

PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES

July 20, 2017

Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 9:35am by Cynde Rivers, Chair.

Introductions made around the room.

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

Treasurers Report Karmela Palmer, Secretary-Treasurer – Karmela distributed the report for March through June, 2017.

Norma asked everyone to be sure to turn in their Base Station and OTEP Rosters because the funds received are based on attendance rosters. The questions was raised about the cost of protocol books and Norma clarified that we have not received the bill yet, so the report does not reflect that cost. Reports were approved as submitted.

Program Reports:

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

Dr. Waffle announced that he has been filling in as a temporary MPD for Grays Harbor, while his emphasis remains in Pierce County. He hopes that within a month or two Grays Harbor will have hired one of their candidates.

Things are going well in Pierce County. The Community Access Committee is continuing to meet and make progress. We are a No-Divert County and it is working. King County sees us as a model and has not gone to no divert. Snohomish County is doing the same. It has been a bit of a burden for the hospitals to adapt, but really no more than with divert in place.

Dr. Waffle requested that EMS personnel transport patients when requested by a medical professional to do so. There has been an increase of non-transport issues coming from clinics and nursing facilities.

The protocols are set and we are looking toward an electronic version.

B. Committees:

Training & Development, ~~Patsy Maloney~~ – Patsy was excused.

Norma said the Supraglottic Airway Course is up for review. Buckley has completed a few SGA classes now. We should get a report at the next Training & Development Meeting.

Operations, ~~Russ McCallion~~ – Russ was excused.

Norma reported that Fire Departments are looking at the need for another private ambulance transport agency. Also, the plan for transport of highly infectious diseases is under revision.

CQI, Calvin Johnson –

Calvin Johnson announced that AMR is bringing a case review of a suicide to the next meeting. District 23 is due to make their case presentation.

He also mentioned that the Coverdell program is collecting data so we can expect to see the stroke program improve.

Protocol, Cynde Rivers –

In the last meeting there was discussion and brainstorming about the process of an electronic version of the protocols; also discussed was the method for revision in the future.

The protocol meeting is next week.

Norma added that we will need to separate the protocols from the procedures. Joe Worley remarked that the content is good, but the format is less than perfect, requiring finding more than one location for complete information on a procedure. Cynde asked for some concrete examples to review in order to improve the format. Dr. Friedrich commented that, during the 2017 revision, we looked at so many content changes, that any format changes didn't get much emphasis.

Community Access to Care Committee, Todd Jensen –

To add to Dr. Waffle's report, the next meeting is in September to look ahead at the upcoming surge and evaluate what we've done so far and address the needs. Each group has its own focus. We want to encourage EMS to do their part in load-leveling. They are updating WATrac and EMS needs to use it to monitor hospital ED status. The Charge Nurse Group's next focus is working on turn-around times. The Community Collaboration Group is prioritizing the "low hanging fruit" – those that provide the most return for expense. The Alternative Care Receiving Group is working on keeping patients that aren't as serious out of EDs and into local clinics/urgent care facilities; they are facing administration issues.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health, Cindy Miron –

We are experiencing funding cuts, and Scott Foster is no longer at TPCHD. Current staffing will remain the same. August 2017 is exercise month and in 2019 we will have a large exercise.

Communicable disease is light and this point, but there has been a slight uptick in pertussis.

D. West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake –

The WREMS Conference is March 23-25, 2018. They've looked at other venues, but Ocean Shores remains the best deal.

The NDMS Exercise is August 4.

Chris Rock announced that there will be a JCTAWS (Joint Counter Terrorism Awareness Workshop) Exercise on August 8-9. EMS is under-represented so he encourages involvement and signup.

E. Department of Emergency Management, Lowell Porter – excused.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Unscheduled Business:

None

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:16 am.