

# MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

## STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

ALS Subcommittee meeting 3/15/2018

### Summary

*Topics included unit cost model and methodology; identifying challenges and potential improvements; further discussion on possible system efficiencies; and an introduction to projecting future ALS demand.*

### Attendees

*Chair: Keith Scully, City of Shoreline*

Matt Abers, Snohomish County FD 26

Andy Adolfson, Bellevue Fire

Vic Borque, Bellevue Fire

Cynthia Bradshaw, KCEMS

Rich Burke, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Helen Chatalas, KCEMS

Rachel Garlini, Shoreline Fire

Krystal Hackmeister, Bellevue Fire

Tracie Jacinto, KCEMS

Keith Keller, King County Medic One

Michelle Lightfoot, KCEMS

Stacie Martyn, Bellevue Fire

Joe McGrath, Redmond Fire

Joe Monteil, King County Medic One

John Nankervis, Shoreline Fire

Brian Parry, Sound Cities Association

Michele Florde, KC EMS

Chris Santos, Seattle Fire

Tommy Smith, Redmond Fire

Eric Timm, King County Medic One

Corey Wenzel, Snohomish County FD 26

Jim Whitney, Redmond Fire

### Issues discussed

#### Unit allocation:

##### Overview:

The regional Medic One/EMS levy commits to fully funding eligible ALS costs, which account for over 60% of KC EMS levy expenses. Funding for ALS services is provided to agencies using a standard unit cost allocation, consisting of an operating and equipment allocation. The allocation is increased annually using a compound inflator tied to specific economic indices.

##### Discussion:

Agencies are experiencing challenges working within the allocation, and suggested changing the methodology to better accommodate fixed costs, highly variable costs and inflators that aren't keeping pace with actual costs. Subcommittee participants agreed to experiment with a different methodology to address those issues and more accurately fully cover ALS costs. This new approach, which will provide increased cost comparison and transparency, was vetted through the ALS Working Group.

#### Efficiencies, Effectiveness & Best Practices:

##### Overview:

The EMS system and its partners have long committed to minimizing new costs and looking for programmatic efficiencies that will benefit the entire regional EMS system and its users.

### Discussion:

Subcommittee members identified strategies to be considered to help create efficiencies, such as:

- Remounting/restoring/refurbishing equipment, rather than new purchases;
- Implementing Operative Software to improve efficiency of tracking inventory;
- Increasing coordination for procurement activities and pharmaceutical oversight; and
- Continuing dispatch review of appropriate calls.

In addition, members stressed the need to collectively address personnel issues on a regional level and reiterated their interest in sharing resource system-wide to help develop greater cost savings, system effectiveness and flexibility. It was proposed that such a focus be considered for a future Strategic Initiative.

### **Projected Demand Analysis:**

#### Overview:

Integral to the levy planning process is identifying ALS capacity to handle projected call growth during the next (2020-2025) levy span. Projecting future ALS demand/future medic unit needs is necessary to ensure the Financial Plan accommodates potential new unit costs.

#### Discussion:

Projected demand analysis focuses on

- projected total population growth (correlates with call volume);
- projected growth of populations that use ALS (seniors); and
- whether current units have enough capacity to accommodate the anticipated increase in calls.

Discussion included reviewing unit utilization, better accommodating surge capacity, wanting to know when agencies hit "level zero", where no units are available, and addressing transport and hospital turnaround times

### **Other Issues:**

The Washington State Legislature passed **SHB 2627** which amends RCW 84.52.69 so that:

- 1 – An EMS levy renewal would require a simple majority approval for passage (instead of a super majority); and
- 2 – 75% of the legislative bodies of cities with 50,000+ in population would need to approve placing the EMS levy on the ballot (instead of 100% of such cities).

### **Next Meeting:**

April 10, 2018:            1:00 – 3:00 pm            2100 Building, Community Room A  
2100 24<sup>th</sup> Ave South in Seattle

Items for discussion include the Financial Plan components of contingencies, reserves and inflators, analyzing projected demand, and further identification of efficiencies, effectiveness and best practices.