

## PIERCE COUNTY EMS COUNCIL MINUTES

January 18, 2018

### Attendance:

Membership Attendance Roster on File

### Call to Order

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

Introductions made around the room.

Previous meeting noted as being provided electronically; motion to accept, seconded and approved as written.

**Treasurers Report ~~Karmela Palmer~~, **Secretary-Treasurer** – Not present.** Cynde presented the report. It was motioned to approve as presented, motion passed.

### Program Reports:

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

There were several issues discussed in the Base Station Committee Meeting:

- The train derailment: The medical care was excellent, but there will be an areas to work on.
- The report that there's been a problem acquiring the narcotics morphine and fentanyl. They will be temporarily replaced by Dilaudid as needed when morphine and fentanyl is unavailable.
- The Trauma Triage protocol has been updated to match the State's tool.
- There was a discussion on field amputation and blood transfusions to be considered as protocol.
- Errors in EMS care were brought up and there was a discussion about a Culture of Safety workshop.
- Stop the Bleed program has been successful, the only real downside being the acquisition of commercial tourniquets, due to relatively high cost for civilians.

#### **B. Committees:**

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

Norma said the committee approved a couple of new SEIs and is working with the State on updated skills sheets.

**Operations, Russ McCallion –**

Russ noted that patient distribution is improved and there are plans in place for the flu season. Nothing huge. He added that the six Community Access to Care Committee workgroups are applying their expertise on community health care. Dan Beckman asked if the group meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Russ answered, yes.

**CQI, ~~Calvin Johnson~~ – Not present.**

Bill Barber said everything is going as planned. Norma added that at the next CQI meeting the stroke number will be presented.

**Protocol, Cynde Rivers –**

Cynde announced that she has sent the letter requesting the EMS protocols mobile application to be placed higher up on the list of IT priorities.

**Community Access to Care Committee, ~~Mike Newhouse~~ – Not present.**

Dr. Waffle's reported that they are meeting on a monthly basis. Their motto is "the right patient at the right place at the right time." We are trying to get a pilot project up and running. Ultimately, it save money all around. The Health Department is working on coordination so as not to overlap services. WATrac has helped reduce patient numbers.

Russ asked if the urgent care facilities are able to offset the number of patients using the ERs. Joe Worley replied that it is sporadic and depends upon who's on duty. Dr. Waffle commented that it comes down to standardizing their care.

Russ expressed concern that it seems the urgent cares are downgrading their capabilities, which is counterproductive. The urgent care facilities need upgrading and improvement in care. He reported that 25% of all their EMS calls are to urgent care, assisted living, interfacility transport, etc. and not of true 911 urgency. Dr. Friedrich pointed out that EMS becomes a default option for transport when the patients don't actually require 911 service. He emphasized that we need a plan of action before the call comes. Russ added that the problem in nursing homes is that their policy requires them to call 911 in certain situations.

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

The Flu Activity Report indicates that there have not been as many hospitalizations as in recent years, and that there have not be as many treated for the flu. We lag behind the nation.

Cindy also noted a norovirus outbreak in a restaurant chain in Tacoma and University Place. Over 500 cases have been reported and the restaurants were temporarily closed. Countermeasures have been taken.

Cindy also announce an exercise in 2019. The state is in the process of updating MOUs.

They were activated for the train derailment and will have an AAR for responders.

Bill added that they did a transport of a TB patient from an urgent care.

**D. West Region EMS Council, Norma Pancake –**

Norma passed out the WREMS conference flyer to everyone, adding that there will be skills stations, a pediatric airway management station, stop the bleed station.

WREMS Council has approved the Trauma Triage Tool, but it's not yet approved at the state level.

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

Norma reported that there will be a protocol app meeting with her, Kyle, IT, and Scott Heinze; and she would bring in Nicole McCullough and Dr. Gates if needed.

**Unfinished Business:**

Heidi Schaiberger from Life Net Health presented brochures on tissue donations. She also added that they are providing tours of their facility that does the processing and recovery.

**New Business:**

None

**Unscheduled Business:**

Russ announced that they are deploying the Community Resource Paramedic team, which links patients with resources and reduces 911 calls as a result. They will be working with assisted living facilities, dementia centers, etc. and teaching staff when a 911 call is appropriate. They provide case management so patients get the help they need without overuse of the 911 system.

**Announcements:**

None

**Adjournment:**

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:36 am.