



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
General Membership
11:30 a.m.
May 1, 2023**

PRESENT:

Thad Hovis
Dave Kraski
Jim Haverfield
Travis Hots
Kevin O'Brien
Keith Strotz

President South County Fire
Vice President Arlington Fire
Secretary/Treasurer Snohomish County FPD 17 (absent)
Immediate Past President, Snohomish County FPD 22 (absent)
Large Agency Director Snoh. Regional Fire & Rescue (absent)
Small Agency Director Snohomish County FPD 19

John Jamieson
Mike Calvert
Jeff Cole
Tom Maloney
Ned Vander Pol
Glen Albright
Troy Elmore
Blake Engnes
John Cermak
Joshua Cole
Eric Andrews
Ernie Walters
Lori Burke
Bill Dane
John Chalfant
Bob Eastman
Karl Fitterer
Shawneri Guzman
Joe Hughes
Jason Isotalo
Terry Peterson
Ryan Keay
Leonard Boche'

Boeing Fire
Everett Fire
Marysville Fire
Marysville Fire
Marysville Fire
Mukilteo Fire
Mukilteo Fire
Mukilteo Fire
North County Fire
Paine Field Fire Department
Sky Valley Fire
Sky Valley Fire
Snohomish County Fire Marshal
Snohomish County FPD 17
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
Sno911
Snohomish County Medical Program Director
Northwest Business Services

- A. Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1131 hours.
- B. Adopt / Adjust Agenda**
Chiefs Hovis and Kraski amended the agenda to include a presentation by Snohomish County Medical Program Director, Dr. Ryan Keay.
- C. Minutes**
- **Discussion:** No discussion.
 - **Action: Motion** by Chief Eastman to approve the minutes of the April 2023 meeting. **Seconded** by Chief Waller. **Approved** unanimously.
- D. Treasurer's Report**

- **Discussion:** There was no activity for the month of April 2023.

E. Old Business

Wall Wait Times

Dr. Keay shared information regarding the bed capacity in Snohomish County. In a study published late last year, Snohomish County ranked last (out of 45 participating states) regarding the number of available beds for patients. Our county was near the bottom of the worldwide statistics. To get to the median number, Snohomish County would need to add an additional 246 beds.

Dr. Keay also shared that nurses have been returning to work. Providence hospital has been working on decreasing offload times and will continue to do so.

Chief Eastman shared that fire/EMS will continue to address the issue of offload times. Things have seemed to improve over the last few weeks. The small hospital group will meet and further develop and adopt level loading processes. These processes will include the five facilities in Snohomish County and may expand to Skagit County eventually.

Chief Jeff Cole has also participated in the above-mentioned meetings. Chief Eastman expressed his gratitude to Chief Cole for all his work behind the scenes.

Consortium RFP Interviews/Selection

Terry Peterson - Sno911 (absent)

Three vendors were interviewed. One was selected. An initial contract offer has been sent and discussions have been started. It's hoped that the negotiations will be wrapped up within two weeks.

SCTO Class Leadership Presentation/Cancellation

Troy Elmore

Unfortunately, due to a lack of registrants, this class had to be cancelled. A cancellation fee will be paid by SCFCA.

F. New Business

A nomination was submitted to the Executive Board suggesting that Chief Jeff Cole should succeed Chief Neuhoff (retired) on the PSAP Technical Coordination Committee (PTCC).

- **Action: Motion** by Chief Cermak to accept the nomination of Chief Jeff Cole to Succeed Chief Neuhoff on PTCC. **Seconded** by Chief Chalfant. **Approved** unanimously.

GMR Nurse Navigator

Terry Peterson - Sno911/Chief Joe Hughes

GMR presented their Nurse Navigator Line at TAC on April 19th. Started four years ago. They currently serve 18 agencies throughout the US, serving approximately seven million people. The program is fully customizable.

The workflow is such that the patient calls 911 and, through determinate codes, calls are routed based on approved parameters set forth by Snohomish County EMS. This process may alleviate a great deal of the medical/social work that could be better handled by non-emergency staff.

It should reduce wheel turns and hospital visits.

The goal would be to aim for an initial 3-6% reduction in call volume based on folks working with the Nurse Navigator line.

Every call is subject to Q/A. GMR shoulders the liability.

Typically, only 1% of calls are diverted back into becoming an ALS call.

GMR's most recent satisfaction scores, based on users having been polled, have been favorable and steady.

It's felt that this service would help to reduce compassion fatigue and the patient load on area facilities.

