

Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025, 9:00-10:30a.m.
Spokane Fire Training Center, Classroom A & Zoom Virtual Meeting

EMS Council Chair, Anne Raven, called the meeting to order. Those present were noted on the attendance sheet.

Members/Alternates/Ex-Officio Present

Jim Akramoff, Josh Ambach, Robin Albrandt, David Baird, Jack Busch, Tom Chavez, Liz Ciais, Dr. Maika Dang, Dr. Joel Edminster, Chris Gibbar, Brad Kane, Dr. Cody Laverdiere, Dr. Jim Nania, Randy Olson, Lindsay Payton, Anne Raven, Jeff Reid, Cody Rohrbach, Dan Williams, Chris Wyrobek, James Young

Guests Present

Jeff Anderson, Dana Bosworth, Cass Doyle, Tamara Drapeau, Zach Holmes, Tom Jenkins, Deanna Jones, Kayla Kramer, Brandon Legore, Denise McCurdy, Dr. Mike Metcalf, Meagan McCoy, Lindsay Payton, Stacy Parizek, Beth Perkins, Shaun Pitts, Ami Roy, David Reif, Andy Ruschak, Dillon Russell, Treena Russell, Leah Salmon-Conroy, David Sewell, Kevin Smith

EMS Office Staff Present

Berkley Van Hout, Office Administrator & County Coordinator

MINUTES: Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Randy Olson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dave Baird seconded the motion.

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the minutes

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Anne Raven

➤ IV Fluid Shortage Update

Anne Raven asked how hospitals and EMS agencies are doing with IV fluids. Lindsay Payton reported that Providence is still monitoring and conserving but working on getting back to normal soon. Kevin Smith from SFD stated that vendors are starting to fill backorders. The County MPD, Dr. Jim Nania asked how hospital capacity is with the current illnesses, and Lindsay reported that COVID numbers are up, influenza and RSV has gone done. Some areas within Providence have masking requirements again in patient care areas.

➤ EMS Office Share Fees due this month.

➤ Hospital Status Report

- Providence: Lindsay Payton reported that planning for mass casualty continues and are hoping to finalize Sacred Heart's plans by the end of the month and Holy Family's plans by end of March. Have had activation exercises with the ER team and have created an ED MCI quick sheet that has been shared with EMS and 911 partners, which ER staff will have access to if EMS calls in with an MCI in the field. Dr. Nania emphasized the importance of EMS providers on scene painting a clear picture of the scene.

- Multicare: No report

➤ EMS Office New Positions Update

The full time Program Analyst position was posted to the EMS Office website and emailed out. Please share to anyone who might be interested. The part time Program Coordinator position is put on hold until the Program Analyst position is determined.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack Busch

➤ Financial reports for 2024

➤ Financial reports for December 2024

Jack shared the reports with the group.

REPORTS:

- BLS Report: Dr. Travis Dierks not present.
- Inland Empire Fire Chiefs: Chris Wyrobek reported that the Chiefs Association honored some of the individuals involved in the RTF workgroup, both on the law enforcement and fire side. RTF work is continuing to move forward as multiple agencies have either begun training or near the end of training, and Emergency Management has worked with the group on production field cards to be used on RTF incidents.
- SREC Board: Cody Rohrbach reported that SREC acquired a new facility in Spokane Valley and intend to be operating in the new facility by the first quarter of 2026. The CAD project is still ongoing, and a board meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 16th to discuss the potential impacts dependent on city of Spokane's decision of whether to join the CAD system and regional center. Randy Olson asked about the new facility, and Chief Rohrbach stated that SREC had a consultant to discuss future needs and identified several sites that met the criteria. The new facility was previously an IT building and has a good foundation for emergency communication services. Construction to remodel and update some security concerns will take place before SREC moves into the building.
- East Region EMS & TCC: Tamara Drapeau reported that the WA Department of Health is requesting all OTEP plans be reevaluated and submitted by the end of the year. Certification credentialing is now available online, excluding the MPD signature form. The entire certification application is planned to be exclusively online by March. The East Region Council has open positions on the board that can be found on the [East Region website](#). The next meeting is in February.
- SRHD: Robin Albrandt reported that they are continuing to work on the pertussis outbreak and seeing some increase in influenza in long-term care and adult family homes. Robin stated to let her know if anyone would like to receive the weekly covid update and outbreak newsletter.
- Curriculum & PM Advisory Committee/Providence Health Training: Jim Akramoff reported that many students from last year are finishing their capstone but have had some challenges getting cardiac arrest requirements. Jim thanked Dr. Cover for coming in for exit interviews, and shared that all students that have taken the National Registry exam have passed.
- QI Committee: Dr. Nania attended the National EMS Physicians conference last week and recommended others attend in the future. Dr. Nania reported that WA state remains contemporary in most procedures, but there are some topics that could be adopted in Spokane County. Washington state will now have a chartered chapter within NAEMSP and there will be an application to join.
 - Today's QI meeting agenda includes:
 - Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Discussion
 - Case Review

