

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

BLS Subcommittee meeting 2/8/2018

Summary

Topics included subcommittee responsibilities; a proposed work plan and timeline; principles to help guide decision making within the group; and review of the funding available to BLS agencies via the levy (BLS allocation, programs and initiatives).

Attendees

Chair: Denis Law, City of Renton

Tom Agnew, City of Bothell

Vic Bourque, Bellevue Fire

Cynthia Bradshaw, KCEMS

Seth Buchanan, Kirkland Fire

Rich Burke, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Rick Chaney, South King Fire & Rescue

Helen Chatalas, KCEMS

Jeff Clark, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Pam Fernald, City of SeaTac

Erik Friedrichsen, KCEMS

Tracie Jacinto, KCEMS

Vic Kave, City of Pacific

Keith Keller, King County Medic One

Charlie Krimmert, Vashon Fire & Rescue

Michelle Lightfoot, KCEMS

Mike Marrs, KCFD#2

Matthew Morris, Puget Sound RFA

Rick Myking, Renton RFA

John Nankervis, Shoreline Fire

Kevin Olson, Valley Regional Fire Auth.

Vic Pennington, South King Fire & Rescue

Michele Plorde, KC EMS

John Rickert, South King Fire & Rescue

Larry Rude, KC Fire Commissioners

Chris Santos, Seattle Fire

Ryan Simonds, WSCFF

Dave Van Valkenburg, Kirkland Fire

Jay Wittwer, Tukwila Fire

Issues discussed

Roles and Timeline

The BLS Subcommittee will develop recommendations for the span of the next Medic One/EMS levy period (2020-2025). Its task is to review the needs of the system and develop BLS recommendations to ensure the region can best continue to provide this world-class emergency medical service.

- Very preliminary BLS program recommendations will be developed by end of the 3rd meeting (April 2018). They will proceed to the Finance Subcommittee for review and input and to the full Task Force in April for feedback.
- Subsequent meetings will focus on further developing these recommendations and providing financials to support them. These more developed recommendations will go to the Finance Subcommittee and then full Task Force in late July 2018 for feedback.

- Subcommittee will continue meeting to finalize its recommendations, which the Task Force will endorse in mid-October.

Principles

At the January Task Force meeting, the Chair asked that participants agree to basic principles that will help guide the levy reauthorization process. The Subcommittee reviewed the principles, or “ground rules” and were asked to work within them.

EMS Stakeholders remain committed to these fundamental principles:

1. Regional system
2. Tiered medical model based system
3. Programs & innovative strategies
4. Focus on cost effectiveness and efficiencies
5. Maintaining the EMS levy as the funding source

BLS allocation

Overview:

Since its inception, the regional Medic One/EMS levy has provided BLS agencies with an allocation to help offset costs of providing EMS services. The allocation was developed as a way to recognize and support BLS for its significant contribution to the success of the EMS system, but was never intended to fully fund BLS. Agencies use the allocation to pay for a variety of EMS-specific items including personnel, equipment and supplies.

The BLS Subcommittee will determine **the total level of funding that will be allocated to BLS** for the span of the next levy, **and how to distribute it** among the BLS agencies.

Discussion:

BLS Subcommittee members unanimously agreed that the total BLS allocation for the next levy span should reflect the fundamental role that BLS plays within the regional system. It was noted that the allocation is not keeping up with the growth in costs and demand experienced by agencies. The group was in support of increasing the total amount of the BLS allocation, but was cautioned to consider how an increase could impact the levy rate and taxpayer support of the levy. Members endorsed reviewing different methodologies and data driven approaches to develop the funding amount, protecting the baseline, and considering modifications to the agency allocation formulas (such as developing a BLS unit allocation, rebasing).

Programs that support BLS

Overview:

In addition to the annual allocation, BLS agencies receive support through Regional Services and Strategic Initiatives that are managed by the EMS Division. These programs aim to specifically help reduce impacts on BLS and address demand for services.

