

PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES

April 20, 2017

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 9:40am by Cynde Rivers, Chair.

Introductions made around the room.

Previous meeting minutes from January 2017 were provided; motion to accept, seconded and approved as written.

Treasurers Report ~~Karmela Palmer~~, Secretary-Treasurer – Karmela was not in attendance.

Cynde distributed the report. The 2017 end of quarter total was \$36,352.93. Reports were approved as submitted.

Program Reports:

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

Dr. Waffle reviewed the reports. Mary Bridge is doing well with their psyche unit, although overtaxed and full. Allenmore's joint mental health unit is on schedule. Trauma access was discussed at the Community Healthcare Access Committee meeting. There is a mechanism in place now and the request is to leave it as is for now due to a shortage of on-call trauma surgeons.

B. Committees:

Training & Development, ~~Patsy Maloney~~– Patsy was not in attendance.

Norma talked about the Supraglottic Airway Course; Angie Riggsby is presenting one of the first courses of this kind in the county. The ESE Refresher Course poll has been sent out and Norma requested a response.

Operations, ~~Russ McCallion~~– Russ was not in attendance.

Todd talked about "divert" and hospital data exchange. There was discussion about these topics as well as Ambulance Inspections. AutoPulse was added to the equipment list. Code Sepsis will be on the next agenda for the Operations Committee meeting.

CQI, ~~Christopher Barnard~~ – Not present

Calvin Johnson put in a request to be added to the agenda, but it was decided he will meet with Dr. Waffle first with his concern. There was a presentation by Jeff Moore; in review, Norma read the lessons learned from that meeting. In the next meeting, District #23 will report as well as WPFR on their recent issue.

Protocol, Cynde Rivers –

Cynde inquired how training is progressing on the new protocols. Most people responded that it's going well. Todd Jensen said it's been difficult to meet the deadline. Dr. Waffle asked if it would be better to update the protocols one change at a time, or possibly quarterly or annually, instead of a new book every 3-5 years. There was ongoing discussion on how to manage change and keep the EMS personnel trained and up-to-date. Calvin said he thought the physicians should have more prior input to protocol changes and updates so there's some agreement before it's discussed at committee level. The decision was made to address this further and take a look at our process.

Community Access to Care Committee, Todd Jensen –

The Community Healthcare Access Committee met this week and were very productive. The big news is that the trial period of "no divert" for adult medical patients has been extended indefinitely. The Charge Nurse Subcommittee is working on cohesiveness, beyond just TG and St. Jo's. Nurses attended from all the facilities in order to collaborate. Secondly, they are working on their process for WATrac to keep it active and current.

Another meeting is scheduled next month to develop standards and commit to keeping them. Todd encouraged all EMS agencies to start using WATrac regularly if they are not already. The Trauma Subcommittee has been in communication with State DOH. Dr. Waffle has communicated with the State, as well. Mike's group, the Alternative Facilities Subcommittee, is working to determine the different levels of emergency and which patients truly need the ER and who could go to a clinic. The Collaborations Subcommittee is getting "eyes and ears" open, seeing a broader perspective and making great progress. Dr. Waffle added that the coordination of efforts that is taking place will save energy, resources and money. He commended the council on its efforts.

C. Tacoma-Pierce County Health, Cindy Miron – Cindy was not in attendance.

D. West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake –

They are working on the Strategic Plan. It has been distributed to Steering Committee members and DOH for review. The WREMS Conference was the end of February. Lots of good information was presented. We are now working on next year's event. There are also a lot of new members on the council.

E. Department of Emergency Management, ~~Lowell Porter~~ – Scott Heinze

Scott introduced the Joint Counter-Terrorism Workshop coming up, which is put on by the FBI. We hope to have input from local EMS. The goal is to gain practice through exercise. EMS is a target of terrorism which makes this relevant. It is a 2-day event in August, 2017, so watch for more communication about this.

Unfinished Business:

a. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Cynde was previously nominated for Chair and Todd was previously nominated for Vice Chair. The floor was opened for additional nominations; there were none, so it went to vote and both were unanimously approved.

i. Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer

Cynde appointed Karmela to continue as Secretary/Treasurer.

b. Review of Pierce County Prehospital Min/Max verbiage

In regard to the West Region Strategic Plan, the only thing we were asked to change is verbiage on min/max. Norma read the current plan. DOH want a statement added saying that they can't enforce/approve a more strict adherence to the timeframe. So we will need to reword it to say "goal" not "standard." A motion was made to approve the use of the word "goal" and it was seconded and approved.

c. Approve funds for Small Protocol Book printing

Norma made a request to raise the previously designated funds for printing the Protocol Book from \$10,000 to \$16,000 due to cost increases. This will also cover the cost of the rings, which also severely increased in price. Norma also requested use of the credit card to get the best price on the rings. Both were approved.

New Business:

None

Unscheduled Business:

Comment: Del Ray County in Florida has booked over 5000 calls for drug overdoses.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:50 am.