

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 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, Robin Albrandt, David Baird, Jack Busch, Liz Cia's, Tom Chavez, Rinita Cook, Dr. Maika Dang, Bill Dennstaedt, Dr. Travis Dierks, Dr. Joel Edminster, Chris Gibbar, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Don Malone, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Lindsay Payton, Anne Raven, Cody Rohrbach, Adeana Sellars, Chris Wyrobek, Dan Williams

Guests Present

Jeff Anderson, Tamara Drapeau, Mary Malone, Jason Mayfield, Chris Nielsen, Treena Russel, Leah Salmon-Conroy, Kevin Smith, Dr. Godfrey, Matthew Vinci

EMS Office Staff Present

Berkley Van Hout

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

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Anne Raven

➤ Office Relocation & New Positions Update

Anne introduced Chris Nielsen, the new Data Analyst for the Spokane County EMS Office. The EMS Office has relocated to 44 W. Riverside Avenue inside of SFD Station 1. There are three reserved parking spaces for the EMS Council for anyone stopping by for Council or MPD business.

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Providence: Lindsay Payton reported they are doing well from a clinical perspective. Providence held their Airport MCI the first week of June and had good interaction and feedback. Providence have begun scenario-based active shooter exercises at Sacred Heart and will have exercises at St. Lukes in October. The Sex Trafficking presentation will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for April & May 2025

Jack shared the financial reports for April and May due to no meeting in May for the EMS Awards. There were no questions or concerns.

**REPORTS:**

- BLS Report: Dr. Travis Dierks asked if the updated protocol template that is being worked on by the protocol workgroup would be approved in parts, or if the entire manual would be approved at once. Protocol Chair, Tom Chavez, stated the entire manual will be sent to the Dept. of Health for approval once all protocols are updated, and is expected to be completed by February 2026.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek reported several agencies have completed academies for new recruits and have graduation upcoming. Wildland season training is underway. IEFCA had a meeting with hospitals regarding the 800-MHz radio system in April and will meet again this month to continue moving forward. The goal is for EMS personnel in the field to have capability to communicate with hospitals. Lindsay Payton added that Providence has begun receiving equipment and working on installation of the new system. Chief Wyrobek added that

the County FOG would be updated if any significant changes to operations takes place. Working on apparatus nomenclature to number individual apparatus within different fire districts, and RTF trauma equipment purchased by the EMS Council was distributed. Agencies have started the didactic portion of RTF training and are currently completing Ops training.

- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach reported that mediation between Spokane County, SREC and Spokane City will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> with hopes to get direction for dispatch for Spokane City. HB1258 was amended to include that all parties will enter an ILA to apportion tax dollars. The timeline for the new CAD system implementation has been delayed due to additional training for the vendor.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau reported the next meeting is the annual meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> and they will discuss the budget. The strategic plan was approved by the Dept. of Health and will become effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Rinita Cook reminded the group about OD2A CDC funding for naloxone education and outreach to high school age kids. Looking to provide 10 grants of \$3,600 each by August. Reach out to Rinita if interested.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt reported that MRC participated as victims in the airport MCI exercise and are available for future trainings if volunteers are needed. Participated in the Region 10 SPU Operation Marburg Shield exercise that focused on two simulated patients suspected of Marburg disease at Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake. After receiving treatment and care, the hospital coordinated transport of the patient using AMR Spokane to Providence. Currently in the process of finalizing their emergency preparedness and response deliverables for the next grant cycle that runs July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Still responding to Pertussis community outbreak, increase in level of shigella in communities experiencing homelessness, and closely monitoring the status of measles due to the outbreaks occurring throughout the state and country. Westside LHJs reported some norovirus outbreaks, including one at a SNF in Spokane.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff thanked everyone that participated in their virtual site visit and stated that Providence Health is officially under letter of review for accreditation for the AEMT program. Jim also thanked hospital partners for allowing students in facilities. All paramedics currently completing rotations in the OR and ER until the end of July. Jim recognized Hailey Karnitz for successful implementation of a flipped classroom to include more activity-based training which had a lot of positive feedback from students. Paramedic applications are due June 30<sup>th</sup>, testing will begin in July, and interviews will begin in August.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania gave a summary of the airport MCI event and the group discussed needing better training of triage tags at future trainings.
  - Today's QI meeting agenda includes:
    - C.A.R.E.S data
    - Case referred by PSHMC.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Countywide OTEP Plan Update: Tom Chavez

Tom stated that the OTEP plan outline was sent to training chiefs to review. The MPD and Protocol committee discussed the WA State requirements to be included in the new plan outline. Agencies will have autonomy for instruction and will be able to use EMSConnect and Target Solutions as they have been using in the past. The EMS Council will work to fill training gaps and offer county wide training opportunities. The training chiefs' group have approved the proposed plan, and the proposed plan was emailed to the EMS Council following the meeting to review.