Chief Eastman inquired as to how much revenue might be lost if people aren't being transported. Chief John Chalfant, who attended the GMR presentation shared that the majority of agencies currently utilizing the system across the country have noted no loss in revenue. Most of the patients calling are not necessarily paying for services. GMR notes no decrease in billable transports.

The group would like to have the "true" cost determined. It was also mentioned that this would take approximately 3-6% of contacts with community members away from the agencies.

Terry Peterson with Sno911 shared that he has received an initial proposal from GMR. Discussions have been unofficial, to this point.

The SCFCA General Membership group made a formal request that Fire TAC look at including the cost of the Nurse Navigator Line in assessment fees for next year.

Chief Cermak inquired as to what type of threat may be involved for fire service agencies vs privatization. There are no ambulances associated. The service utilizes Lyft or other ride share services. There is also the potential to schedule some of the rides with agencies' own units/apparatus; a "cabulance" type of service could be developed.

Chief Kraski and Chief Waller suggested the formation of a small group that could gather data for both an RFP and a personalized SCFCA user-satisfaction survey to acquire "real-life" information re: cost, transport, customer service.

Seattle, Vancouver, and Spokane have all been contracted with GMR.

Smaller agencies prefer to have more contact with their constituents versus losing the opportunity for a positive interaction with residents. However, to support a county-wide initiative they would contribute a percentage. Prior to engaging, though, they've

requested that a more thorough investigation be undertaken to determine true costs and how their more rural residents may be served.

Amy Bannister, with Seattle Fire, has been cited as an exceptional resource for those with questions about how the program has been working "real time" for Seattle Fire. Chief Hughes plans to invite Amy to join the next SCFCA meeting to engage in a conversation with the general membership.

Chiefs Hughes, Waller, Maxwell, and Eastman, along with Terry Peterson, will continue to investigate this issue.

G. Reports

1. **Sno911** Terry Peterson -
No report.
2. **Fire Commissioners** Don Waller
Chief Waller is looking forward to attending the next Commissioner's meeting.
3. **Fire Marshal-** Lori Burke -
Training officers have been providing scene preservation and training to the Fire Marshal's office. Lori requested that if training meetings are being planned, coordinators reach out to the Fire Marshal's office so that they can present information to ensure consistency across the county.
4. **Fire Resources Coordinator** Travis Hots - absent.
5. **DEM/Incident Management** Lucia Schmitt -
Sno-Isle Fire Commissioners have invited Lucia Schmitt to speak at their next meeting.
Action: Chief Andrews made a **motion** to request that SCFCA support DEM in developing a county-wide wildfire protection plan for all fire districts. The **motion was seconded** by **Chief Hovis. Motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Fire TAC** Eric Andrews -
The Nurse Navigator line has been the primary focus recently.
There has been a new type code developed AWWX "assault with weapons, critical patient. Unsecured scene where weapons have been involved." If AWWX is sent out, crews should ask for more information and don ballistics gear, if available.
7. **Legislative** Shaughn Maxwell (absent) - no update.
8. **Fire Prevention** Shawneri Guzman -
There will be a Suicide Prevention Symposium coming up soon in Skagit County. Roger Vares will be the featured speaker. This event will be held in Snohomish County in 2024. The County PIOs and Public Educators have been working hard to bring this information to Snohomish County and surrounding areas.
9. **EMS** Roger Vares (absent) Joe Hughes -
A strategic planning session was held with Dr. Keay, the new MPD. The group became better acquainted and researched pathways to move forward to improve services and responses.

10. Training Consortium Chief DeMarco – (absent)

11. Training Officers/Safety Troy Elmore –

The group's last meeting focused on carcinogen risk reduction, go-bags, and pop-up tents for changing in the field. The group is working on developing a procedure to be shared later.

Initial contact has been made with King and Pierce County Safety Officer groups to improve communications and increase opportunities for education.

12. Special Ops Dave Ruddell-

SOPB has been developing their budget.

13. Policy / Procedure Review Committee Eric Andrews-

Chief Andrews will email updates to the members as policies and procedures are adopted. Leonard Boche', webmaster, will update the SCFCA website.

14. Washington State Fire Chiefs Kevin O'Brien – absent.

H. Announcements/Good of the Order

- I. **Adjournment Motion** to adjourn proposed by Chief Eastman; **seconded** by Chief Cermak and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1230 **hours**.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Susan Bjorling / Executive Assistant – South County Fire

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 5th, 2023

Attachments: