

## PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES

January 19, 2017

### Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

### Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 9:30am by Cynde Rivers, Chair.

Introductions made around the room.

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

### Treasurers Report Karmela Palmer, Secretary-Treasurer

The report was distributed. Reports were approved as submitted.

### Program Reports:

- A. MPD/Base Station, Dr. Waffle, MD, MPD** – CHI Franciscan is having some problems with their dialysis program that is affecting their patients. There is a shortage of nursing staff. Regarding the protocols, there will be a soft roll-out Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Regarding the divert plan, there has been a lot of work completed recently. They are hoping to obtain signatures and initiate it by Monday, January 23. They are asking agencies to collect data and then they will reassess it to see if this plan can be made final or whether it will need some modification. A motion was made to accept the plan. Some discussion followed on data collection. Dr. Waffle said we will try to send out some specific points of data for guidance. The motion was seconded and approved.
- B. Committees:**
- Training & Development, Patsy Maloney** – Patsy was not present at the November meeting, but a rep from the RRC presented on the Mental Health Crisis Services and training offered. There is a draft roll-out of this training today.
- Operations, Russ McCallion** – We are moving ahead on the Coverdell Stroke Grant. We are also making good progress on the updated supply list for ambulances. There will be changes in the drugs that are carried, some based on new drugs added to the protocols. E.g. the cost of versed vs valium, some other new drugs will change the list, too. Karmela raised questions about the hospital data exchange.
- CQI, Christopher Barnard** – Not present. The group recalled the presentation made by Cliff McCollum regarding his own heart condition, the emergency care he received and the lessons learned from code STEMI.
- Protocol, Cynde Rivers** – Dr. Waffle covered it all.
- Divert, Todd Jenson** – The Community Healthcare Access Committee met on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Interesting things have happened and a draft plan came out of it. The Charge Nurse Sub-Committee is moving ahead and working well together. They are now including other charge nurses, because of the ripple effect. They are trying to understand WATrac better. The Trauma group is working at getting hospitals to adjust their trauma levels, but State rules and involvement is complex. The Alternative Care group has not yet met. The Community Collaboration group is working on dealing with 911 calls that are not emergent. Cindy Miron added her perspective and expertise on alternate care. In the

last council meeting it was requested that the trauma/divert plan be distributed, but since it wasn't, copies are available today.

EMS is no longer the driving force behind divert – it is now the Community Healthcare Access Committee. They took our divert plan and kept it, except for only raising the % of compliance to higher performance standards. The Trauma System is not integrated with divert. Discussion ensued around this topic and why Mary Bridge is not mentioned. Pediatric patients are not considered because the plan is related to adult patients only.

Essentially this plan allows EMS to override divert and explains how to do it. The question is: can EMS live with this as is, or do we need changes to be made. There followed much discussion and questions. One focus was about other hospital that are used by PC EMS, but out of the region, and not listed (with the exception of St. Elizabeth). A motion was made and approved to remove St. Elizabeth from the plan and accept it with that one change.

**C. Tacoma-Pierce County Health, Cindy Miron –**

Flu Update: 17 deaths (most of those elderly); it struck earlier than last year and there has been a higher death rate; King County is seeing a leveling off; generic Tamiflu is good; testing has declined; there is no data yet on vaccine efficacy. Influenza Update handouts were provided.

There have been 30 confirmed cases of mumps with 9 more probable; it is believed to be circulated through the community, but not within the schools. The schools are taking it seriously and excluding kids who aren't adequately vaccinated, until they are.

All the numbers are updated daily on the website at 3:00pm.

Western State had one case of legionella and the State and CDC are involved.

**D. West Region EMS Council, ~~Norma Pancake~~ – not present**

The group mentioned the WREMS Conference poster/placemat left at each seat.

**E. Department of Emergency Management, ~~Lowell Porter~~ – not present**

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**a. Election of Chair/Vice Chair**

Cynde was nominated for Chair and Todd was nominated for Vice Chair. Nominations remain open until next meeting.

**b. Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer**

Will be appointed by the newly elected Chair.

**Unscheduled Business:**

A time change was discussed for the Base Station Meeting so as not to have a lengthy break before the Council Meeting begins. Todd made a motion to start the Base Station Meeting at 8:30 instead of 8:00. It was seconded and approved. Dr. Waffle said he will also look at possibly altering the meeting format of the Base Station Meeting in the future.

**Announcements:**

None

**Adjournment:**

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:37am.