

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

BLS Subcommittee meeting 3/8/2018

Summary

Meeting topics included the review of BLS call data, King County demographic trends, abridged economic forecast, and further identifying BLS priorities.

Attendees

Chair: Vic Kave, City of Pacific

Andy Adolfson, Bellevue Fire

Dave Beste, Bellevue Fire

Vic Bourque, Bellevue Fire

Cynthia Bradshaw, KC EMS

Seth Buchanan, Kirkland Fire

Rich Burke, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Helen Chatalas, KC EMS

Jeff Clark, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Mark Correira, Snoqualmie Fire

Kevin Coughlin, Woodinville Fire

Chuck DeSmith, Renton RFA

Todd Dickerboom, Bellevue Fire

Tracie Jacinto, KC EMS

Melina Kuzaro, Valley Regional Fire Auth

Michelle Lightfoot, KC EMS

Mike Marrs, KCFD#2

Krystal Marx, City of Burien

Matthew Morris, Puget Sound RFA

John Nankervis, Shoreline Fire

Eli Panci, Kirkland Fire

Brian Parry, Sound Cities Association

Michele Plorde, KC EMS

Tom Rea, KC EMS

John Rickert, South King Fire & Rescue

Larry Rude, KC Fire Commissioners

Chris Santos, Seattle Fire

Ryan Simonds, WSCFF

Mitch Snyder, Puget Sound RFA

Jay Wittwer, Tukwila Fire

Issues discussed

Data review:

BLS Subcommittee participants were briefed on BLS call data, King County population information, and received a short economic forecast overview, as requested at its 2/8/2018 meeting.

BLS responses:

- BLS responses increasing, between 2% and 7% annually
- Zone 1 = 40% of responses; Zone 3 = 60%
- BLS responses broke into 2 types:
 - o **BLS-only** responses = 80%
 - Of which low acuity = 25%
 - Zone 1 = 40%; Zone 3 = 60%
 - o **BLS and ALS** responses = 20%

Population growth:

King County has experienced steady growth over the past 40 years

Population is now over 2 million, and diverse:

More than 50% of recent growth is due to immigration

More than 170 different languages spoken

Growth over 30 years shifting from South King County to Seattle

1990 – 2010: King County grew by 400,000 people

40% of growth in South King County

2010 – 2017: King County grew by 220,000 people

Approx. 50% of growth in Seattle

Growth over past 20 years has shifted from rural areas to bigger cities.

New housing in rural areas shrunk to 5%

New housing in big cities increased to 48%

Trends: Seniors (defined as “over 65”):

1. Number of older adults growing across the country

- Senior population expected to **double** from 2010-2030

- Expect growth of 200,000 older adults

- 42,000 will be 80 or over, and may need assistance.

2. Where are they living?

1990 = in Seattle

1990 - 2010 = South King County and Eastside

2010 - now = Distributed all over King County

Can expect increased housing services/facilities for aging populations

Economic Forecast:

- Unemployment is low in 2017
- Unemployment leads to wage growth
- CPI inflation expected to remain stable
- Local job growth good but not as robust as previous years
- Assessed Values – steady but in the single digits
- New construction – expected to lower be lower from 2019-2025

BLS Priorities

Overview:

The EMS levy provides BLS agencies an allocation to help offset costs of providing EMS services. 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.

Two of the tasks of the BLS Subcommittee are to 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. In addition, the group has been asked to provide ideas for regional programs for the span of the next levy.

Discussion:

BLS members reviewed total BLS funding levels for the current levy span in order to provide perspective for considering future levy priorities. Members voiced support for the BLS Core Services program, as well as keeping the allocation funding separate from the programmatic funding. Rather than having different programs for which BLS agencies can receive funding, the idea of consolidating and distributing the funds across all BLS agencies was proffered. **Members requested that Seattle Fire Department funding be represented in future charts and graphs.**

The topic of potentially earmarking EMS levy funds for Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) was raised, as were challenges regarding a regional approach, costs associated with such an approach, populations being served, program standardization, agency inclusivity and participation, and needs. **MIH will be added to the April 5, 2018 BLS Subcommittee meeting agenda.**

Information requested:

- BLS responses – broken out by jurisdiction/agency
- Request for MIH breakout
 - Include # of patients not transported

Next Meeting

April 5, 2018, 2018: 1:00 – 3:00 pm Renton City Hall, Council Chambers, 7th Floor
1055 South Grady Way, in Renton
(425) 430-6400

Items for discussion include BLS allocation methodologies, Mobile Integrated Healthcare, and other programs to increase system effectiveness,