

**PCEMS COUNCIL – GO TO MEETING
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 26, 2022 – 10:00 AM**

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File.

Call to Order:

The meeting was to order at 9:47 am by Matt Waltrip. Attendance to the meeting was verified. Meeting minutes from November 23, 2021, were voted on and accepted as written.

Unfinished Business/Standing Reports:

A. ‘Divert Committee’ Update – Dr. Waffle

No update as the divert committee has not formally met.

B. TPCHD Update -Cindy Miron

For COVID-19 numbers, please check the TPCHD website. The data is an accurate look for viewing on your own. We are still in a surge. Testing locations are doing between 1000-1500 tests per day. The positive numbers are starting to come down. We are looking at how we can spread testing throughout the county. People can get home test kits as an option. The only problem with the home test kits is that we do not know the results unless they report them. Yesterday, there was a recommendation to pull back on contact tracing. The future of COVID is much more endemic now and guidelines will be changing as it goes. The message is still the same: *Get vaccinated as you will be less likely to be hospitalized or die. Masks and social distancing work to prevent the spread.* Flu is low and there are no outbreaks in long term care happening at this time. If any FD is interested in having a mobile team come to the station for COVID boosters, please let Cindy know.

C. PC Hospital Data Information Exchange Update- Brad Dyson

We switched to the AD system county wide and it has gone well so far. A suggestion was made to keep it on the agenda as well; that there is a benefit to keeping it. There is conversation over the last couple of months that has value.

D. Recovery Innovations (RRC) Update – Tammy Simons

Tammy mentioned that the new facility (CRC) is now accepting new patients. They opened on August 16, 2021. EMS can now bring patients who are in mental health crisis at any time. There is no need to call first, but the EMS protocol says to. The only exclusion is if the patient has a medical concern as the primary complaint. The center is for short term crisis. They are evaluated within 72 hours. Norma mentioned that the Crisis Recovery Center phone number has been added to the protocol update regarding behavioral health transports and that the Pierce County Protocols state that we will have to call the RRC and CRC as a practice. Matt Waltrip mentioned that training still needs to be done for this. Tammy said they are ready to do the training and can assist. Norma requested that Tammy send her contact information to the EMS office and the agencies will contact her for training.

E. MCI Plan- Ryan McGrady

They have the King County and Thurston County Plans. The Pierce County plan is not ready yet but we are going through the process of doing that. SALT training needs to be implemented into the MCI plan. They are working through the process to implement. Once they get further along, they will include stakeholders, DMCC, TPCHD, PCEM in the discussions, then to the PCEMS Operations Cmte and PCEMS MPD for approval. A rough copy was sent out last week to limited people, was reviewed and comments sent back to Joe last week. The timeline for the final production is the sooner the better. They hope to have something to present before the March meeting. This will be a living plan that will need to be reviewed at least every two (2) years and updated when needed. They will be giving an update at the West Region regarding drills and working through the processes.

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

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

New Business:

A. Olympic Ambulance > ALS Service – Chris Clem

Olympic Ambulance has been serving Kaiser for about a year now. They would like to upgrade their licensure to allow paramedics. They want to expand how much they are able to help the system, especially places where facilities are seeing backups. This is not a formal request yet but a conversation to see if they can add an additional certification. They would serve the underserved areas where the need is. Olympic Ambulance was recently purchased by MetroWest Ambulance, and they are in transition into part of a larger service. They have been taking other interfacility requests as well. Concern was voiced that if an agency is coming in does it push out our current private ambulance agencies. Another factor to consider is that we are all experiencing difficulty with COVID and staffing. Would this reduce the ability to get staffing with the increase of competition? Chris mentioned he is not wanting to stress the labor pool but add people into the labor pool. They will need to fill out the application to upgrade to ALS, submit it to the State DOH/EMS Office and then they will forward it to the West Region.

B. Trans-West Ambulance Service- John Simbeck

Norma mentioned that Trans-West Ambulance is also seeking ambulance service in Pierce County and were invited to this meeting, but no representative was on. They were told by the state that they are not licensed in the county so they cannot operate in the county. More to come on this.

C. PCEMS Equipment & Meds List Update- Norma Pancake

Norma has been working on the PC EMS medication list in the protocols. There will likely be changes. New scope of practice items have been added for EMR and EMT level. She will send it out to get input for the next meeting. One thing that was noticed is that there were no pediatrics sizes. Dr. O'Mahony mentioned that the sizes for peds should be listed down to a 1. We have been hoping that the state would have the equipment list updated but with COVID, the movement has gotten behind. Norma said she will send the list out and requested that everyone start looking at them and report back any suggestions. We will continue this at the next meeting.

Unscheduled:

None at this time.

Announcements:

A reminder was mentioned for crews to fill out the form and submit it to Karmela Palmer when there are issues about delays or extended wait times in off-loading patients at EDs.

The next meeting will be on March 30, 2022.

Adjournment: 11:05 am

Scribe: Donna Vitale