**Action:** Members will review the OTEP plan outline, and a vote for approval will be taken at the next meeting in July.
- Bylaws Update Discussion: Anne Raven

A draft of the revised bylaws was sent to EMS Council members for a 60-day review. The bylaws were revised by the Executive committee and reviewed by an Attorney.

**Action:** Discussion will take place at the meeting in July, and a vote for approval will be taken at

the meeting in September, as there is no meeting in August.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Spokane Valley Fire Department Physician Advisor  
Current Physician Advisor for SVFD, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, accepted a new position and will be relocating effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Laverdiere introduced Dr. Steve Godfrey who will be taking over the position at SVFD.
- SRHD Naloxone Leave Behind: Mary Malone  
Mary Malone presented how EMS agencies can request Naloxone Kiosks in rural areas. Any interested agencies can reach out to Mary via email at [mmalone@srhd.org](mailto:mmalone@srhd.org)
- Spokane County Min/Max Assessment & Service Licenses Discussion: Rinita Cook & Jason Norris  
Dr. Dierks summarized ongoing confusion between BLS licensed agencies and the WA Dept. of Health (DOH) regarding the provisions of ALS-level care by ALS certified providers employed at BLS licensed agencies. The WA Administrative Code (WAC) requires 24/7 ALS-level staffing to be licensed as an ALS agency, however, some BLS agencies currently employ ALS- level personnel without meeting licensure standards, raising concern about liability, scope of practice, and certification validity. Jason Norris (DOH) clarified that while BLS agencies can have ALS- certified individuals on staff, these agencies are licensed and inspected based on BLS standards and may not utilize ALS equipment or provide ALS-level care. Use of ALS resources by a BLS agency exceeds their license and poses regulatory risks. Jason also explained that agencies must meet staffing standards on their own merit and cannot use contracts or agreements with another license. It was reiterated that the DOH is aware of this practice occurring in Spokane County. Discussion emphasized the need for legislative action to allow for part time ALS recognition or alternative models, which were previously denied due to lack of stakeholder involvement. Dr. Nania and a subgroup will draft a letter to the state MPDs and DOH addressing these concerns. Joey Rodriguez, who is a member on the trauma steering committee, will bring the topic forward and efforts will be made to gather historical data and build a unified position across regions. Members discussed adjusting staffing definitions and agency min/max numbers. Agencies capable of providing 24/7 ALS/ILS coverage were encouraged to notify the EMS Council Chair, Anne Raven, and Rinita Cook at the East Region EMS Council, for a review of the current min/max numbers. It was clarified that the County MPD and EMS Council cannot direct agency action but can support members with a formal letter of concern. A draft letter, signed by the MPD and MPDDs will be presented at the next meeting. Rinita Cook shared openings on the EMS Steering Committee and recommended that individuals from the East Region apply.  
**Action:** Dr. Nania will coordinate with other MPDs statewide and draft a formal letter of concern for review at the July meeting. Joey Rodriguez coordinate with the EMS Council to review historical rulemaking documentation. Any additional questions can be directed to Rinita Cook, Jason Norris or Dawn Felt.
- Recently Approved Training Course Applications
  - Providence Health Training Initial EMT-SGA Course (05/21/2025-08/29/2025)
  - Providence Health Training Initial EMT-SGA Course (05/20/2025-08/27/2025)
  - Providence Health Training Initial ESE Course (07/15/2025)
  - SVFD Initial Supraglottic Airway Endorsement Course (08/05/2025)

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

- Protocol Committee update: Tom stated that Pediatric protocols have been revised and are ready for approval by the EMS Council. Tom sent protocols prior to the meeting for review to save time during the meeting. The group requested that a vote for approval take place at the next meeting due to the length of the meeting and not having enough time to review all the protocols.  
**Action:** Pediatric protocols vote for approval will take place at the next meeting in July.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- EMS Connect Classes for June
  - 6/24 2pm Dr. Ernst Live Curriculum: Cardiac Arrest
  - Fire Curriculum: Wildland Training
- Upcoming Providence EMS Live at Nite Classes
  - 06/10/205 at 6:30p.m “Respiratory Review” with Haley Karnitz, EMT-P
- Protocol App

The Protocol App subscription ended June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The county-wide Handtevy app is active, and the protocol manual PDF will remain on the EMS Office website.
- DOH HELMS System Update

Dan Willaims (SCFD 4) advised agencies to check their roster on the new DOH HELMS system as there have been glitches. If anyone has questions, reach out to Dawn Felt at DOH. Dr. Nania included that the DOH is working out glitches of the new systems which has caused delays in recertifications. Dr. Nania sent an email to agencies to check their rosters online as a reminder.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:10AM.**