

PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES

October 18, 2018

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Cynde Rivers. Introductions made around the room.

Previous meeting minutes were noted as being provided electronically; motion to accept, seconded and approved as written.

Treasurers Report Karmela Palmer, Secretary-Treasurer –

Karmela provided the report. Motion to accept as presented, seconded and approved.

Program Reports:

A. MPD/Base Station, Dr. Waffle, MD, MPD –

There were several issues discussed in the Base Station Committee Meeting:

- There was discussion about the 'Leave Behind Narcan' program, where Narcan is left at the home with friends/family for patients who may need it in the future. While the State EMS Office understands the purpose of this program, it is not under the purview of the MPD and EMS in the WAC. Dr. Waffle said he is okay with it, but it must be part of a 'FD-CARES' program and the medical oversight is done by the prescribing physician of the group giving the Narcan kits to the FDs.
- Dr. Waffle has been working at getting paramedics into the ORs with Multicare HS and hopes CHI HS will also open their OR to paramedics. The MultiCare system is in the process but needs some follow up communication. Dan Beckman said CPFR did sign a Multicare contract. Dr. Friedrich asked if Dr. Waffle has had any contact with the ME about acquiring cadavers ETs. Dr. Waffle replied, "No" and explained that the ME's office does not have bodies that they can have outsiders do procedures on because most of the ones they autopsy must be done for legal purposes. There was more discussion on how to obtain ETs.

B. Committees:

Training & Development, ~~Patsy Maloney~~ – Not present.

- Norma spoke for Patsy saying that the T&D Committee approved one new SEI.
- Patsy had written letters to both hospital systems regarding opening their facilities/ORs to paramedics for intubations.
- There are updated EMR and EMT skills sheets that will be out soon from the State EMS Office.
- The Travis Alert Act training is coming out, and must be conducted by all EMS agencies for their personnel by December 2019.

Operations, Russ McCallion –

Russ said they are working on a number of projects: the MCI Plan, alternate care facilities, and CCS interventions.

CQI, Ryan McGrady –

At the last CQI meeting Valerie Lyttle talked about Stroke and Sepsis. Valerie made herself available to go to Base Station meetings and talk to them about this subject.

State PHTAC/ Stroke TAC is seeking changes to the stroke protocol: 'FAST' will stay as opposed to 'BEFAST', but the window will be increased to 24 hours.

Protocol, Cynde Rivers –

Cynde reported that the main conversation was about stroke protocols. PHTAC supports the change of "up to 24 hours" in the final tool. Dr. Waffle said it's simple to change the tool from 6 to 24. Do we do that now? No, wait for the State process to finish.

Community Access to Care Committee, ~~Mike Newhouse~~ Not present.

Dr. Waffle said that they met last Tuesday. It appears that a lot of the committees have been successful and completed their tasks. Accountable Communities of Health is overseeing the Alternate Access committee now, which was hindered dealing with legal issues and the fact that urgent care facilities were not unified in their capabilities. It was too difficult for EMS to determine where to take which patient because of inconsistent criteria. The overall intention of the committees has been accomplished and the members are integrated into the larger community. The Alternative Access Committee can't go forward due to legal issues, but the freestanding EDs may fill the need. The Steering Committee is now meeting twice a year instead of monthly. Cindy Miron added that urgent care facilities are not being managed correctly and have a lack of physicians.

C. Tacoma-Pierce County Health, Cindy Miron –

Cindy announced that they've started seeing some patients with the flu, but nothing unusual for this time of year. Also, they are tracking AFM (Acute Flaccid Myelitis). There has been one case in Pierce County, MRI is recommended for diagnosis.

D. West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake –

Norma referred to the prehospital agency min/max review to be addressed later in the meeting. 'Rehab without Walls' came to present at the last council meeting. They are willing to help EMS with a protocol where EMS can call them from the field with referrals of patients who may need rehab help secondary to TBI, strokes, etc, ...more to follow once we meet again. The WREMS Conference will be 22-24 March 2019 at Ocean Shores.

E. Department of Emergency Management, Kyle Bustad –

Kyle announced the Drop, Cover and Hold Drill occurring at 10:18. He also informed the group of the Pre-Winter Storm Meeting on 23 October from 9:00 – 11:00 in the EOC, followed by a PCEM Open House from 11:30 – 1:30.

Unfinished Business:

A. New RRC Facility Update – Jodie Leer

Jodie stated that they are working at getting dual certification to treat both substance abuse and behavioral health patients. She will review the protocols to update contact information. She also said she's willing to come to Base Stations to educate EMS on their facility.

New Business:

A. Prehospital Agency Min/Max Review – Norma Pancake

Norma provided a handout and reviewed the Min/Max report. The ad hoc of the Operations Committee met and reviewed the numbers and data. Demand has increased for EMS resources. Trauma incident numbers have stayed level while cardiac/stroke numbers have increased, but the population has also increased, so it is not exceptional. McNeil Island Center and Mt. Rainier NP remain areas of concern due to being understaffed. A motion was made to approve the report, it was seconded, and passed as written.

B. Free-Standing EDs – Dr. Clark Waffle

Dr. Waffle announced that there is going to be a meeting at 11:00 with MultiCare about their Free-Standing EDs / Off-Campus EDs. We are developing an exclusionary protocol with them. They will not be taking behavioral health patients. They plan to begin seeing patients in March, April or May of 2019. There will be three freestanding EDs available in the future, the first one in the Parkland area. They will be open 24/7. The goal is to transport the most appropriate patients to these facilities. They are contracted with Falck to transport patients out to local EDs as needed. Dr. Waffle concluded inviting feedback.

C. Open Public Meetings Training – Norma Pancake

Open public meetings laws are at [RCW 42.30](#) and [RCW 42.32](#). There was training conducted per RCW 42.30.205 via the State AG website and noted on sign-in roster. Training source: <https://www.atg.wa.gov/opengovernmenttraining.aspx>

Unscheduled Business:

A. Elections – Norma Pancake

Norma reminded the council that January is elections time. It was suggested by a council member that elections of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer be extended to two years instead of one. The motion was made, seconded and approved for two years in office.

Announcements:

The Freestanding / Off-Campus ED planning meeting is coming up at 11:00.

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:50 am.