

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

EMS Advisory Task Force

1/18/18 meeting notes

Task Force Members present:

The Honorable Tom Agnew, Councilmember, City of Bothell
The Honorable Bob Baggett, Deputy Mayor, City of Auburn
The Honorable Pam Fernald, Councilmember, City of SeaTac
The Honorable Tom Hornish, Deputy Mayor, City of Sammamish
The Honorable Vic Kave, Councilmember, City of Pacific
The Honorable Denis Law, Mayor, City of Renton
The Honorable John Marchione, Mayor, City of Redmond
Matthew Morris, Chief, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority
Larry Rude, Fire Commissioner, King County Fire Commissioner/Eastside Fire & Rescue
Harold Scoggins, Chief, Seattle Fire
The Honorable Keith Scully, Councilmember, City of Shoreline
Rachel Smith, Chief of Staff to King County Executive Dow Constantine
Mark Thompson, Fire Commissioner, South King Fire & Rescue
The Honorable Nancy Tosta, Councilmember, City of Burien

Attendees

Andy Adolfson, Bellevue Fire
Mary Alice Allenbach, King County EMS
Dave Beste, Bellevue Fire
Cynthia Bradshaw, King County EMS
Seth Buchanan, Kirkland Fire
Rich Burke, Eastside Fire & Rescue
Brant Butte, AMR
Rick Chaney, South King Fire & Rescue
Helen Chatalas, King County EMS
Jeff Clark, Eastside Fire & Rescue
Matt Cowan, Shoreline Fire
Todd Dickerboom, Bellevue Fire
Dr. Mickey Eisenberg, King County EMS
Erik Friedrichsen, KC EMS
Chris Flores, Tukwila Fire
Krystal Hackmeister, Bellevue Fire
Blake Harrison, KC EMS
Steve Heitman, Mercer Island Fire
Alex Herzog, City of Shoreline
Mike Hilley, Redmond Fire
Lyman Howard, City of Sammamish
Keith Keller, King County Medic One
Charlie Krimmert, Vashon Fire & Rescue
Bruce Kroon, Bothell Fire
Michelle Lightfoot, King County EMS
Mike Marrs, KCFD #2
Stacie Martyn, Bellevue Fire Department
Vonnie Mayer, Valley Communications
Joe Monteil, King County Medic One
Rick Myking, Renton RFA
John Nankervis, Shoreline Fire
Kevin Olson, VRA
Michael Olson, City of Kirkland
Elijah Panci, City of Kirkland
Brian Parry, Sound Cities Association
Michele Plorde, King County EMS
Dr. Tom Rea, King County EMS
John Rickert, South King Fire & Rescue
Chris Santos, Seattle Fire Department
Ryan Simonds, Renton RFA/WSCFF
Tishawna Smith, KC EMS
Tommy Smith, Redmond Fire
Mitch Snyder, Puget Sound RFA
Eric Timm, King County Medic One
Aaron Tyerman, Maple Valley Fire

Summary:

At the first meeting of the EMS Advisory Task Force, members were grounded in their roles and responsibilities, the levy planning timeline and the policy decisions they would be making. They were then introduced to the components and tenets that allow the successful Medic One/EMS system to thrive.

Task Force Roles and Timeline

As Chair of the Task Force, Rachel Smith, Chief of Staff to King County Executive Dow Constantine, reviewed the *Task Force* roles, objectives and the timeline. With the current EMS levy expiring December 31, 2019, the *Task Force* is charged with overseeing the development and vetting of the next Medic One/EMS Strategic Plan and levy. This includes reviewing and proposing recommendations concerning:

- Current and projected EMS system needs;
- A Financial Plan based on those needs; and
- The levy rate, levy length, and timing of the levy ballot measure.

The Task Force is scheduled to meet a total of four times; each meeting will include a discussion of levy components and a review of the work done in four subcommittees (ALS, BLS, Regional Services and Finance). The bulk of the programmatic and financial analysis will be conducted in these subcommittees and brought forward as draft recommendations for the Task Force to review and endorse. Task Force members were encouraged to either chair or serve on a subcommittee.

The process is anticipated to take approximately nine months, with recommendations finalized by the Task Force in October of 2018, and the Strategic Plan and levy Ordinances transmitted to the King County Council in mid-February, 2019.

Topics Discussed

This meeting provided a general overview of the Medic One/EMS system and the Strategic Plan and levy planning process.

- Dr. Mickey Eisenberg, former Medical Program Director for the Medic One/EMS system of King County, traced back the origins of the Medic One system, from early resuscitation in the late 18th century, the discovery of CPR in 1960, and up to 1970 when Drs. Copass and Cobb and Chief Vickery implemented their radical idea that would become the successful EMS system that we have today.
- Michele Plorde, EMS Division Director, reviewed the components of the Medic One/EMS system and how the four service areas (Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, Regional Services, and Strategic Initiatives) operate in a regional and tiered manner.
- Dr. Tom Rea, Medical Program Director for the Medic One/EMS system of King County, focused on the system's commitment to medicine, and how medical

control, medical oversight, medical direction and ongoing quality improvement are the reasons the system is world class.

- John Marchione, Mayor of Redmond, reviewed the state statute allowing jurisdictions to impose an EMS levy, briefly reviewed expenditure levels and levy rate, and stressed the benefits of financing the Medic One/EMS system via an EMS levy.

Panel/Q&A Session (Fire Chiefs Matt Cowan and Harold Scoggins, Dr. Tom Rea and Valley Comm. Deputy Director Vonnie Mayer)

An expert panel representing dispatch, ALS, BLS and medical direction answered questions posed by Task Force members. Questions focused on issues either currently experienced by EMS agencies or on the horizon that should be considered during the levy planning process, such as:

- External factors impacting agencies' resources (increased cost and use of medicine; opioid epidemic; the homeless population; large population growth forecasted over the next 10 years);
- Connecting callers with the appropriate public health and social services for treatment;
- Identifying strategies to better address lower-acuity yet still complex calls, in which dispatch can play a role;
- Balancing the funding needs of ALS (the focus of the levy) with BLS (the cornerstone of the system) while still maintaining a levy rate that King County residents can support, especially with the property tax increases occurring in 2018; and
- Technological advances and upgrades over the next 10 years that agencies may need to obtain.

Upcoming Task Force Meetings:

Thursday, April 26, 2018 1 pm – 3 pm

Tukwila Community Center
12424 42nd Ave S, Tukwila

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 1 pm – 3 pm

2100 Building, Room B
2100 24th Ave S, Seattle

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1 pm – 3 pm
(*This date is revised*)

Tukwila Community Center
12424 42nd Ave S, Tukwila

For more information on the EMS Advisory Task Force and the levy reauthorization process, please contact Helen Chatalas at 206-263-8560.