

PC EMS COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 29, 2020 – 10:00 AM

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File.

Call to Order:

Russ McCallion called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Introductions were made around the room. Meeting minutes from November 27, 2019 were voted on and accepted as written.

Unfinished Business/Standing Reports:

A. 'Divert Committee' – Dr. Waffle

Dr. Waffle mentioned that recently, he attended a Community Healthcare Access Steering Committee meeting. This is originally the Divert Committee. The committee is made up of CEOs/CFOs from agencies around the county. These are the people with the authority to assign personnel to get things done. They will be identifying the top problems that are brought to them and come up with solutions. Dr. Waffle would like everyone to email your top issues to him. The long delay of turn-over in the ER is one suggestion mentioned.

B. TPCHD Update -Cindy Miron

Cindy Miron gave presentation on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak. This is a virus that started in Wuhan, China. The first case in the United States was in Snohomish County. This virus is spread the same as the common cold with symptoms like the common cold. Protect yourself by washing your hands frequently, avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, avoid contact, stay home if sick. The public health response is to learn more, plan for and investigate possible cases, respond to concerns, implement control measures, providing guidance and keeping the public informed with timely and accurate information and handling rumors. For EMS the public risk is low. Follow the DOH guidelines. More information about the coronavirus 2019 is available on the TPCHD website. The Flu (Variant B Strain) is increasing but should start dropping at the end of February.

C. Hospital Data Information Exchange- Russ McCallion

Make sure hospital data is updated in a timely manner. Housekeeping on the hospital side is to register folks and have a point of contact identified. ED manager at St. Frances is helping to move it along as well. The off campus EDs need to be added so we can see their data for transports. Physician notes can be seen.

D. MCI- Plan Scenes of Violence Protocol- James Jacques/Russ McCallion/Jeff Moore

A protocol has been created for the scenes of violence in which law enforcement informs how to respond to scenes of violence. We are actively working on a protocol for this; however, we are not clear if it is necessary.

E. Off-Campus ED Update- Dr. Waffle

The Bonney Lake off campus ED opened on December 5, 2019. 38 patients were transported there in the first month. 2 of the 38 patients were identified that they shouldn't have gone to the off-campus ED but to the hospital. A third off campus ED is scheduled to open on July 29, 2020 in South Hill.

F. Google docs demo to supplement Watrac – Ryan McGrady

Ryan McGrady gave a demonstration of the Google doc that they use in place of Watrac. It is an easy sheet platform that can be downloaded to ipads and phones. This system also creates great communication between EMS and hospitals. It is a simple system so people will be more willing to utilize it. It uses color coding: green-wide open, yellow-saturated, red-extended wait. Someone mentioned that any system is only as good as the updates that are made. One problem is that the protocols state that you go to the nearest facility. If the nearest facility is in red (meaning wait time), does that mean you don't follow the protocols to the nearest facility? Although the patient could be informed of the issue and make the decision to go to a different facility. This system is simpler than Watrac so it is more likely to be used and updated. A request was made to have the login information sent out and use it for the next two (2) months as a pilot program. The committee voted to approve the use of the Google doc for the next two (2) months and follow up at the March meeting.

G. Ebola & Other Highly Infectious Disease Transport Plan- in process-tabled

New Business:

A. Chair/Vice-Chair elections

At the last meeting, nominations for 2020 were made of Matt Waltrip for Chair and Kira Thirkield for Vice Chair. Further nominations were requested, none received. Matt Waltrip was voted as the chairperson and Kira Thirkield was voted as the vice-chairperson.

Unscheduled:

A. Dispatch Health – Dr. Waffle

Dispatch Health is going well. It is still flu season and the assisted living patients are using dispatch health. Call volumes are up. While we are still in the pilot stages, we don't want to overwhelm the system, so they are working on doing more hiring. They have had 104 referrals since July.

B. Equipment List Addition

A request was made to add a doppler added to the optional equipment list. The suggestion was made to look at the entire list and update it. Dr. Waffle said to send your additions to the chair and vice-chair who will then send them to Norma and Dr. Waffle.

Announcements:

The next Operations Committee meeting is Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Adjournment: 10:56 AM