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| **EMS Advisory Committee Meeting: September 20, 2023** |

**Attendees:** Tony Kuzma (GMR), Cynthia Bradshaw (KC EMS), Helen Chatalas (KC EMS), Jason Hammond (KC EMS), Michele Plorde (KC EMS), Tom Rea (KC EMS), Brian Culp (KC [Fire](mailto:Rayd@King2FD.org) District 27), Andrea Coulson (KCM1), Graham McGinnis (KCM1), Dave VanValkenburg (Kirkland FD), Cory James (NorCom), Melissa Vieth (NorCom), Leslie Heslin (Port of Seattle), Aaron Tyerman (Puget Sound RFA), Amy Moorehead (Redmond FD), Adrian Sheppard (Redmond FD), Charles DeSmith (Renton RFA), Steve Heitman (Renton RFA), Eric Timm (UW/Harborview), Vonnie Mayer (ValleyCom), Matt Vinci (Vashon FD)

1. **Welcome/Introductions - Michele Plorde**

Started EMS Advisory Committee in 1998 with the role to help advise the EMS Division on policies and updating and monitoring financial plan.

1. **Medical Program Director Report – Tom Rea (handout)**

EMS Opioid Strategy: There are a lot of moving parts on drug overdose and drug addiction in King County and across the US. This update is based on how these overlap with EMS keeping in mind we are not the sole solution but are part of the overall strategy. Reviewed opioid overdose counts and geography and the downstream risks. Over the last 6-12 month the UW and Public Health – Seattle & King County have brought resources to this issue asking if there were ways EMS could do more.

Grant initiatives include the following strategies:

* Advance education. EMT’s and paramedics are well informed about care. Need to understand the PTSD of patients and what is the best way to engage them to take the right step forward.
* Naloxone leave behind program. Piloted at Redmond and Eastside and was well received. This tool encourages patients to take next steps.
* Advanced therapies, such as buprenorphine. Can we deliver patients to a crisis center to take this next treatment step?

Regional Medical Program Directors will be issuing a statement, policy and directive in support of naloxone leave behind kits with the goal of connecting to the next level of care. MIH has been a terrific bridge to definitive care and the proposed Crisis Centers will provide much needed help. Redmond Fire Department is very supportive of growing the program and it has been well received. Who will be supplying the kits? Public Health (PH) is currently supplying the kits.

Interested departments can think about how to implement in their jurisdiction. Susan Schoeld is the PH program manager and plans to reach out to departments to get started. She is also working with the Training & Education Section of the EMS Division to produce training materials on harm reductions, stigma and working with encampments.

1. **Financial Plan/Budget – Cynthia Bradshaw (handouts)**

Economic Update – presented slides from KC Economist Anthony Cacallori. Key indicators forecast a reduction in inflation, employment growth in King County (with a reduced gap between individuals in workforce and job openings), and projected likelihood of “soft landing” rather than recession. High King County AV increases in 2023 are followed by reductions in overall county AV in 2024, then followed by forecast increases after 2024. New construction slightly down with forecast low of $9.5b in 2025 growing to $13.3 in 2032.

KC EMS Financial Plan. EMS levy financials remain sound. Lower new construction slightly lowered overall property tax forecast which was offset by higher interest income. The financial plan remains balanced with overall revenues projected to be ~$44 million higher than planned and expenditures $40 million higher than planned. Forecast is for revenues to be $4 million higher than planned for levy period. This has contributed to funding supplemental reserves (that can be used to buy down next levy rate) as well as full funding of levy 90-day reserves.  Levy rate is projected at 22.64 cents/$1,000 AV at the end of the levy in 2025 (almost 2 cents less than original plan).

Updated ALS Equipment Index. Index used to inflate ALS Equipment allocation was discontinued. Consistent with Medic One Strategic Plan, recommend use of WPU14130294 - PPI for transportation equipment. Recommended through EMSAC Financial and now presented to EMSAC. ACTION: Unanimously support moving recommendation forward.

Any questions or concerns please contact [Cynthia.bradshaw@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Cynthia.bradshaw@kingcounty.gov) or (206) 263-8558.

1. **Regional Medic Unit Analysis – Michele Plorde (handout)**

Medic unit analysis is conducted on an annual basis to review the performance of each unit and assess the need for additional medic units.Data includes a look at the 5-year trend and is discussed at the ALS Working Group with recommendations presented to the EMS Advisory Committee. Criteria for review include call volumes, response times (mean and fractile) and skills exposure. KCM1 has had increased call volumes.

Summary of findings: Paramedic service throughout the regions continues to be stable and the paramedic performance is within established standards based on review no new service or relocations needed at this time. Recommendation by ALS Subcommittee is to monitor the high-volume units continue to align with standards. Support recommendation and plan to review long term needs during EMS Levy planning next year.

1. **2026-2031 EMS Levy Planning Update – Helen Chatalas**

Process for the upcoming Medic One/EMS levy planning will begin in 2024. Encourage partners to serve on subcommittees as subject matter experts and speak with elected officials about EMS agency priorities. Items brought up for consideration during levy planning include workforce-related issues (hiring, recruitment, retention, training needs); mental wellness (trainings and support for EMS responders and dispatch); enhanced coordination with Harborview’s Paramedic Training program; the next iterations of current Strategic Initiatives (MIH, VPSI, AEIOU); efficiencies, such as how to share resources regionally; and how to move forward with ESJ/DEI programs.

Please contact Helen Chatalas with any questions about the levy planning process. [helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov](mailto:helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov) or (206) 263-8560

1. **Good of the Order**

Jason Hammond, Training & Education Section Supervisor shared that the LRS (Learning Records Storage) contract has been signed. Design, build and roll out in the works with implementation in the summer 2024. Cornerstone is the vendor chosen with over 100 million users across the world. Modernization is in place and much information is coming soon.

The 2023 EMS Annual Report was delivered to the King County Council. Kudos to Helen, Tracie and everyone that contributed to this year’s Annual Report. We encourage you to read it at [2023 King County EMS Annual Report](https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dph/documents/health-safety/health-programs-services/emergency-medical-services/reports/2023-ems-annual-report.pdf?rev=114e9f3e1ff843dfb7374ffdd895b5eb&hash=A852B5EC7A2CF5D7EEC587CC1F3C154B)



**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 1pm-2:30pm**