

**PC EMS COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 31, 2017**

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File.

Call to Order

Russ McCallion called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Introductions were made and previous meeting minutes were provided, voted on, and accepted as written.

Unfinished Business:

A. Community Healthcare Access (Divert) Report – Todd Jenson

It's going well. In the Collaboration Workgroup there was an ACH (Accountable Communities of Health) Presentation and they will continue to work together. ACH provides immediate funding. The Charge Nurse Workgroup is doing great work with WATrac and they are using it. Their best practices will be coming out soon. They are looking for 6-8 EMS personnel to sit on a sub-committee group and gather more data/detail/input.

The Alternative Receiving Facility Workgroup, which Mike Newhouse is on, is having difficulty determining the alternative facilities because they widely vary. They are looking at the need for categorizing patients and facilities. This group is having the most difficulty.

The Trauma Designation Workgroup is not moving ahead with any changes right now there are labor issues that need to be resolved.

Russ asked about how to determine the preparedness of PMs and EMTs to accurately recognize levels of severity in the patient. There was discussion on this topic. Ryan Gerecht said we need to focus on getting the "low hanging fruit" instead of trying to identify every patient.

Russ recommended an introduction be given on ACH.

B. TPCHD Update – Cindy Miron

The flu season was much worse this year. The vaccine wasn't a very good match.

There is not a lot on clinical diseases and responses.

If there is not a budget signed by the end of June, WATrac will end. Chris Rock stated that we should all have a backup to WATrac anyway. Much discussion followed.

Scott Foster will no longer be at TPCHD; he's taking a new position with Healthcare Coalition.

Russ requested that we set up a meeting with EMS coordinators to make sure we have a backup plan if WATrac goes down. Norma suggested to take it to a higher level, such as EMD, State Fire chiefs, Hospital Association, etc for them to endorse having a redundant WATRAC system.

C. Hospital Data Information Exchange – Russ McCallion and Jeff Moore

Jeff said there have been very few issues. Only 8% of the time were we unable to get the data. It has worked very smoothly. Mary Bridge and Tacoma General have gone live without any problems. They would like to have more detail on the diagnoses.

Russ explained that they are trying to achieve the right balance between too little information and becoming overwhelming. Their goal is for there to be less paper in EMS personnel hands.

Trish Niehl from CHI Franciscan, added that they are moving forward and hope to have it ready by the fall in order to get on board. She asked if we would like updates. Russ replied that every other month would be good.

Three more hospitals are going live, including Allenmore and Covington.

New Business:

A. EMS and Mental Health Crisis Services – ~~Monet Craton~~ Jodie Leer

Jodie introduced her presentation available on YouTube, saying, “It’s a video on Pierce County EMS mental health services and it’s for you!” It pulls together into one place a lot of information out there. It coordinates LE with EMS and potential facility transport.

Norma raised the question of who stays with the patient in case they cannot be alone. We don’t want to hold up ambulances from getting back into the field. Russ answered that it is a case by case situation. Norma added that a psyche patient is a medical patient. There was continued discussion on where to send psyche patients, whether they are voluntary or involuntary, in handcuffs, injured, etc. Jodie said the RRC does not like to have to decline people, even if they are over capacity.

***** This Video and related documents have been linked to the EMS Website under Training*****

B. MMRS Assets – ~~Karrie Austin~~/Cindy Miron

Cindy said she has notations that MMRS assets are in the community. She asked, “Are they are still there and how do we use them?” Chris Rock replied that he has the list and will try to work to update it. He asked about changing the name.

Unscheduled Business:

Tim Lookabaugh asked about retention records. WA State law say that EMT/PM records should be kept for 8 years. Tim asked, “Who keeps these?” Norma replied that the originator is responsible and added that we keep our files in the PC Archive; but each agency needs to retain their own.

Dan Beckman stated that CPFR is having issue with non-9-1-1 transports. The questions asked: “Is there any recourse?” “Anyone else having issues?” The comment was made that dispatch does not have a good system to handle these non-9-1-1 calls. Russ said, “We don’t do non-emergency calls. Dr. Gerecht said patients are actually being harmed because ambulances don’t have the proper equipment to transport nursing home patients. Much discussion followed with a number of examples given. Russ suggested putting this topic on the Ops agenda for next meeting. The question was also raised, “Could this be an issue to bring to the Community Access Committee?”

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned @ 11:07 am.