

Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2002
West Coast SeaTac Hotel; SeaTac, WA

Attendees:	Tim McKern	NW Region	Anice Grant	NW Region
	April Borbon	NW Region	Rich Konrad	SW Region
	Chris Williams	North Region	Dave Byrnes	East Region
	Bob Berschauer	Central Region	Craig Hutson	NC Region
	Darrel Kirking	NC Region	Richard Benjamin	DOH
	Jon McFarland	SC Region	Barbara Clarke	SC Region
	Jackie Roberts	West Region	Shane Sanderson	DOH
	Merrili Owens	Central Region	Jack Cvitanovic	DOH

Chairman Tim McKern called the meeting to order at 9am.

1. Review and adoption of 9/17/01 and 11/12/01 minutes.

Barbara Clark made a motion to adopt the 9/17/01 minutes as written. Bob Berschauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bob Berschauer made a motion to adopt the 11/12/01 minutes as written. Craig Hutson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Proposal for Pre-Hospital and Hospital Communication Systems

Duane Mariotti, Director of Clinical Engineering at Harborview Medical Center, gave a detailed presentation on the Healthcare Communications System in Washington State. Currently there is not a usable communications system that can link every responding agency (fire, EMS, hospitals, etc.) during an emergency. Phones and cell phones are used currently but they are not always reliable during a disaster. Mr. Mariotti's plan would bring together remnants of old radio systems along with new internet technology and turn them into a cohesive communication system. The cost is relatively inexpensive (\$50,000 to \$100,000 to make operational and \$15,000 a year for maintenance) however there is no funding available to make this happen. This system would benefit the entire state in the event of an emergency.

Darrel Kirking made a motion that we write a letter to Janet Griffith and the Steering Committee giving our support for the implementation of Mr. Mariotti's plan and asking for funding if money should become available. Bob Berschauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

A letter to Janet Griffith on this issue was written during the break and read to the meeting attendees.

Darrel Kirking made a motion to accept the letter as written and present it to Janet Griffith and the Steering Committee on January 16th. Bob Berschauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

3. Legislative Update/Budget Update

There is a bill being proposed which would require an EMS presence at all sporting events; an exception may be made if there is a staffed EMS service within five miles of the event. The DOH is remaining neutral on this issue.

Since the legislature is now in session, legislative updates will be sent via email once a week about issues that affect EMS. If you would like to be receive these alerts, please contact Kristin Reichl (Kristin.Reichl@DOH.WA.GOV) at the DOH.

The WTSC will be supporting primary seatbelt legislation again this term.

4. Regional Plans Update

Six regional plans have been resubmitted. As soon as each plan is reviewed and signed off, the region will receive a letter of approval in the mail.

5. Cardiac TAC Proposal Update

The Cardiac TAC has been dissolved after making a recommendation to the Steering Committee that hospitals go to a voluntary Cardiac Verification Process for hospital designation, similar to the Trauma Plan. It is possible that there will be changes in the WAC to make this official.

6. Local Government Ordinances

Dick Benjamin handed out a packet of local government ordinances which have an affect on EMS service. Any new ordinances, resolutions or laws which are made in your region and impact EMS service need to be included in your Regional Plans.

7. Bio-Terrorism Update

The DOH has published a booklet on Bio-Terrorism which has been sent to all agencies in the state. Although there is no budget to print additional copies of the booklet, it is available to download on the DOH website.

Any new Bio-Terrorism legislation or funding information will be sent via email as it becomes available.

On January 24th, there will be a test of the Pharmaceutical stockpile.

The DOJ has a curriculum prepared for a four-hour Bio-Terrorism class. Also, the South Central Region has completed an OTEP module on Bio-Terrorism.

8. Plan Format—Needs and Distribution of Services

There was a lengthy discussion on this issue. Currently there are not any specific guidelines in the WAC pertaining to needs and distribution of services at the regional level. Although verification is at issue, we don't have an established criteria to determine needs/distribution. Most regions base this part of their plan on population, topography, geography and response time then frame this within fire service boundaries, however, this information varies by region and is a very subjective.

It is important that we have a legally defensible plan in the event that it would have to hold up in court. The Regional Councils are responsible for their plans and all of the detailed information, yet the DOH is ultimately on the line for the plans so it is in everyone's best interest to come up with concrete guidelines as to the needs and distribution of services in each region. A model plan as a guideline is being worked on currently but there are still many details to work out in order to make the information equitable to all regions.

9. Regional Activities Update

Not covered.

10. Good of the Order

Not covered.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm. The next RAC meeting will be on March 19, 2002 at 9am.