

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026, 9:00-10:30a.m.
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom C/D & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Voting Members: AMR: Jack Busch (*alt*) *Tim Loncon*, Airway Heights: *vacant*, Advanced Life Systems: Treena Russell, (*alt*) *James Bennett*, Cheney FD: Jeff Anderson (*alt*) *Tom Jenkins*, DPVA: Amber Jones (*alt*) *Adena Sellars*, Kalispel Tribal EMS: *Vacant*, LFN: Veronica Mitchell-Jones (*alt*) *James Young*, SCFD2: Eric Olson (*alt*) *Lindsay Pestana*, SCFD3: Cody Rohrbach, (*alt*) *Bill Dennstaedt*, SCFD4: Dan Williams (*alt*) *Mike Nokes*, SCFD5: *Vacant*, SCFD8: Tom Chavez (*alt*) *vacant* SCFD9: Jeff Reid (*alt*) *Dan Cecil*, SCFD10: Andres Steevens (*alt*) *Don Malone*, SCFD11: *Vacant*, SCFD12: *Vacant*, SCFD13: Daron Bement, (*alt*) *Josh Ambach*, SFD: Anne Raven, (*alt*) *Tom Williams*, SVFD: David Baird (*alt*) *Dr. Stephen Godfrey*, SIA: *Vacant*, SCSO: *Vacant*, SHMC & Children's Hospital: Tiarra Dreckman, (*alt*) *Lindsay Payton*, SHMC: Liz Ciais, (*alt*) *Lindsay Payton*, Deaconess: Chris Gibbar, Valley Hospital: Richard Johnson, Community Delegate: Randy Olson, MPD: Dr. Jim Nania

EMS Council Chair, Dan Williams, called the meeting to order those present were noted on the attendance sheet.

Member Agency Representatives/Alternates & Advisory Representatives Present

Josh Ambach, Jeff Anderson, Robin Albrandt, David Baird, Jim Bennett, Dana Bosworth, Jack Busch, Daron Bement, Tom Chavez, Dan Cecil, Liz Ciais, Tiarra Dreckman, Bill Dennstaedt, Chris Gibbar, Richard Johnson, Tim Loncon, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Lindsay Payton, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Cody Rohrbach, Treena Russell, Adena Sellars, Dan Williams, James Yong

Guests Present

Jim Akramoff, Christa Arguinchona, Roxana Chetverikov, Dr. Maika Dang, Tamara Drapeau, Sean Edwards, Todd Farina, Jon Hanke, Beth Hansen, Jake Jensen, Sierra Knutson, Jason Mayfield, Megan McCoy, Emily Mercer, Tara Ohman, Cassie Prather, Joey Rodriguez, Jennifer Rice, Leah Salmon-Conroy, Lance Strite, Whitt Spencer, Kara Welchel, Scott Williams, Matthew Vinci

EMS Office Staff Present

Chris Nielsen, Berkley Van Hout

MINUTES: Approval of December 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Jeff Anderson; Seconded by Randy Olson

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Dan Williams

- 2026 EMS Office Share Fees will be sent by January 15th. Due by March 1st.
- Hospital Status Report
 - Providence: FBI presentation on January 14th. Limited spots still available. The 800 MHz radio system project is still in progress and a grant for additional equipment was received.
 - Multicare: Valley hospital has been collaborating with Providence and will be hosting an MCI event; date TBD. Will send more information to Berkley to share once available.
 - Mask Requirements Update: Providence and Multicare have universal masking requirements in patient care areas due to increase in respiratory illnesses. Dr. Nania included that an email was sent to EMS agencies recommending prehospital personnel to consider masks and respiratory precautions for all patient contacts, and to review Infectious Disease protocols. Providence hospitals also have visitor limitations in place.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

- Financial reports for December 2025
- 2025 Year-End Financial Reports
Jack shared the financial reports with the group, and there were no questions or comments.
- Funding Requests
 - None

REPORTS:

- EMS Office Program Coordinator & Data Analyst: Tom Chavez/Chris Nielsen
 - Data Analyst: Chris requested that agencies send a distribution list of names and emails to have access to reports that Chris is building.
 - Program Coordinator:
 - Training Calendar: Tom shared a training calendar template for agencies to add their own training opportunities to be reviewed, approved, and added to the EMS Office website. Will send more information when available.
 - Skills Videos: Topic was discussed at December meeting. Tom is working on a process to create videos and determining where videos will be accessible. Tom has some video equipment and can come to agencies to film OTEP skills. Hoping to get all agencies and MPDDs involved. More information to come.
 - OTEP: Tom reminded the group that the Spokane County OTEP plan is an overall guideline, and agencies do not have to use EMSConnect or Target Solutions. Agencies can create their own training schedule as long as they meet state requirements.
 - Handtevy: Agencies are reaching max level of licenses. Tom will meet with Handtevy to discuss options to avoid this in the future. If anyone discovers discrepancies in protocols on Handtevy, please reach out to Tom.
 - SALT triage tags: Protocol committee approved wristband style SALT triage tags to be purchased by the EMS Council for a one-time purchase. \$118.99 per 50 tags and need a total of 25 packs for a total of \$2,974.75.

