

PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES

January 17, 2019

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by Cynde Rivers. Introductions were 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:

- Exercise of the H.E.A.R. radio and the 800 MHz radio systems.
- Thurston County went on divert recently sending their units to Pierce County, which created overcrowding issues with our hospitals. There will need to be a discussion with Thurston County to plan and coordinate with them when they are diverting patients to our EDs in the future.
- Spinal motion restriction vs spinal immobilization. EMS has been transitioning away from using the backboard for immobilization to using a gurney to restrict spinal motion. Raising hospital staff awareness of the patient's condition is a concern with this change. Dr. Gerecht is spearheading the transition and has an OTEP video showing the advantages of spinal motion restriction and the ineffectiveness of back-boarding.
- Freestanding EDs are in process. The question was raised about LPNs answering the phones. It will be okay for them to answer basic questions, but not to triage patients.
- DispatchHealth Pilot is still awaiting the State's approval.
- The Wellfound Behavioral Health Hospital is having an open house from 10 to Noon today and everyone is encouraged to visit.
- The Trauma Tool has been accepted. Norma added that the tool on the back of the Trauma Calendar is not accurate.
- Dr. Waffle introduced and welcomed a new MPD delegate, Dr. John Campbell from Key Peninsula.

B. Committees:

Training & Development, Patsy Maloney – Not present.

- Norma spoke for Patsy saying that the State is providing training for the Travis Alert Act; it's done on a one-time basis. TFD may produce a video to be used as a training tool.
- There is a new 2018 EMR/EMT Skills Packet.
- Joseph Dilley was recommended for approval as an SEI.

Operations, Russ McCallion – No rep present/no report.

CQI, Ryan McGrady – No rep present/no report.

Protocol, Cynde Rivers –

Cynde reported that there are a few things to be discussed at the next meeting: Some wording clean-up in the protocol book, pediatric code cards, and the 'app'.

Community Access to Care Committee, Mike Newhouse

Still tabled.

C. Tacoma-Pierce County Health, ~~Cindy Miron~~ Malynda Green –

Malynda represented the TPCHD in Cindy's absence.

- They are monitoring the flu: it is elevated but not above average; the age is lower than normal though. The typical strain of flu is H1N1 which has been around before so people have built up some antibodies. Dr. Waffle added that the CDC released the news that the vaccine is moderately effective.
- Malynda talked about their big exercise coming in May. They will have 6 pallets of "medication" to distribute to the public.
- Malynda was part of an MCI meeting recently. They are working on a regional MCI plan that will include all agencies, not just EMS, and their involvement. They meet again in February.

D. West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake –

- They are still working on the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.
- MPDs are reviewing the regional MCI Plan.
- The WREMS Conference is March 22-24 at Ocean Shores.

E. Department of Emergency Management, ~~Scott Heinze~~ Kyle Bustad –

- PCEM is hosting Liaison Training for people who might be interested in working in our EOC during an activation.
- The County Executive has announced the selection of our new Director, Jody Ferguson (Woodcock). She was our Deputy Director a few years ago, moved on to King County as their Deputy Director and is returning to Pierce County, beginning Feb 19.

Unfinished Business:

A. New RRC Facility Update – Jodie Leer

- The Parkland facility is moving along. It's at the level of trivial discussions about what's required or not required, such as baths vs showers. There are no more issues with community rejection, "Not in my backyard" as Jodie put it.
- The RRC in Fife is very busy. They are working on transportation issues, not about coming into the facility, but being transported out.
- Norma asked Jodie how she felt about Western State potentially closing. Jodie replied that it's been a huge issue for RRC and other facilities that have taken in their patients. Some patients are violent or traumatized because they've been institutionalized for many years. It is a big problem for both the patient and where they end up going. Potentially it could become a big EMS or LE problem as well, when 911 is called.

- Norma asked the group if the Council should write a letter to individuals in county or state government expressing our concerns. The group agreed, so a motion was made and passed to write and send the letter. Jodie will supply the names and addresses of the persons to whom the letter should be sent.

New Business:

A. New Ambulance Service Application – NW Ambulance: Determine Unserved/Underserved areas to report to WREMS Council and State DOH

- Norma introduced Jeremy Yoder, Director of NW Ambulance. Jeremy provided a spiral bound book contain the license application for NW Ambulance. He talked about how nursing homes need transport to the hospital, but there is a lack of resources. NW Ambulance can fill that gap. They began 10 years ago in Everett and their main service area is in downtown Seattle and north to Canada. Their intention is to obtain a license to do interfacility transfers in Pierce County.
- Dan Beckman asked how many units they could provide. Jeremy replied that it is based on need. Norma asked about a headquarters in Pierce County. Jeremy said it will be identified once the application in received.
- Norma talked about specifics to the plan and criteria for NW Ambulance. She requested the Council provide names and addresses of the underserved areas or facilities. She asked for a list of examples of “Make the Right Call.” We need the Tacoma template, CPFR template, the type of expected calls.
- Jeremy asked if they could be exclusive to a specific agency. Norma answered that they have to make that call. We are on a time frame and need to get this info to WREMS and the State. She asked for addresses to underserved areas. For a start, there were 6 in Lakewood, 11 in Tacoma, 5 in Central Pierce, the Old Soldiers Home.
- A motion was made to approve the recommendation to meet the interfacility transport need of the underserved in Pierce County. This was unanimously approved.

Unscheduled Business: None

Announcements:

- a. Wellfound Behavioral Health Hospital Open House today from 10am to Noon. Opening in March 2019 – 3402 S. 19th St, Tacoma, 98405.
- b. WREMS Conference 22-24 March 2019 – Steven S Romines Scholarship still available.
Norma talked about the scholarship, saying there will be more to come with conference registration.
- c. Pediatric Disaster Response Course 16-17 April 2019, PCEM EOC
<http://piercecounty.surveymshare.com/s/AYAMIPD>

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned @ 10:47 am.