

**PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**April 21, 2016**

**Attendance:**

Membership Attendance Roster on File

**Call to Order**

The meeting called to order at 9:30am by Cynde Rivers, Chair. Introductions made. Previous meeting minutes from January 2016 provided; motion to accept, seconded and approved as written.

**Treasurers Report, Karmela Little:**

January, February and March 2016 Treasurer's reports provided, voted on, and accepted as presented.

**Program Reports:**

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

The State has changed the funding process to combine mental health and substance abuse.

The Divert Sub-committee has been meeting the last several weeks. We are experiencing mostly a growth issue and finding solutions to the problems.

**B. Committees:**

**Training & Development, Patsy Maloney** – We overviewed the NREMT Exam. You can look at it on the NREMT Website.

**Operations, Russ McCallion** – at the last meeting reps from WA DOH reported regarding the Coverdale Grant program on stroke; their proposal is to redo the stroke triage tool. Handouts of draft proposal of the WA Prehospital Stroke Triage Destination Procedure were provided. They liked the starred version and approved it. Russ also added that there's renewed interest in the Hospital Data Exchange to tie it together and get better results.

**CQI, Christopher Barnard** – Unable to attend last meeting. The lessons learned and presentation will be posted now that the minutes are approved.

**Protocol, Cynde Rivers** – Continuing to plug away at the sections. There is a conflict with the next meeting scheduled at the end of the month, so Norma requested that everyone work on their sections and submit them to the EMS office in lieu of the next meeting that will be cancelled. That way a draft can be prepared for the May meeting.

**Divert, Todd Jensen** – has data to provide consistency across the board; numbers are way up, shows inconsistency with current divert plan. Todd provided the handout. Russ raised the question and concern: what if we have a bad flu season next year? Dr. Waffle responded that it is a big problem which we are all working together to solve. He commended the attitude between agencies. Todd Jensen agreed that there is good cooperation and progress. Discussion followed.

**C. Tacoma-Pierce County Health, Scott Foster** – They are monitoring for Zika, but do not expect it to be a problem. We are having a longer than normal flu season.

There was a positive case of TB at Gig Harbor High School, but no other cases have been reported. Scott responded that there is a conference call going on and unified command is to work on the issue. There will be a report on this as its available; lots of concerned calls to TPCHD.

**D. West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake** – The conference is over and now they are working on strategic planning.

**E. Department of Emergency Management, Lowell Porter Norma Pancake** – An item of focus right now is the big Cascadia Rising EQ Exercise the first week of June. This is a multi-agency, multi-state exercise many jurisdictions in Pierce County are participating in.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Transport of mental health patients update, Dr. Waffle** – Reiterated what was already discussed regarding the law change. Todd Jensen asked about how it is going with LE. Norma replied that they're going to do a presentation to the Pierce County Police Chiefs Association today.

**New Business:**

**Change Committee Bylaws Regarding Appointment Letters** – Instead of renewing committee leadership/letter of appointment every year, people take positions and only do renewals in the event of a change. The exception would be At-Large positions, which need review every 3 years, and the Ambulance Assoc position, which is rotated internally each year. A motion was made to accept this procedure; it was seconded, voted upon, and approved. Norma asked that quarterly Council Meetings be added to the bylaws and this motion was also approved.

**Unscheduled Business:**

Norma proposed that we have a short presentation at the Council Meeting that would be pertinent to all the attendees and benefit EMS. A motion was made to add an educational or informative presentation to the council agenda. Approved. Russ reported that Ed Racht of AMR will be reporting to the MPD Meeting on June 6 and it was suggested that we arrange a webinar that could be presented at a council meeting.

**Announcements:**

Active shooter at Fife High School is coming up.

Norma reminded everyone that it is Red Cross Annual Giving Day so go online to donate, this benefits Pierce County citizens because the ARC does assist at many fires in providing temporary housing.

Todd Jensen encouraged everyone to wear seat belts. He gave an example of when one of their vehicles was totaled, but the staff was fine because they had their seat belts fastened. Their policy is that "you're fired if you're not wearing your seat belt." Norma added that the use of restraints on the gurneys for patients is required as well, or there could be liability issues. There was also further discussion on restraining the medics in the back of the ambulance.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:22am