

PIERCE COUNTY EMS MPD BASE STATION MINUTES

April 21, 2016

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting called to order by Dr. Waffle at 8:05am. Introductions around the room.

Previous meeting minutes from January provided; motion to accept, seconded and approved as written.

Base Station Reports/Issues:

A. Good Sam, Karrie O'Brien – Had their Base Station Meeting a couple of weeks ago. Dr Hirsig spoke on toxicology. They are looking for some other speakers. EMS Intake is working great.

B. Madigan Army Health System, Dr. Misner – They are in the process of upgrading their radios and project should be complete by midsummer. The Cath Lab has been down due to redesign and now they are having some software problems since the redesign. They are prepping for the Cascadia Exercise. There will be an air show in late summer.

C. Mary Bridge, Cynde Rivers – Introduced new Base Station Physician, Dr. Utkarsh Fichadia. The Pediatric Psych Wing is on schedule to be opening around September.

D. St. Anthony, Karmela Little – Base Station-wise there is nothing new. This meeting conflicts with their physician meeting. She is trying to work on this issue.

'Base Station Meetings Equivalent' Reports/Issues:

A. AMR, Dr. Jeffrey Morse – In the next 3-6 months, they will have a better idea of the direction of their Base Stations. At the last Base Station, Dr. Morse presented on Suicide Bombers. He also speaks at Buckley FD. With the merger, things are in a state of flux, but progressing positively.

B. CPFR, ~~Dan Beckman~~ Dr. Steven Friedrich – Base Station Meeting yesterday went well. They had a PAM Refresher. Dr. Friedrich also brought up the issue of dealing continually with the same difficult patient. This man has genuine medical issues, but has become violent requiring LE to be called. Dr. Friedrich requested some kind of backup or support from EMS. There was further discussion on this issue and whether a patient can choose the hospital to which he is transported.

C. EPFR, Dr. Stephen Barnhart – They have a total of 6 Base Stations a year and 18 dates on the calendar in altogether.

D. GHFR, Calvin Johnson – No rep.

E. GFR, Todd Jensen – For the second quarter, there will be an Airway Refresher. Mention made of the bounty hunter shooting.

F. KPFR – No rep.

G. RM, Nicholas Gray – No rep.

H. TFD, Dr. Billingsley – The next online Base Station is coming soon.

I. WPFR, Bill Barber – Had their Base Station 2 days ago. They are doing a full PAM Course next Thursday. Base Station for May (CPFR) will be moving up a week; Norma requested an email to document this change. Bill Barber talked about "pig plucks" for ET practice; discussion followed; Norma requested the info so it can be put on the PAM Website.

Unfinished Business:

- A. **Transport of mental health patients Update, Dr. Waffle** – a new MultiCare/Franciscan Health System Psych Hospital is coming; it will be 2 ½ - 3 years before it opens. A private entity has also expressed interest in building a psych hospital in the South Sound. The biggest challenge will be to find nurses, staff, and other providers. Dr. Waffle stated that the House Bill 1721 is working on the development of the final WAC Transport Guidelines to an Alternate Mental Health/Substance Abuse Rehab facility. Norma said there is still tweaking to be done; it's too restrictive for Pierce County; going to MPDs in June to discuss further. Guidelines should be negotiable, but some of these so far are not. Discussion followed regarding the combining of mental health and substance abuse.
- B. **Divert, Dr. Waffle** – They are meeting weekly to try to fix these issues; some of the ideas suggested will work, others are far-fetched. More than a divert issue is that fact that facilities are overwhelmed. There will be some workable solutions, but not all of the problems will be resolved.

Divert solutions/suggestions:

- Combining resources; FD Cares/MultiCare and Franciscan programs; better integration and less redundancy.
- Designate Tacoma General and St. Joseph as Level II trauma centers everyday instead of switching off and on; right now they are zero level trauma on off days. Discussion followed regarding Level II and Level III designations.
- Todd Jensen laid out 3 main issues: 1) how we send and receive ambulance traffic, 2) community response gap/growth/capacity, and 3) alternative care protocols.
- Russ mentioned the benefit of using urgent care centers instead of ERs for less severe cases. Discussion followed. Russ added that the Federal Estimate is that 15% of patients that end up in the ER could go to an urgent care facility. The question was raised by the Urgent Care agencies about taking non-insured or Medicare patients.

New Business:

- A. **Falck, Scott Jones** – no Base Station yet but will work with Norma on this.

Unscheduled:

None

Announcements:

Norma announced that it is Red Cross National Giving Day and they support the fire agencies in our county by providing dwelling fire victims with temporary housing.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 9:16am.