

**PC EMS COUNCIL**  
**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**DRAFT September 26, 2018 – 10:00**

**Attendance:**

Membership Attendance Roster on File.

**Call to Order**

Russ McCallion called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Introductions were made around the room. Previous meeting minutes were provided, voted on, and accepted as written.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A. Community Healthcare Access Report (Divert) – Mike Newhouse**

Mike Newhouse said there's nothing to report and that the meetings have been suspended.

Stephanie Dunkel, TPCHD, clarified that the four groups have been moving toward or have met their goals. They are meeting again mid-October.

Russ asked if anything was settled regarding Urgent Care facilities. Mike replied, no, everything came to a halt because MultiCare wasn't able to negotiate the labor contract.

**B. TPCHD Update – Stephanie Dunkel**

**WaTRAC Update** – no update on WaTRAC.

The Health Department is working on an alternate care plan, catastrophic based. Collaborating with King and Snohomish Counties. There will be an exercise May 6-10, 2019 on medical countermeasures. Called T-Rex, it will concern a mass dispensing of medications, both receiving and distribution.

Dr. Waffle asked, who is this for and should each agency be involved? Yes, each agency should be involved. It is for EMS, staff and families.

Russ asked, do you want a total number of doses needed? Yes, estimate one for each employee times 2.5 for families.

Norma asked Rebecca to send out an updated plan. Stephanie replied that they have a med and non-med model. The pick-up location is the health department.

**C. Hospital Data Information Exchange – Russ McCallion**

Trish Niehl announced that CHI Franciscan went live July 11<sup>th</sup>. They are still working out the bugs. One issue is that the ED docs sometimes don't enter their notes correctly.

WEMESIS needs work to be compatible across the board. There are mapping issues. It's good but still could be improved.

**D. Ebola and Other Highly Infectious Disease Transport Plan – in process, tabled**

**New Business:**

**A. Free-Standing EDs – Trina Tan and Dr. Heather Justice, MHS**

Dr. Waffle introduced the subject saying, off campus EDs are coming to Pierce County.

Trina said that MultiCare already has a free-standing ED in Covington. They will be adding them in Parkland, Bonney Lake, and South Hill. The first one in Pierce County will have 10 beds and be 9000 square feet.

Dr. Justice added that they will provide better access to care for low acuity care at low volume locations. There will be 1-3 RNs, and LPN, administration and radiology. They are asking for input from EMS so as to learn which criteria to include and what not to include.

Mike suggested that the Alternate Destination Committee could provide some appropriate input.

Dr. Justice said she want to tackle any issues ahead of time.

Dan Beckman asked if they will be open 24/7. Yes. Dan added that you will get people inappropriate for the facility. Dr. Justice agreed and said that one issue will be holding people to their contract.

Russ asked about using Covington's stats as a template. Dr. Justice answered that Covington's ED was built to become a hospital so it can't be compared to the new free-standing EDs. She added that we will need to have an agency or agencies that can make transfers, but do not want to overburden the current system.

Russ asked what percentage do they expect will need transferring out of the free-standing EDs. 6-9%.

Sam expressed excitement for the new EDs because his average transport time to a hospital is an hour.

Dr. Justice said she is open to ideas to help them reach mutually acceptable terms, but requested EMS not to bring psyche, alcohol or drug patients. The Parkland ED is scheduled to open April 15, 2019 and the next two will open in the last quarter of 2019.

The question was asked, are you reaching out to the public? Dr. Justice replied, yes, but not yet. She asked Dr. Waffle, to whom and when do we reach out to gather criteria. The plan is to form an Ad Hoc Committee with EMS and involved agencies.

**B. Death with Dignity – Bill Sawaya and ~~Chris Fruitrich~~**

Bill explained that Chris couldn't make it today. He gave the example of being called to a site where there was a death and questions about how to classify it. Both law enforcement and the medical examiner were present. Calvin Johnson added that they had two Death with Dignity calls through the Base Station and were told not to come. Dr. Waffle added that it's not required to have a Death with Dignity rep there.

It was noted that EMS has no training in this situation. It was decided to revisit this subject in November for follow-up.

**Unscheduled Business:**

Cynde provided a heads-up on a "flip" of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors at TG/Mary bridge. She added that EMS will be brought into the discussion.

**Announcements:**

Allenmore is planning an expansion of their ED by 25-30 beds, which is a dramatic increase.

Dr. Misner mentioned the Recovery Resource Center to be built in Parkland.

Russ announced the recent passing of Steve Romines from Thurston County EMS. Services will be held at Mt. View on October 8. Norma added that he was one of the first paramedics in the State, worked in Pierce County and then in Thurston County. The family is asking for a fire department unit for that day.

Russ called for a moment of silence in honor of Steve.

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned @ 11:09 am.