

**PCEMS COUNCIL – GO TO MEETING
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 29, 2021 – 9:30 AM**

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File.

Call to Order:

The meeting was to order at 9:30 am by Matt Waltrip. Attendance to the meeting was verified. Meeting minutes from July 28, 2021 were voted on and accepted as written.

Unfinished Business/Standing Reports:

A. ‘Divert Committee’ Update – Dr. Waffle

The divert committee has not formally met. We discussed previously offloading issues which is also a discussion the state level. We are trying to use the forms that are available to EMS crews and the website to document and monitor our offload times. Discussion was held about possible ways to track or document offloading times. Dr. Waffle requested information to be sent to him. Hospitals are currently using Trauma Redirect. WATRAC can be used for tracking purposes and contains a feature to show any status change. Contact Scott Foster with NWHC show can walk you thorough the process.

B. TPCHD Update -Cindy Miron

Norma Pancake gave a partial update. 66,500 people are partially vaccinated. Approximately 1900 residents per day are getting vaccinated. Locations are available at the Lakewood Towne Center, Tacoma Mall and in Bonney Lake. There are 32 beds available, and they are looking to expand that. Flu season is beginning however, we have no report yet. The emissions testing site is committed through at least October but probably will be active through the end of the year since approximately 600 people per day are being tested.

Cindy Miron gave further information after she arrived at the meeting: As of September 28th, information for Covid in Pierce County:

- Total cases: 81,559;
- total new cases: 435,
- weekly average is 450;
- total deaths likely caused by Covid: 715;
- 31.6% positivity rate.
- New cases per 100,000 over a 14 day period is: 567.
- Covid hospitalizations per 100,000 over a 7 day period is 11.
- Total vaccinations administered 972,000.
- 55.7% of all residents that are eligible have been vaccinated.
- 466,200 are fully vaccinated;
- 66,500 are partially vaccinated,
- Approximately 1900 vaccinations per day in Pierce County.

- Vaccination sites are available in the Lakewood Towne Center and Tacoma Mall. They are looking to expand some testing locations.
- Isolation and quarantine data: there are 32 beds available at this time and they are looking to expand that capacity.
- There is no report for flu as of yet.

**C. WA State Health Information Exchange – Jeff Sinanian/Jim Jansen/WA DOH
PC Hospital Data Information Exchange Update- Brad Dyson—no report**

Jeff Sinanian gave an update on the WA State Health Information Exchange, the WEMIS health care integration.

The HIE Roadmap Workgroup Vision-

- Integrate WEMIS into the WA State Health Information Exchange (HIE) to facilitate secure data access and exchange.
- Enable EMS participation in the HIE to improve data exchange with hospitals and other data systems.
- Increased ability to use data to improve field approaches
- Improve outcomes for those using emergency services

The HIE Roadmap Workgroup Purpose-

- Leveraging Partner Expertise
- Eliciting Input
 - Use case for the HIE
 - Potential Barriers
 - General Concerns and Comments
- Production of a Roadmap Document

WA EMS HIE Project-

- Test connection to the Health Information Exchange
 - Phase 1: Can EMS submit data to the HIE?
 - Barriers? Costs? Technical limitations?
 - Phase 2: TBD – determine priorities through HIE Roadmap
 - Partners – Image Trend, OneHealthPort, pilot EMS services
 - Complete by September 30th, 2021
 - Pilot information coming soon
 - Identify funding and reimbursement opportunities

Clarifications-

- Are EMS services required?
 - No, HIE participation is voluntary.
- Do EMS services have to change existing exchange systems.
 - No, existing exchange systems do not need to change.
- What will this cost EMS services?
 - No HIE fee during testing/pilot phase.
 - OneHealthPort HIE fee schedule applies after test/pilot
 - Individual ePCR vendor fees possible

Possible Uses-

- EMS Provider accesses patient information while treating patient.
- EMS Provider accesses patient information after treatment at hospital.
- EMS Provides hospital with the ePCR.

Next Steps-

- Working to finalize the document that will outline this roadmap and the approaches that they are looking to invest in or move forward to. The roadmap should be available by September 30th.
- Others would definitely be something that would take the solicitation of additional funding and grants.
- They appreciate the participation of EMS partners to let them know the direction they need to go in.
- They are no longer holding the HEI workgroup but are exchanging information at the general WEMISIS workgroup.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact them at WEMISIS@doh.wa.gov.

D. Recovery Innovations (RRC) Update – Jodie Leer

No update at this time.

E. MCI Plan- Ryan McGrady/Tom Lamanna

The County Fire Chiefs had a draft MCI Plan, but it was not formally approved. WPFR ran some MCI drills and made some internal changes. CPFR has done something similar. Jesse Fox said they have a second round of battalion level MCI drills scheduled for October.

They are hoping to put together a workgroup and provide an operational proposal package by the end of October. CPFR will take the lead, put together a workgroup and will make sure all the players are involved so they will have the operational proposal package ready for the November 24th meeting.

Norma asked to include the EMS office, the NWRHN, Cindy Miron from TPCHD, Tom Lamanna and possibly Mary Hallman from TFD to get the MCI plan updated.

This should also be brought to the protocol committee because it is proposing a different triage system other than start. (SALT versus START). Jesse Fox said he is happy to give the presentation at the next protocol committee meeting

F. Trauma Redirect Procedure Update – Dr. Waffle/Eileen Newton/Heidi Rock

Tom Lamanna recommended that the Trauma Redirect Policy be rescinded and that we go back to the usual procedure. It was reported that this is a recommendation from all the trauma leaders from all the facilities. They felt this is a different way to say divert and that there are no metrics or guidelines around it for when it is activated. Everyone thought it was a temporary one weekend thing but has now been implemented twice. Norma Pancake said that we will take this message back to the preparedness and emergency managers who brought it up at the COO/CEO level.

G. Ambulance Services in Pierce County- underserved/unserved- tabled

H. Ebola & Other Highly Infectious Disease Transport Plan- In Process-tabled

New Business:

A. EMS Agency status reports relative to vaccine mandate? Dr Waffle & all

Dr. Waffle said the Governor signed an executive order that all health care providers in the State of Washington to be vaccinated. The state has said they have the potential to remove certification or licenses. There hasn't been any specific statement on how lenient they will be. He inquired as to whether this mandate will adversely affect EMS agencies. Discussion ensued with the result being that most agencies have a high vaccination rate but there will be a risk to some staffing. Norma Pancake said that if you go to www.tpchd.org you can find information about upcoming vaccination clinics to get the process started. Dr. Waffle said he will pass the status of Pierce County to DOH.

Unscheduled:

Notes

Announcements:

The next meeting will be on November 24, 2021.

Adjournment: 10:50 AM

Scribe: Donna Vitale