salmon-Conroy, Kara Welchel

EMS Office Staff Present

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

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

Randy Olson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jim Akramoff seconded the motion. None were opposed.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Anne Raven

- EMS Awards Nominations Due March 31<sup>st</sup> to Berkley
- Hospital Status Report
  - Providence: Lindsay Payton stated that volumes were expected to be high in January and February but beginning to decrease. Providence continues to monitor IV fluids to remain consistent. The 800 MHz Radio system implementation continues to move forward, and there are discussions to create a communications plan for the county. Plans for mass casualty are finished for Sacred Heart and Holy Family, and there will be an airport training exercise in June. Holy Family has their active shooter scenario-based training at the end of the month, and Sacred Heart will have their training in June. Anne Raven asked if the new radio system will change the activation process for the DMCC and Lindsay stated that activation will remain the same, and that the DMCC is involved with planning to do radio checks and create a communications plan. Anne requested practice activating the DMCC, and Lindsay will share the contact information.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Busch

- Financial reports for February 2025

Jack reviewed the reports, and there were no questions or concerns. Jack shared that future expenses would include new office space and new employees for the EMS Council and gave an update on the Program Analyst position. The E board interviewed multiple applicants and have narrowed down to 3 applicants who will attend a project based second interview. The E board is hoping to have someone hired with a start date by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Program Coordinator position that was opened internally had 2 applicants that will be interviewed the first week of April. More information to come.

## REPORTS:

- BLS Report: Dr. Travis Dierks no report.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek stated that the Providence MHz radio system discussion went through the fire chiefs and a task order was initiated and brought to the Fire Communications Advisory board. They are currently working with SREC to get a designee appointed, and a workgroup is being organized for planning and to anticipate as many challenges as possible for impacts in the field during conversion of the new system, while working to keep system redundancy and letting some of the outlying transport agencies continue to use VHF if possible. Chief Wyrobek included that the secondary DMCC will continue to default to Harborview Medical Center on the west side of the state unless a local organization formally takes the role of being the secondary DMCC. RTF training is ongoing and preparing for wildland season with trainings and incident management team formation.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach not present
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau not present at the time of report. Rinita Cook gave report that the East Region EMS Council completed a first draft of the 2025-2027 strategic plan, and plan to work with local councils to identify weaknesses in patient care plans. The East Region Council will be encouraging local councils to complete min/max assessments every 2 years to identify the true status of system and will share guidance for completing the assessments. OTEP plans are due to the WA DOH at least 90 days prior to the start date, and the DOH is requesting that all plans be updated by January 1, 2026, to reflect revisions that were made in the WAC. Rinita stated there will not be a regional OTEP plan, and that agencies will need to submit their own plan or discuss a county plan within the local council. Rinita shared that there is a delay for implementation of the DOH HELMS online processing system due to glitches, and there is no update of when that will be implemented. Regional Councils were asked by the DOH to do opioid work and presented 2 options for funding. The first option offers funding to implement or expand naloxone or buprenorphine leave behind programs, and funds need to be used by June 30, 2025. The second option for funding is for OD2A, which is federal funding through the CDC for outreach targeting high school aged individuals to train Naloxone administration, and funding is available through August. Funds can be given for any program for high school aged individuals including street fairs, open markets, prevention programs etc. If you are interested in either of these funding opportunities, reach out to Rinita. The next East Region EMSTCC meeting is April 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be virtual only.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt reported that work for the community-wide pertussis outbreak continues, and they are in the process of pre planning for measles. A measles outbreak is not anticipated but want to have a plan in place.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff reported that Providence Health Training is accepting applications for next year's cohort until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Interviews and testing will be in August, and selections will be made by August 21<sup>st</sup>. A virtual info session for the Paramedic programs will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup> & April 17<sup>th</sup>. The next Paramedic Advisory Committee meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania encouraged agencies to submit EMS awards nomination for this year's awards presentation, and reminded agencies to submit airway KPI reports that will be presented at the next QI committee meeting.
  - Today's QI meeting agenda includes:
    - Case review referred by Providence.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaws Review

Anne Raven shared that the E board have been working with an attorney to review changes to the bylaws and to clarify some confusion in the verbiage. Once the review is completed by the attorney, a draft will be shared for review by the EMS Council.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### ➤ EMS Connect County-wide OTEP Proposal: Shaun Pitts

