

# Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2002

West Coast SeaTac Hotel; SeaTac, WA

Attendees:	Tim McKern	NW Region	Anice Grant	NW Region
	Rich Konrad	SW Region	Jack Cvitanovic	DOH
	Chris Williams	North Region	Shane Sanderson	DOH
	Barbara Clarke	SC Region	Craig Hutson	NC Region
	Darrel Kirking	NC Region	Richard Benjamin	DOH
	April Borbon	NW Region	Jody Brower	West Region
	Merrili Owens	Central Region	Norm Fjosee	DOH

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

1. Review and adoption of 5/14/02 minutes.

Chris Williams made a motion to adopt the 5/14/02 minutes as written.  
Craig Hutson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Steering Committee

Anice handed out the minutes from the July 17, 2002 Steering Committee meeting. Some complaints were made because part of the meeting was conducted during lunch and some members of the committee weren't advised of the change thus causing them to miss part of the meeting. Jack Cvitanovic noted that it was unintentional and will be brought up at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Barbara Clarke asked about Harborview Hospital's lawsuit against the Department of Health (Harborview is suing over the loss of \$3.5 million in funding). Jack had no comment because the lawsuit is still pending. Dick Benjamin added that 35 different funds were absorbed, not just the money going to Harborview. Any additional questions are to be directed to Dolly Fernandes.

3. AED Grant (Shane Sanderson)

Shane handed out a copy of the application for a federal AED grant which the DOH recently submitted. The grant asks for a total of \$2,569,076 for the state of Washington. He also handed out a list, by region and county, detailing the needs of each area for AEDs and training which the grant was based off of. It is not known how much of the money requested will actually be given to the DOH so figures may have to be readjusted when the funds are received. The rules mandate that 20%-40% of the funds be used for training, the DOH will hold back 3%, and the remaining money will be used to purchase AEDs. A future discussion will be scheduled to determine how the AEDs will be bought and by whom (individual agencies or regions, or in bulk under the state's contract).

#### 4. Mutual Aid Agreements

There was discussion about mutual aid agreements since at least one region has this as part of their contract with the state. If agencies in your region have mutual aid agreements with other agencies, they should give the region a copy of that contract, however it generally isn't a requirement of most regions contracts. A handout was distributed which gives an example of a general mutual aid agreement that can be signed by all agencies in a particular region. After much discussion the consensus was that mutual aid agreements are made on an individual basis with neighboring agencies as needed. Some agencies don't have the funding/personnel/abilities to participate in such mutual aid agreements and therefore cannot be held to such an agreement.

#### 5. Reappointment Process/Bylaws (Dick Benjamin)

Dick handed out a "Regional EMS/TCC Membership Appointment Process" sheet, which clarifies the DOH's role in the reappointment process of regional council members. Other than having such items as a resignation procedure and attendance requirements in their by-laws, the Regional Council administration has little say over who is appointed to their council.

#### 6. DOH FYI (Jack Cvitanovic)

On the C-Spine issue, Jack will send a notice to all MPD's and local councils that the removal of C-Spine devices should be done only at the hospital. An exception can be made for ALS personnel who remove the device in the field upon orders from medical control. EMT's are not allowed to do this.

The Thurston County protocol for EMT's giving aspirin to chest pain patients has been adopted for statewide use and will be sent as an addendum to the current protocols. This will be brought up at the October 10<sup>th</sup> MPD meeting.

DSHS will be asking the DOH to help write the wording for the WAC pertaining to stretcher cars. The DOL will also participate in this since stretcher cars are licensed by the DOL as a convenience and not a medical necessity. If you have any input on this issue, please forward it to Jack.

Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, the DOH will conduct random background checks on every 1 of 5 initial certification applicants; the cost will be neutral. Jack will put in for supplemental funding in order to increase this ratio to 100% since all other DOH-certified personnel (doctors, nurses, etc.) are required to have background checks so it only makes sense that the same rules apply to EMS personnel.

Funding in the amount of \$125,000 has been approved for improving the Communication System per Duane Marriotti's plan.

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, recertification periods will be termed on a quarterly basis instead of bi-annually as is now done in order to rebalance the workload.

The L&C Committee has approved Dr. Hoffman's LMA trial at the EMT level in Mason County.

The L&C Committee is supporting the new ILS/ALS OTEP program. The WAC language is almost completed and Dick Benjamin is the new lead on this project. To date there has been no study on the effectiveness of the ALS OTEP program.

A question was raised about training EMTs to use manual defibrillators; Jack said that this is not allowed and they must use AEDs.

The new paramedic exam is now in place and the old exam is no longer being used. Please note that there are now 120 questions instead of the usual 100 that were on the old test.

Jack sent out a letter regarding the protocol test and OTEP but has not received any responses on this issue.

7. Services vs. Units (Fred Johnson)

Fred was not in attendance today so there was only general discussion on this topic. According to Jack, we can not go any further on this issue until the law is clarified and/or modified as a change in the law is necessary in order to do min/max numbers on units instead of services. Fred will send a legal analysis forward. In 1989, agency heads did not want to be told how many units they could have. Also the issue of verification versus certification as it pertains to licensure will be another part of this issue.

8. CDC and Hospital Preparedness Contracts/Regional Roles in CDC and Hospital Preparedness (Norm Fjosee)

Duane Marriotti's Communication System should be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Also, the hospital capacity website which is currently used in the Puget Sound area will be statewide by that time.

Norm handed out a diagram of the 'Local Health Regions for Bio-terrorism Planning and Coordination', which divides the state into local health jurisdictions for the purpose of upcoming hospital preparedness contract work. He also handed out a list of the 'Lead Regional Emergency Response Coordinators' and recommends that local and regional councils appoint these health district representatives to their council for the purpose of keeping them in the loop.

Norm handed out two statements of work drafts that will be used to create contracts for the hospital preparedness plan. These drafts outline the objectives and deliverables of the program. One work contract will go to the hospitals and one will go the regional EMS councils. He also handed out a list of hospitals that will be participating in the study. A letter will be sent out to all hospitals about these upcoming contracts.

There is word that FEMA will be distributing \$70 million for first responder training as early as September or October. More information on this will be given as it becomes available.

## 9. Trauma Plan Format

The Trauma Plan committee will meet on August 5<sup>th</sup>. They will probably make minor changes in the wording of the Trauma Plan. There was also discussion about identifying issues and needs under the PCP section of the plan, however some people see that as being unnecessary because the issues, needs and problems that pertain to certain parts of the plan is usually discussed under that specific area.

## 10. Good of the Order

Tim handed out two articles that pertain to Homeland Security and the different bills going through Congress with funding for EMS related programs.

Richard Benjamin handed out information on the new POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) forms. Included is a description of the POLST form and a schedule of regional presentations.

Traumatic Brain Injury and the Brain Trauma Fund will be discussed at the next MPD meeting.

Workshops to distribute and discuss new SEI training material are tentatively scheduled for September 21 and December 14.

## 11. Regional Reports

Southwest: Nothing to report.

West: Nothing to report.

North Central: Nothing to report.

North: Chris Williams has accepted a job with the DOH so they will be interviewing to fill his position at the North region.

East: Nothing to report.

Central: Nothing to report.

South Central: Nothing to report.

Northwest: Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm. The next RAC meeting will be on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am.