Motion made by Jeff Anderson to approve \$3,000 to be paid to Spokane County Emergency Management for SALT triage tags; seconded by Dr. Nania. None opposed.

Action: It was M/S/P to approve \$3,000 for the purchase of SALT triage tags.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek not present. Jeff Anderson stated that the Ops group and Chiefs met last week and authorized the new CAD buildout for the City of Spokane and SREC for plain terminology for dispatch and would go into effect when the CAD buildout is complete. Discussion to create a task order to look at screening vs quick dispatch model took place at the last meeting. \$30,000 was approved last year for Regional RTF drill slated for late Q1 or early Q2 of 2026 for county wide training and RTF awareness videos.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach reported that an agreement for 911 services between regional county agencies and City of Spokane was made in late December to structure the future of 911 dispatch services in Spokane County. City of Spokane will be creating their own dispatch center over the next 2 years. Agreements on equitable apportionment of funding was made and data from the Department of Revenue and population will be used to resolve equitable apportionment. The regional center will provide services to the City of Spokane, and as the city meets key milestones, they will then receive funding for those services. A phased transitional plan over the next couple years will be made, and still looking at impacts related to the implementation of the new Hexagon CAD system.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau next meeting in February.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt gave a shoutout to hospitals and EMS for mask recommendations as they experience high activity levels of influenza and respiratory illnesses in the community. Continuing to participate in planning for FIFA World Cup. Should know by the end of the month if Gonzaga University is chosen as a Base Camp. Spokane FIFA Fan Zone will host two fan zones on June 19th, 2026, and July 19th, 2026, at the GESA Pavilion. DOH is planning on doing

CHEMPACK TTX and Exercises with Emergency Management and public health partners in preparation for FIFA 2026.

- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff reported that notifications for clinicals will be sent out soon, and the current cohort recently had RTF training.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania
 - Cadaver lab summary: Dr Nania shared an evaluation summary from the December 12th cadaver lab, and attendees all expressed having a great experience. Will continue to attempt to host at least 2 opportunities per year.
 - Today's QI meeting agenda includes:
 - Case review referred by PSHMC.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Providence Special Pathogens Unit: Darrell Ruby, Christa Arguinchona & Cassie Prather
Christa and Cassie introduced themselves and shared an overview of the SPU team at Providence and gave information regarding their high-level isolation unit for high-consequence infectious diseases, and about education and trainings throughout Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska. Darryl Ruby assists in developing transport plans with EMS partners, local public health, and state public health partners. The SPU team is working on creating a pre-notification process to alert first responders if they report to a scene for patients with a potential high risk infectious disease and are working on EMS training videos for EMS agencies. There are currently two AMR teams in Washington that have specialized Special Pathogen transport teams that requires quarterly training. The SPU team can be notified of possible infectious diseases from local EDs and public health officials and/or the CDC. If the SPU team is asked to activate their unit, they would call their trained partners at AMR Spokane to transport. The SPU team will continue to work on trainings for EMS to be able to identify, isolate, and inform if there is a concern of an infectious disease.
- Recently Approved Training Course Applications
 - Spokane Community College Initial EMT-SGA (01/06/2026-03/19/2026)
 - Providence Health Training Initial EMT-SGA (01/06/2026-04/11/2026)
 - Providence Health

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

- Protocol Committee update:
 - Protocol Manual approval
All protocols have been updated in the new manual format and a draft template was emailed out for review. Tom has continued to work on getting hyperlinks to work and formatting finalized. Tom shared an example of the new template. Following discussion, the group agreed that more time was needed to review the document. Tom agreed to send the document again with the ability to make comments for feedback. The document will be open for comments through February 9th and will be reviewed at the next EMS Council meeting on Tuesday, February 10th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- EMS Connect Classes for January
01/20 at 1400PST "ACS or Imposter? Mastering Cardiac Mimics in the Field" with Dr. Racht
Link to register and join: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1186981528614856278>
- Jim Akramoff shared that DOH and UW Medicine created a Washington Telebuprenorphine Program that would be a good use of resources for EMS. Jim will get information and will forward to Berkley to distribute.
- Dan Williams asked that all voting member agencies review their voting and alternate members on the EMS Office website and send any updates to Berkley.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:36AM.