

PIERCE COUNTY EMS MPD BASE STATION & ALS TRAINING PHYSICIAN MINUTES
July 22, 2021 – 08:00 AM

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Waffle at 8:08 am. Introductions were made via rollcall.

Base Station Reports/Issues:

- A. Good Sam, Tom Lamanna** – Prior to MAMC stopping being a Base Station, we would get 30-35 base station calls a day. Now we receive about 85 calls a day. He reminded everyone about the visitor policy and masking family members when they are transported with a patient. For Behavioral health, there are new laws. He would like to know if there is any evidence of transports to Wellfound.
- B. Madigan Army Health System** – No Representative Present
- C. Mary Bridge – Dr. O’Mahony** – They have seen an increase in call volumes with up to about 20 base station calls a day. There is an increase in the volume of trauma patients. They are working on fine tuning field disposition. She requested that EMS providers are reminded to get patient vitals before calling base station and to remember that children 15 years old and up stay in the adult system.
- D. St. Anthony, Karmela Palmer** – They have new physicians in the ER. She will get the names of the new physicians to Dr. Waffle so they can be reported to the state and added to the physician list. They are planning a zoom base station meeting sometime around the end of August with an ortho services presentation.

‘ALS TRAINING PHYSICIAN’ Reports/Issues:

- A. AMR/RM** – No representative present.
- B. Buckley** – No representative present.
- C. CPFR, Dr. Steven Friedrick** – He met with LE regarding behavioral health patients.
- D. EPFR** – No representative present.
- E. Falck** – No representative present.
- F. GHFR – Calvin Johnson** – No representative present
- G. GFR** – No representative present.
- H. KPFR, Dr. John Campbell** – Key Peninsula has a base station training coming up on behavioral restraints.
- I. OVFR** – No representative present.
- J. TFD** – No representative present.

- K. **WPFR, Dr. Steven Friedrich** – They had a base station training two (2) days ago. They had Chief Zaro from Lakewood PD and Steilacoom PD Chief talking about the behavioral health models.
- L. **Tacoma Trauma Trust** – They are following procedures and doing case reviews, and handling business as usual.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business:

- A. **ED Handoff Delays** – There have been handoff delays in the ED of 50 minutes to an hour. A plan has been created since times are increasing as the EDs become full. Dr. Waffle mentioned that there is an online tool that is useful in showing delays that are significant, however, the last update on the tool was eight (8) days ago. That is not useful information. People in the field using the tool will help. Karmela Palmer mentioned a form that has been created to fill out for investigations. If the form is used, Dr. Waffle can go to the hospital with issues and to discuss solutions. If the website is used every single time a transport occurs, then the positives and negatives will be listed. It is a good idea to use the resources that are available.
- B. **Treatment & Transport of Violent Patients** – There are new laws that will significantly affect how law enforcement can respond. Law enforcement hands are tied by the law. If there is no criminal actions done by a patient, then law enforcement may not respond to assist with a violent or extremely uncooperative patient. Our protocols are pretty good; however, they have recently been updated to the national standards language. The state doesn't have a lot to offer on this subject. The protocol for this was reviewed and comments and suggestions were made.

Concerns were voices about contacting the Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) and that the extra step affects the workload of EMS unit. The unit cannot remain on scene for hours waiting for the DCR to arrive. Also, there is concern about the liability in leaving a patient. The best we can do is to provide a countywide approach to handle this. This approach is similar to what other MPDs are using. Showing that EMS has attempted to contact law enforcement, the Base Station and the Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) or Catholic Community Services (CCS) should reduce the liability. Safety of the crew and patient and documentation are very important things to consider. Further guidance is needed from the State.

- C. **COVID-19 Delta Variant** – The Covid-19 Delta Variant is becoming an issue. Double vaccination is a good protection against it although it doesn't mean you cannot become infected, but you won't become as ill if you do become infected. It is suggested that all EMS personnel get vaccinated due to the risk. Currently we are 60-85% vaccinated. Don't give up on PPE and vaccines.

Unscheduled: None at this time.

Announcements: Norma gave an update on the protocols. A solid target date is not available yet for the protocols. They have not been sent to the state as of yet. Due to COVID-19, EOC Activations and Vaccine Clinics, they have not been worked on as planned but we are trying to get them done.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 9:18 am.