

**PCEMS COUNCIL – GO TO MEETING  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
January 27, 2021 – 9:31 AM**

**Attendance:**

Membership Attendance Roster on File.

**Call to Order:**

Matt Waltrip called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. Attendance to the Go-To-Meeting was verified. Meeting minutes from September 30, 2020 were voted on and accepted as written.

**Unfinished Business/Standing Reports:**

**A. ‘Divert Committee’ Update – Dr.Waffle**

Meetings about the delays in ED transfer of care from EMS to the hospital staff have occurred. It seems to be caused from multiple issues: Staffing, Business of ED, how many ambulances arrive in close proximity to each other. They have a general agreement that handoff should occur within 15 minutes of EMS arrival. Anything that goes beyond 15 minutes would be reported, monitored and hospitals would look into issues on their side to make sure things would be corrected. An EMS Patient Follow-up Request form should be used purposely so we can improve our systems. The hospitals are committed to help us out in this regard and we need to be committed to working with them. Since there has been no real progress on the EMS side, we need to utilize the tools and do a lot better to make this happen. Karmela Palmer mentioned that she created an EMS hospital extended offload time case investigation form named: “EMS Hospital Transport Length of Stay Case Investigation Form”. Discussion ensued regarding the use of the form. A motion was made to approve the form to be utilized by all Pierce County EMS to document any delays of over 30 minutes in transferring Patient care over to an ED. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor, no opposition. Motion carried.

**B. TPCHD Update -Cindy Miron**

Norma said that the health department is super busy helping with the vaccination clinics and planning for the drop in vaccinations, Vaccinations are the main focus right now.

**C. Hospital Data Information Exchange- Russ McCallion**

Brad Dyson mentioned that we are getting outcomes from Off-Campus EDs and things are going well. There were some issues in South Hill, but they have been resolved.

**D. Recovery Innovations (RRC) Update – Jodie Leer**

A walk through in Parkland will occur on January 29<sup>th</sup>. They estimate another 35 days for final completion. After that they will turn over the information to the Department of Health so they can do an occupancy walk through so we can get licensed and can have folks on site. We expect

completion sometime in March. We are going to do a virtual open house and are going to do an onsite training for EMS personnel.

**E. Pierce County EDs extended wait times – Dr. Waffle/Karmela Palmer**

Covered in: item A. “Divert Committee’ Update.

**F. Ambulance Services in Pierce County- underserved/unserved- in process**

Norma said that we were going to have an ad-hoc group to identify any unserved and underserved but it was put on hold when the Olympic Ambulance request was denied by the Pierce County EMS Council. Eventually, Olympic Ambulance was approved by the State of Washington EMS Council as a BLS non-verified transport agency. Their underserved would be the Kaiser facilities. Norma will look at the West Region Strategic Plan to see if there is a need for a underserved/unserved list. For now, this is tabled.

**G. MCI- Plan Scenes of Violence Protocol- Russ McCallion/Jeff Moore- Tabled**

Norma said that Russ was working on the MCI Plan with the Health Department. The Scenes of Violence Protocol was being worked on by Jeff with Jim Jacques. Brad Dyson said that Chief Jacques is retired and Jeff Moore is no longer in the EMS division. He will check Russ and will see where these stand and will update at the next meeting.

**H. Ebola & Other Highly Infectious Disease Transport Plan – In Process-Tabled**

Norma said we moved from Ebola to COVID but she will check with the state to see if they are still working on the State Highly Infectious Disease Transport Plan. This should remain on our radar.

**New Business:**

**A. Chair/Vice Chair Elections**

Matt Waltrip for chair and Kira Thirkield for vice-chair were nominated by unanimous ballot for 2021. A motion was made to accept the unanimous ballot, was seconded, and approved by vote with none opposed. Motion carried.

**B. Blood Draw in the Field- Tom Lamanna**

He did a little research on data about blood in the field and found minimal evidence of issues with blood in the field. He is looking at it in two (2) ways: 1) there is data that suggests that it shortens the length of their stay. 2) with Code Neuros, where your sample is already drawn, and you can quickly decide the plan of care. If we pursue this, we should have a subcommittee to focus on who would do this and what our priorities would be. Discussion was held. Tom will bring more back information after additional research.

**Unscheduled:**

**Wellfound Update:**

Norma said we have the Wellfound protocol. She hasn’t heard from anyone that the training has been done. She requested an email sent to her if the training is completed. Discussion was held about EKG and Wellfound. Waffle responded saying if an EKG was obtained for the medical condition of the patient, then it will be available and utilized, but you do not need to obtain an EKG

for everyone. Wellfound is comfortable with this. The Wellfound protocol, line o was changed to “if ECG was clinically indicated and performed by EMS.” Dr. Waffle will touch bases with Wellfound for an update.

Jeff Bambrick said he has been hearing reports in Tacoma that some of the patients that are experiencing homelessness and are COVID positive are being discharged from the hospital back into the street and shelters not to the Temporary Care Center (TCC). Aaron Karejwa responded saying that they have been helping the TCC with some of their field issues, but this hasn't hit his radar. They have seen people that refuse to go to the TCC.

**Announcements:**

The next meeting will be on March 31, 2021.

**Adjournment:** 10:35 AM

Scribe: Donna Vitale