Shaun Pitts, the head of education at EMS Connect, introduced himself and gave a summary of the EMS Connect system. EMS Connect provides a 3-year curriculum schedule which agencies can submit to the DOH as their OTEP curriculum to follow. Curriculum includes BLS curriculum with monthly 1-hour lectures specific to BLS providers, live curriculum which presents lectures for live education, and fire curriculum. There is over 140 hours of distributed education available, and Shaun discussed the capabilities of admin users for agencies to assign and track education and skill requirements, upload and build agency specific courses and exams, and assign courses by certification level. Admins can also run reports for completed and deficient courses for all users, enter credits for psychomotor skills, and receive copies of presentations that includes applicable lectures for scenario-based training. Individual users can upload certifications, receive reminders of expiring certifications, and print transcripts. Shaun noted that the system communicates directly to NREMT to allow all education to be included in transcripts. Some counties in WA have set up a county wide system for individual agencies to upload and manage their own content, while allowing access for the County MPD to oversee all agencies. Shaun reiterated that EMS Connect has taken the national curriculum requirements, as well as Washington State requirements, and planned curriculum over a 3-year period, and will have a Washington State specific addendum presentation to cover all additional requirements that were recently updated in the WAC. Tutorials and trainings are available to learn the system for agencies that sign up with EMS Connect. Jeff Anderson from Cheney FD added that getting clarification from each agency's goal for OTEP would be helpful in creating a county-wide OTEP plan, and that a plan that allows agencies to continue using EMS Connect or other platforms that are currently being used would be ideal. Anne Raven asked Tom Chavez for an update on the county-wide OTEP plan process, and Tom added that the plan is completed, and the next step is to meet with the County MPD, Dr. Nania, to define local requirements and approve the plan. After Dr. Nania approves the requirements, the plan will be discussed at an upcoming training fire chiefs meeting to finalize the plan and submit to the DOH. Tom emphasized that EMS Connect can supplement the OTEP requirements for agencies who use the platform, and that specific topics may just be covered at different times. Shaun Pitts expressed that counties that participate in a county-wide plan with EMS Connect's curriculum have expressed positive feedback of all agencies undergoing the same content and training. If anyone has questions about EMS Connect, please reach out to Shaun Pitts. The county-wide OTEP plan discussion will continue, with more updates at the next meeting.

### ➤ Recently Approved Training Course Applications

- Providence Health Training- Refresher AEMT Course (03/06/2025-03/20/2025)
- Providence Health Training- Refresher Paramedic Course (03/03/2025-06/6/2025)
- Providence Health Training- Refresher ESE Course (03/27/2025)
- Providence Health Training- Initial IV Therapy Endorsement (04/03/2025-05/01/2025)

## **PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez**

### ➤ Protocol Committee update

Tom shared that the protocol committee will work to conclude the pediatric protocol updates at the next meeting. Updates will be presented to the EMS Council for approval before being sent to the DOH. Tom continues to work on Handtevy updates and the county-wide OTEP plan application. Tom shared that the Handtevy renewal is due in April, and he is working to get all agencies access to add required personnel, as some larger agencies have had challenges of adding all personnel due to reaching the maximum number of accounts. The Handtevy contract is good for one more year, and Tom will continue to negotiate with Handtevy for pricing options and breakdown per agency and provider for the county-wide Handtevy app. Anne Raven suggested that agencies review and clean up their Handtevy rosters of providers who are no longer with the agency. The group discussed long term planning of app use and the possibility of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party creating an app specific for Spokane County EMS agencies. Dr. Nania emphasized that Handtevy

was originally purchased for pediatric drug administration, and that KPIs should determine if Handtevy was used for pediatric cardiac arrests. Tom will provide an update on Handtevy pricing at the next meeting, and this task will then be moved to the individual who is hired for the Program Coordinator position.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- EMS Connect Classes for March
  - 3/21/2025 at 1 Medical- Stroke & ICH with Dr. Maika Dang
- Upcoming Providence EMS Live at Nite Classes
  - 3/11/2025 “Language Matters” with Carrie Gigray, EMT-P
- November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025: Airlift Northwest Sponsored EMS Conference

Christine Hankins shared that Airlift NW was planning to host an EMS Conference on November 7<sup>th</sup> in Spokane Valley but has since been cancelled. Airlift NW hopes to offer future opportunities.
- United We Rescue Annual Golf Spirit Scramble

Jim Akramoff shared that United We Rescue, a non-profit dedicated to helping EMS responders find mental health resources, is hosting their annual golf scramble May 18<sup>th</sup> at Wandermere Golf course and is looking for sponsors. View website to get more information: [Home | United We Rescue](#)
- WATrac District Coordinator

Sierra Knutson attended the meeting as the new Coalition District Coordinator for Eastern Washington partners, and is responsible for the implementation of NWHRN’s preparedness, response and recovery programs, and activities throughout Eastern WA. For any meetings, networking opportunities, or coordination discussions that you would like to attend, please update your distribution list to include [sierra.knutson@nwhrn.org](mailto:sierra.knutson@nwhrn.org). WATrac. For any WATrac needs such as accounts, training, or other support, please reach out to Kara Welchel, Administrator at [WATrac@nwhrn.org](mailto:WATrac@nwhrn.org)
- NWHRN Spokane Catchment Healthcare Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment Meeting
  - 3/21/2025 at 10:30am-12:00pm

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:30AM**