

Skagit County EMS & Trauma Care Council Advisory Board Meeting

May 20, 2020, 9am-11am

Teleconference

Present:

Bryan Brice – Mount Vernon Chief
Tyler Dalton – Skagit Regional Health RN
Chet Griffith – Fire District 8 Commissioner
Sandra Jensen – County Meadow Village Dir.
Josh Pelonio – EMS Director
Nick Walsh – Anacortes Assistant Chief

Ex Officio:

Lisa Janicki – Skagit County Commissioner

Absent:

Jared Couch – Upper Skagit Sergeant
Lisa Edwards – Island Hospital RN
Matthew Russell – EMS Medical Program Dir.
Steve Sexton – Burlington Mayor
Amie Tidrington – Skagit County Public Health
Wood Weiss – District 13 Chief
Ron Wesen – Skagit County Commissioner

Non-Voting:

Mike Kirkman – Skagit EMS Training & QA Specialist
Freya Peebles – Skagit EMS Admin. Coordinator

Opens at 9am.

Welcome: N. Walsh

- Walsh calls meeting to order and calls roll.
 - Do not have a quorum to vote.
 - Will continue with the meeting to get a consensus.

Review/Approve February 19, 2020 meeting minutes: N Walsh

- Meeting minutes for last meeting not available due to computer issues.
 - Will be regenerated from audio and made available at a later date.

EMS Department Updates

EMS Week: J Pelonio

- This week is National Emergency Medical Services week.
 - Letters of recognition and appreciation were sent to providers.
 - Skagit EMS
 - Dr. Russell
 - County Sheriff Mc Dermott

COVID19: J Pelonio

- Collaborating well with EMS agencies, Public Health and Hospitals from beginning.
 - Still have a road ahead.
 - Appreciate work thus far.

- Working with Skagit 911
 - Emerging Infections Disease Screening Criteria.
 - Concerns early on regarding having a way to determine patients who may be at high risk for COVID19
 - Having the ability to provide responders with a heads up regarding appropriate PPE.
 - Found that a symptom patients transmitting.
 - Adjustments to the screening were needed.
 - Important to make sure we're asking right questions and relaying correct information to responders.
 - 911 just released updated guidance last week.
 - Making adjustments and additions.
- With Dr. Russell developed protocol specific to COVID19
 - PPE documentation
 - Identifying which patients should be left at transported vs not
 - Documentation guidelines for tracking
- Established cooperative purchasing group with Skagit EMS Agencies to help get out supplies and take advantage of bulk pricing.
 - Burlington/DEM assisting with storing and distributing supplies.
- Developed high risk testing for first responders.
 - Prior to drive thru testing wanted to make sure we could get our first responders tested
 - To date, no confirmed positive cases within first responders.
 - Public Health is been notifying EMS about possible exposures.
- Monitoring best practices and tracking what other agencies are doing, what's coming from the CDC and the State and making adjustments as needed.

N. Walsh: Thanked Skagit EMS for supporting first responders.

Training Update: M Kirkman

- Have cancelled all skill practical station for remainder of 2020.
 - In accordance with Department of Health (DOH) guidelines.
 - Not ideal.
 - Due to pandemic and risk of exposure we couldn't see providing skills safely and efficiently.
 - If things change and skills training can be provided we will look at making changes.
- As of now we are continuing with FALL Enhanced EMT course at Skagit Valley College.
 - Collage is moving forward with classroom vs online for the fall quarter.
 - Coming up with a guideline to keep students safe and follow DOH guidelines.

- If college does implement online only we will revisit and may cancel the fall quarter due to no hands on skills.

North Region Update: N Walsh: Martina N. not on the line to provide update.

New initiatives: N. Walsh

- Similar initiatives.
 - District 03 looking to purchase public access AED's for their stations
 - AED w/ mounting box
 - 2 - AED's one for each station.
 - Looks like a straight forward use of the funds and is supportive
 - B. Brice: Both worthwhile. Questions County wide vs station specific District benefit.
 - Discussion on looking into County wide distribution of AED's.
 - L. Janicki: Submitted before COVID19. Could the funds be used for COVID19?
 - N. Walsh: Looking at possibly filling both requests and using remaining funds on COVID19.
 - J. Pelonio: We don't know what our long terms needs will be.
 - Weather we fund these two or not, he would like to use the remainder of the New Initiative funds to restock and replenish what's been used during this pandemic.
 - L. Janicki: Questioning if there are higher priority items given where we are today?
 - B. Brice: Did we adopt the policy for New Initiative requests? Believes requests should be separate out from COVID related needs.
 - L. Janicki: Doesn't disagree. There's just seems to be a lot of uncertainty. Leaning toward approving bother initiatives.
 - N. Walsh: Would like to fill these and see if remaining monies can be redirected.
 - T. Dalton: Agrees with Chief Brice In future. When these kind of proposals come through, is this something we should reach out to other districts?
 - N. Walsh: Maybe we could work with agencies to have a bigger picture to work with the county to resolve larger issues.
 - N. Walsh: Quick look at second application. Base price is the same.
 - More of a focus on training and training ad-ons for in house training.
 - B. Brice: There's a training hub that provides that for them. Should be looked at for a broader piece.
 - L. Janicki: Does budget have the capacity for these mannequin needed for training?
 - J. Pelonio: We already provide this equipment to the training hubs and have some in our office that can be checked out as well. Wants to make sure that they have a plan.

- L Janicki: Should stick to the training hub system. Would recommend approving AED's and dropping the remainder with an explanation as to why.
- N. Walsh: Agrees.
- T. Dalton: Agrees.
- N. Walsh: What he's hearing. On overall picture is we could not fill them because they don't match the county wide program or second, we could approve with modification and figure out how we want to handle the remainder of funding.
- B. Brice: Agrees. Both followed process and no higher priority applications have been submitted. Would like to look at if there's something county wide that would benefit the entire region.
- N. Walsh: Should send out our interest to approve District 3 and District 2 with an amendment and have a special call meeting where they can be voted for.
- L. Janicki: Can we vote by email?
- J. Pelonio: Doesn't believe so.
- B. Brice: Confirms that we can't.
- J. Pelonio: We'll draft a letter explaining what we're approving, not approving and why and schedule another meeting to take action on them.

North Region Updates: M. Nicolas

- Projects and strategic goals have been moved.
 - New cycle for grants.
 - Opening up on June 1st. Extra month.
 - Past two years we haven't had any grants from Skagit County.
 - We require that there's a management plan for equipment.
- Next meeting is July 9th.
 - Typically a cardiac focused meeting.
 - Will probably be doing a lengthy debrief on where EMS agencies are at and how things went through the first couple months of COVID.

New Business: N Walsh

None

L Janicki: Wants to thank Chief Brice for his leadership and she appreciates the experience he's brought into Skagit County.

N. Walsh: Agrees. Will put together the letter, send material out and work on scheduling another meeting to vote on the grant initiatives.

Adjourns at 0943.