



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
Board Meeting
12:00 pm
February 27, 2024**

PRESENT:	Dave Kraski	President North County Fire
	Shaughn Maxwell	Vice-President South County Fire
	Jim Haverfield	Secretary/Treasurer SCFD 17
	Eric Andrews	Medium Agencies Director SCFD19
	Keith Strotz	Small Agencies Director SCFD19
	Kevin O'Brien	Large Agencies Director South County Fire
	Thad Hovis	Immediate Past President South County Fire
	Joe Hughes	South County Fire
	Terry Peterson	SNO911

A. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 1306 hours.

B. Adopt/Adjust Agenda No adjustments to the agenda.

C. Minutes

Action: A motion was made by Chief Maxwell to approve the previous month's minutes. Chief Hovis seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

D. Old Business

E. Nurse Navigator Update

At the time of the meeting the program had been live for 5-6 weeks. They had received about 850 calls. Approximately 20% had been navigated out of the 911 system. This is higher than anticipated. The abdominal pain issue has been a bit of a struggle. The calls are being thoroughly reviewed to ensure that patient care and safety are the top priorities.

Workshops regarding the system will be held soon with GMR to try to reduce hand backs and maximize efficiency. All are invited to the workshops. There is hope that a smaller agency will attend these sessions to help streamline messaging. The operational impacts will be reviewed.

The 80/20 ratio is common regarding the abdominal pain issue, but it is atypical concerning the rest of the call volume.

It is thought that if the abdominal pain calls were removed from the number of 850 calls being sent to the system the actual numbers would be more in line with expectations.

One suggestion was made that the smaller agencies might be more willing to send some of their calls to the nurse line if they are set up to, perhaps, check in/visit the patient in the following days to see if they were effectively managed and are satisfied with their interaction.

Ketih Strotz shared that response times for small agencies can be impacted by having callers diverted to the nurse line and this could impact levies. His agency would like to opt out.

Chief Haverfield shared that his agency had three calls that weren't answered. Terry Peterson has followed up with GMR and they are aware of this "call abandonment" issue. Chief Haverfield offered to forward his data to Terry Peterson. He is hopeful that this system will succeed and he's willing to give it an appropriate amount of time to work through initial bugs.

Kevin O'Brien sought clarification regarding the 80% hand back rate, how many were acute or had to be transported ALS. Per Terry Peterson, the calls are being thoroughly evaluated but it's complex. There were zero hospital admissions, but more research is being done. Some agencies transport both ALS/BLS via their medic units so it has made it a bit difficult to dial down which patients required ALS. Kevin shared that SRFR is very optimistic about this program, and he understands that there will be issues that will need to be addressed.

Joe Hughes reminded the group that this program is not placing a financial burden on any county agencies, at this point. It's being funded through a grant.

Shaughn Maxwell reiterated that this is another way to protect resources. He also understands that smaller agencies are trying to protect theirs, and he understands their concerns that they could have trouble passing levies and raising money if their wait times are negatively impacted.

Per GMR there is no real "opting out" process but Terry Peterson has asked his team to try to evaluate whether they can come up with some sort of solution to allow small agencies to remove themselves from the system.

OSO Slide Memorial

The 10-year anniversary and dedication of the memorial will be held on March 22nd. All agencies are invited to participate. Attendees should arrive at 9 am to find parking. First responders are welcome to share a meal afterward, provided by The Soup Ladies.

Lunch at the next General Membership Meeting

Last month's meeting was catered by CSD Law.

Lunch at the March General Membership meeting will be catered by Dickie's Barbeque sponsored by Archbright Human Resource Management.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Chief Hudson will attend the General Membership Meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a county-wide behavioral health subcommittee.

F. New Business

SCEMS Elections

Roger Vares has been the Chairman of SCEMS. He will be retiring in April 2024. The group will hold elections to fill his role. Joe Hughes and Roger had a positive, productive meeting about moving SCEMS forward.

G. Committee Updates

Chief Maxwell shared that SCF has received some of the results on the uniforms that were sent for analysis. They sent Nomex/Workrite gear to a lab at Duke. They hoped to have the items tested for heavy metals, lead, chlorine, and a few other things which had been cited in reports. The uniform pieces tested negative for a bromine retardant. Additional results are pending. The items will also be sent to NC State to be tested further.

The new uniforms that were ordered have arrived and will be put into circulation soon, as a trial. They are comprised of cotton and wool. Additional details will be provided as information becomes available.

H. Announcements/Good of the Order

I. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1227 hours. The motion was made by Chief Hovis and was seconded by Chief Kraski.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Susan Bjorling
Executive Assistant, Office of the Fire Chief
South County Fire

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2024
1:00 pm

Attachments: