

PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES
GoToMeeting – 9:30am
July 22, 2021

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am by Kelsey Petersen. Roll call was done and quorum verified. The meeting minutes from April 22, 2021 were noted as being provided electronically; A motion was made by Karmela Palmer to accept the notes as written. The motion was seconded by Mary Hallman and approved by vote.

Treasurers Report, Karmela Palmer, Secretary-Treasurer

The last treasurer reports from September 2020 through June 2021 were reviewed. The ending balance as of June 30, 2021 is: \$23, 418.53. A motion was made by Dr. Waffle to approve all the reports reviewed. Mary Hallman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by vote. Norma mentioned that we are going to need to print a few protocol books for those agency members who can't download to their I-Phone. The EMS council always provides that. She requests up to \$10,000 to print protocol books. Dr. Waffle made a motion to approve printing the protocol books. Barb Carrier seconded the motion. The motion was approved by vote.

Unfinished Business: Notes

Program Reports:

A. MPD/Base Station, Dr. Waffle, MD, MPD

One of the issues that was discussed in the Base Station/MPD meeting was the ED overcrowding. Hopefully that will be taken care of with better documentation.

For the COVID-19 Delta Variant, he is emphasizing that EMS crews should continue to get vaccinated because the Delta Variant is effectively treated with vaccination.

The Management of Agitated/Violent Patients was discussed. RCW 10.54 and 13.10 will go into effect on July 25th. This will probably mean that some of the violent/ aggressive patients will not be evaluated by law enforcement or not placed on hold so we can transport these patients safely and get them the medical care they need. A review was done of the "Management of Agitated/Violent Patients: Modification and Explanation of Current Protocol" document. It states that we have the right to refuse to transport patient if there is a threat to the safety of EMS personnel. If we contact Law Enforcement and they refuse to get involved, then we will contact the Designated Crisis Responder (DCR). He has tried to contact the DCR to have them assist with creating this document, but he hasn't heard back from them. The way it will work is that the unit will contact the DCR and leave the information. Then, because we don't have the resources to leave a unit on scene for hours, the unit will

clear the scene and go back on duty. Tom Lamanna produced a workflow document to assist with this process. The document will need to have the DCR added but it still represents step by step what we need to do. If the patient is refusing care and felt to be a danger to themselves, we have to declare them as not able to meet our decision making protocol in Pierce County and as such, we will have implied consent to transport that patient but only if it is safe for EMS personnel. Minimally, we need a countywide protocol but preferably we will have a statewide protocol to have a standard of care based on these laws.

Catie Holstein from the State gave an overview of how they are approaching this work at the state level. They are working to understand the nuances and scope of the of the problem and are getting a lot of input across the state. They have been working to recruit a new AAG at the State. They have an interim person filling in who is trying to understand the situation. We need to be making good decisions to keep providers safe as well as patients and the public safe. They will try to come up with some statewide consistency with regards to the protocols. There is an MPD meeting on Monday and the leadership from the State have been invited so they can hear from the MPDs some of the problems they are experiencing. When the Pierce County protocol is finished, please forward it to her at the state.

Committees:

- i. Training & Development– Patsy Maloney: No report at this time.
- ii. Operations– Russ McCallion: No report at this time.
- iii. CQI, Ryan McGrady: The last meetings were cancelled so there is no update.
- iv. Protocol, Sam Yount: Norma said that the last meeting was cancelled, but we are working to get the protocols to the state.
- v. Community Access to Care Committee– Dr. Waffle
The committee did not meet. At the MPD meeting this morning, they discussed the issues of ED crowding and delays of transferring of patients to the hospital staff. We have a couple of means to document these delays, but, they are not being utilized by EMS so he is encouraging all of EMS to use the form that Karmela Palmer created and/or the website so issues are documented and can be followed up on.

B. Tacoma-Pierce County Health, Cindy Miron

- We are seeing some increases in TB, FTI and Congenital Syphilis on the rise.
- TPCHD is trying to resume normal business and the Health Department office is open.
- Covid response is still active. They are still in a virtual Unified Command with PC DEM. They are looking at transitioning operations except for testing back to TPCHD. They have taken over the isolation and quarantine services.
- Covid total case count: 52,185 in Pierce County. Yesterday there were 74 cases reported. We are seeing some increases in positivity rate. The new case rate over 14 days is 88.3 which is up from 67.9. Hospital rate is still 5.9.
- Vaccine doses: 854,700 total doses administered to Pierce County residents.

- Initially vaccinated: 52.1; Fully vaccinated: 46.1;
12 years old and up: initially vaccinated: 62.2%, fully vaccinated: 55%
16 years old and up: initially vaccinated: 64.2%, fully vaccinated: 56.9%
First doses of vaccines administered this week 3800; last week 4200
Average of 1170 residents per day that have received vaccine; last week 1400.
Vaccine rates are not where they need to be.
- We still have the static site for vaccines at the Lakewood Town center. They signed a release at the South Hill Mall/Charming Charlies in Puyallup. There is a static site at Bonney Lake Park and Ride for testing. The county still has the testing site open at the old Emissions site in Lakewood.
- The admission rate into hospitals in Pierce County is 2.9%.

C. Department of Emergency Management, Jody Ferguson

Norma reminder that it is fire season but reminder to take care of yourself and have a plan if you need to evacuate your residence. There is a CCTA Scenes of Violence Model Procedure Refresher Training coming up where you can select from two (2) training dates. This was sent out to the MSOs. There will be an exercise coming up as well.

E. West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake, WR Council Chair

Anne Benoit, Executive Director for the West Region EMS Council is retiring. There is going to be a celebration of her retirement at the September 1st WREMS Council meeting. An announcement will go out. They have hired Greg Perry who was with a local fire department in Thurston County and has been working with Anne the last couple of weeks.

The WREMS council didn't do a usual conference in 2021 and probably will not in 2022. However, they are sponsoring several smaller workshops throughout the summer. There is going to be a cadaver lab on September 9-11 (9th-10th: ALS skills; 11th: BLS skills). A notice will be sent out.

New Business: None

Unscheduled Business: Tom Lamanna commented on the MCI plan and activity. A couple of months ago they started doing 30 minute monthly drills with CPFR without patient movement regarding the processes around how they activate. Live events recently occurred, and a couple of things became apparent. The protocol is still in draft form from 2015. It seems there is some different understanding and processes. The hospitals wanted to get involved and provide input. Tom proposed to bring this to the council in the next couple of weeks. Norma said that the MCI plan has been on the operations agenda for quite some time but got deferred. We can institute it back to the top of the agenda for next week's meeting. She also reminded that the MCI plan is a fire chiefs plan not a protocol, however, it still needs to come to the operations committee for input and then to the EMS Council for input and comment because it doesn't just affect fire agencies.

Announcements: Notes

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned @ 10:27 am.

Respectfully Submitted: Donna Vitale, Scribe EMS Office