

# WALLA WALLA COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL

October 1, 2020 6:00 PM

Online Zoom Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

**Kevin Kromm called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm in the Online Zoom Meeting.**

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves and the agency represented.

**PRESENT:** Sharon Brooks, Patty Courson, Jodi Ferguson, Darren Goble, Steve Hoffman, Liz Jessee, Kevin Kromm, Susan Leathers, Heather Lee, Justin Lessard, Todd Reiswig, Jim Ruffcorn, and Neosha Zabel-Guse

**EXCUSED:** Dr. Michael Minckler, Brad Morris, Dr. Lewis Neace, Rob Nelson, and Alyssa Wells

**ABSENT:** Angelica Can, Randy Charles, Mark Crider, Justin Destito, Charlie Drury, Jim Estep, Deb Fortner, Don Groat, Ruben Hernandez, Randy Hinchliffe, Kate Hockersmith, Brian Jones, Kris Kerr, Todd Kimball, Mitch King, Joe Klundt, Alyssa Kyle, Casey Potts, Patrick Purcell, Dennis Waters, Erin Whitney, and Jodi Worden

**GUEST:**

**MINUTES OF MEETING:**

Minutes Approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

\$24,686.99 all bills paid.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

NONE

**MPD REPORT:**

NONE

**EMS DIRECTOR:**

Heather Lee reported –

- After discussion with the agencies BLS OTEP is held at, we were able to come to an agreement for modified in-person OTEP. In order to do this, we've made the following changes:
  - Each OTEP location will only allow affiliated personnel to attend. For example, only District 4 personnel will attend in-person at District 4.
  - Each OTEP location will have two designated instructors to limit personnel's exposure to multiple instructors. The only exception to this would be if an instructor must cancel and the other designated instructor is not available then I will fill in.
  - There will be virtual OTEP offered for all topics except for CPR and extrication. Those two topics are heavily practical skills based so virtual attendance would be difficult to manage.
- Our ALS protocols are in the second round of review with DOH. We're anticipating them to ask questions related to our Orthopedic Trauma protocol. There is a section in this protocol that discusses attempting to aligning a fracture and there is some question as to whether this is within scope of practice. This is

within EMS personnel's scope of practice and is in the DOH BLS protocols currently, so we'll continue discussions and let you know when these are finalized.

- After the last EMS Council meeting, I sent an email to all agencies with the forms we need signed related to WEMSIS reports and have only received the signed forms from two agencies. I will resend the forms out to the agencies who haven't returned them, please sign them and return them as soon as possible.
- DOH sent out a few updates today. The first is related to OTEP and the second is related to initial EMS courses.
  - OTEP – Some providers are under the impression that due to COVID there will be exceptions or accommodations to your OTEP when it's time to renew. This is not accurate, the only exception or accommodation that is in place is to the WAC requirement of attending OTEP quarterly. While DOH will be lenient of the quarterly attendance requirement, that doesn't mean that you don't need to complete your OTEP. You still must complete all your OTEP prior to your recertification, so if you have providers that are behind in their OTEP please work with them to get caught up prior to their recertification date.
  - Initial EMS Courses – DOH is allowing some flexibility related to the practical and clinical portions of initial courses. For EMT clinicals we would be allowed to complete the 10 hours of patient interactions using standardized patient scenarios, if clinical/field settings are not available. The Training Program Directors or SEIs are also able to establish a schedule to complete the psychomotor practice and examination session, not to exceed three months from the completion of the didactic education if needed. We are still unsure if we'll be having a winter quarter EMT class but having this flexibility will help if we do.
- Just a reminder to submit your membership letter if you haven't already done so. We need to submit our membership list to the Board of County Commissioners.
- There was a lengthy discussion related to the EMS Council continuing to house the AHA Training Site (TS) that is used throughout the county. After the discussion it was determined that Heather would draft a letter to WWCC for the Chair to sign to see if they'd be able to assume responsibility for the TS. WWCC teaches the majority of the AHA courses through the TS, so the Council agreed it was worth asking them.

## **REGIONAL**

Heather Lee reported –

- The Region is facing a possible 15% budget reduction next year.
- Per the WAC the Min/Max numbers and the trauma response area maps need to be reviewed every two years. The Region has asked that the local councils determine how they'd like to complete this for their county. After discussion it was determined that Heather would send an email out to all the local agencies asking for them to assign a representative to a review committee. Once Heather has a representative for each agency, she will work on organizing a meeting.
- After the last meeting Heather sent an email to all agencies with WEMSIS data request forms, she has only received signed forms back from two agencies, so she'll be following up with the agencies.

## **LIFELIGHT:**

NONE

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Liz Jessee reported –

- Continuing to work on COVID-19 response by ordering PPE through the state, assisting with staffing by using the Washington National Guard (currently assisting at food banks, the Washington State Penitentiary, and one of our local long term care facilities to meet CMS requirements), and PIO functions.
- We've started promoting the "Great Washington Shake Out". This is a simulated earthquake drill where everyone should drop, cover, and hold on. The drill takes place at 10:15 on 10/15 and we'd appreciate everyone's participation.

### **TRAINING:**

NONE

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY:**

NONE

### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH:**

Jodi Ferguson reported –

- We are still going out into the community and doing informational health fairs and community testing for COVID-19 when requested. We've also been working on future vaccination planning and obtaining costs for ultra-cold freezer storage depending on which vaccine we receive.
- We are in the planning stages for influenza and will be ordering free State vaccine for adults and children. This vaccine is primarily used for the uninsured or underinsured.
- Just a thank you to EMS for working with their AEMTs and paramedics to see who may be interested in helping provide vaccinations should we have a staffing shortage. Also thank you for helping one of our employees with first aid/CPR training.
- As of today, the county has 71 active COVID-19 cases, of those 70 are in home isolation and 1 is hospitalized.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Heather Lee reported –

- The updated Regional Patient Care Procedures were sent out to all council members for review. She asked the group if there were any questions and those present had none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Justin Lessard reported –

- The ACLS refresher will be November 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> from 0800-1600 at WWFD.
- The PALS refresher will be March 1<sup>st</sup> and STABLE will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 0800-1600 at WWFD.

Susan Leathers reported –

- Their annual drive through vaccination will be Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. This year it will be at their Southgate campus instead of the hospital. They are looking for volunteers to help with traffic control and other functions. They will start the vaccination flow at 0830 and go until 1200 or until the vaccine runs out. Liz advised Susan she'd spoken with the EMs HAM radio volunteers and they are interested in helping.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Kevin Kromm adjourned meeting at 6:48 PM.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be **Thursday, December 3, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.** Zoom meeting online.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alyssa Wells, Secretary*