

PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES
October 20, 2016

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 9:31am by Kevin Heindel, from R/M who chaired the meeting. Introductions made around the room.

Previous meeting minutes from July 2016 were provided; motion to accept, seconded and approved as written.

Treasurers Report, ~~Karmela Little~~ – Not present

Norma provided copies of the report. Reports were reviewed, voted and approved to accept the reports as presented.

Program Reports:

- A. MPD/Base Station, Dr. Waffle, MD, MPD** – The Base Station committee just met prior to this meeting. Base Stations and agencies are working quite well. There was an issue with St. Jo's having thoracic surgery coverage. It was brought up that there are some dates in the future that there will be a shortage. One of their doctors that left rather suddenly. St. Jo's is in the process of hiring a new thoracic surgeon, but the date is uncertain at this time.

Work continues on the Divert Plan, which actually means that divert is no longer in play, but it is now addressed as a patient access issue. There is an oversight committee in place to make decisions, remove roadblocks, and set policies and procedures with the goal of improving patient access. Several workgroups are addressing various aspects of patient access. This will take time, effort and planning to overcome the obstacles. Mike Newhouse is chair for the Alternative Care Workgroup. We are already seeing improvement based on the collaboration of the Charge Nurse Committee. A commitment has been made between St. Jo's and TG to always have be available.

B. Committees:

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

Norma recapped: three reps from the Dept of Health came to the T&D Meeting and presented on the changes at DOH and specifically on credentialing. She also reminded everyone to use the most current applications off of the DOH website.

Operations, Russ McCallion –

Dr. Waffle has already covered the divert issue.

MultiCare has moved forward with their data exchange project and CHI Franciscan is soon to follow.

CQI, ~~Christopher Barnard~~ – Not present

Norma recapped: there was a case presented by Valerie Lyttle (Good Sam) on an unusual case of stroke presentation: Artery of Percheron. And Art Vazquez (OrtingVFR) presented a situation of

cardiac arrest of a man fallen in the back of his van and the outcome. Both had lessons learned which are recorded in the last CQI minutes.

AMR is presenting in the January meeting and Cliff McCollum is presenting in the next meeting.

Protocol, Cynde Rivers – Not present

Norma announced that the latest draft of the protocols went out last night for everyone's review. The focus is finding typos and other errors, not to change the content.

Divert, Todd Jensen – Not present

Dr. Waffle has addressed this subject already

Tacoma-Pierce County Health, Cindy Miron – Not present

Norma: We are in need of someone to attend the meeting of the Northwest Healthcare Response Network. Also, there is a small bit of flu going around, so get your shot. Norma announced the NDMS Exercise tentative date is August 2-4, 2017.

West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake –

We are in the process of updating the WREMS Strategic Plan for 2017-2019. We try to match the State goals. The WREMS conference is the last weekend (Friday and Saturday) in February 2017 at Ocean Shores.

C. Department of Emergency Management, Lowell Porter –

RE: Funding – UASI is the core group that looks at the budget. Overall there will be a 50% reduction in 2017 which at first was very concerning. But we will end up with an Omnibus budget, meaning that our previous budget will roll over into 2017.

RE: RCC – we are really working to make this group more diverse. They decide how money is to be allocated. The US&R budget would affect EMS in the case of a MCI because of the resources they can offer. We are working to get US&R recognized as a state resource and not just a federal asset.

RE: Cascadia – Our approach was not to focus on all of the ESFs, but to only involve three, transportation, communication and mass care. Based on the AAR, we are moving forward with a fully developed improvement plan.

RE: Assets at DEM: the RCC is investing in equipment to benefit our county and one of those is generated power. We have accessed the money for a 500kw portable generator on a trailer.

Unfinished Business:

Min/Max EMS numbers report, Cynde Rivers –

Norma passed out the report from the Ad Hoc group meeting. While the population is increasing it's being handled by current EMS agencies. However, deficits exist at both McNeil Island and Mt. Rainier. Both are underserved. Voting took place on recommendation #4: bumping up the number of ALS agencies. It was agreed and voted for unanimously.

New Business:

Great ShakeOUT at 10:20 – Drop, Cover and Hold –

Norma gave the instructions and at the proper time we all participated in the drill.

Divert Plan Review, Mike Newhouse –

There is recommitment to previous plan. Dr. Waffle confirmed that there is a “Top Down” agreement which will take place and is going to be good for all EMS. A copy of the Divert Plan was passed out to everyone. There was a motion to approve, a second and then discussion followed. During the discussion, some issues and concerns were brought up:

- There were several hospitals not listed that should be included in the list of potential receiving facilities. Namely, Madigan, St. Francis and Auburn.
- There was also the issue of trauma divert in the section stating “OB patients...” Mike suggested eliminating the word “criteria” to be more clear.
- It was discussed whether this plan should include only medical divert or should it include trauma divert as well. Dr. Waffle commented that they seem to be two separate issues. So it suggested to rename the plan “Medical Divert Plan” so as to distinguish it from a “Trauma Divert Plan.” There was also discussion about having one document that was comprehensive for both Trauma & Medical so there would be no confusion.
- Another issue was the fact that this plan didn’t address pediatric patients. So the question to be posed to the committee is whether peds should be included and therefore Mary Bridge included as a receiving facility.

With the concerns and issues brought up in discussion, another motion was then made to reject the original motion to approve this document. A new motion was made to return the document so the above-mentioned issues could be addressed. This was seconded and approved by all.

Unscheduled Business:

An invitation to the Festival of Trees was passed around.

Whistles were given to everyone for their participation in the Great ShakeOUT.

Announcements:

Everyone was encouraged to check out KOMO News 4 on Heartwalk: there was a special interview with Cliff McCollum.

The next meeting is the third Thursday in January 2017.

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:45am.