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Andy Ruschak: SRECS 800 MHz EMS COMMS

Andy introduced himself and stated that he is a Principal Communications Consultant for Providence Swedish and manages all the wireless infrastructure for Providence Swedish hospitals, including internal radio systems. Andy is assisting Sacred Heart and Holy Family in transitioning to the SRECS 800 MHz radio system, and attended the meeting to bring up operational questions and discussion topics to determine how the transition to the new radio system may affect communication with EMS. Discussion points included whether there is a transition plan to determine a desired transition date, how the hospital will communicate with ALS and BLS units, the opportunity for weekly DMCC updates and radio roll call, coordination for trauma and triage for MCI events, HIPAA and patient health information and recordings of transmissions, and regulation of the existing VHF radio channel used for county communications.

Andy emphasized he is not looking for answers but looking for an opinion or recommendation of how to coordinate for the future of EMS communications for Spokane County. Following the discussion, Chief Chris Wyrobek recommended that this topic be discussed by the Communications group within the Fire Chiefs Association, as the group already exists and handles communications that tie into the County Field Operating Guide. Hospital representatives and AMR representatives can be included in the discussion as well. Andy thanked the group for their time.

Action: Topic will be moved to the IEFCA communications workgroup for further discussion.

➤ Countywide OTEP Discussion

Anne Raven mentioned that the Department of Health is requiring that all OTEP plans be updated and submitted by the end of the year, and it has been requested to discuss the option of a county wide OTEP plan. Tom Chavez stated that he has been working with the DOH in a pilot program for the OTEP application approval process and explained that new guidelines and an updated application will be available and once finalized, there will be a template for the rest of the county agencies to follow when updating their OTEP plans. Tom also mentioned that at the county level, Dr. Nania, the County MPD, will need to be involved in determining some of the requirements for Spokane County to ensure that all agencies are meeting the minimum requirements. The group discussed whether all agencies should submit their own individual plans to include additional agency specific training or submit a county wide plan that meets the minimum requirements and allows agencies to provide their own training in addition to the minimum OTEP requirements if they have the means to do so. Jeff Anderson from Cheney FD emphasized that agencies have common assignments and goals, and suggested a workgroup to begin developing a county plan to meet minimum requirements while the DOH finalizes the application and guidelines. Tom emphasized that the DOH is changing guidelines and suggested waiting until all guidelines are finalized. Dr. Nania stressed that agencies record all procedural skills for providers for the time being, including intubations. Tom will give an update on the DOH pilot program at the next meeting.

Action: Topic will be added to the February meeting agenda as Old Business for further discussion.

➤ Recently Approved Training Course Applications

- Providence Health Training- Initial ESE Course (01/30/2025)
- Providence Health Training- Initial AEMT Course (02/10/2025-07/31/2025)
- Providence Health Training- Refresher EMT Course (02/14/2025-02/21/2025)

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: Tom Chavez

➤ Protocol Committee update: The next meeting is January 23rd and will focus on finalizing pediatric protocols. Pediatric protocols will be reviewed for approval by the EMS Council in March and sent to the DOH for approval by April. The protocol workgroup will work on pediatric protocols in May once all are approved by the Department of Health.

➤ Protocols for approval by EMS Council

- EMS Provider response to Patient Specific Physician Standing Orders (to be added to County Operating procedures)
- Droperidol

A motion was made and seconded to approve the county operating procedure and protocol. A vote was taken with no opposition.

Action: It was M/S/P to approve the County operating procedure and protocol.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS:

➤ EMS Connect Classes for January

1/16/2025 at 1400: Head injury assessment and management with Dr. Kai Sharbono

➤ Upcoming Providence EMS Live at Nite Classes

01/14/2025 @ 6:30p.m. “Shock” with James Akramoff, EMT-P

➤ EMS Survey

An EMS Survey was emailed out. Please share and encourage personnel to complete EMS Survey. A survey summary will be shared with the EMS Council later this year.

- NWRH Events:
2/12/2025 at 8:30am-3:30pm “Water, Public Health, and Healthcare Coordination Workshop”
Register in person: [Link here](#)
Register virtually: [Link here](#)
- Spokane Valley Fire Department offering Advanced Airway Courses and EMS Labs on Fridays throughout the year. All dates can be found on the EMS Office website.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:45AM