

King County Emergency Medical Services

Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan

September & October 2010



Published by the EMS Division
Public Health - Seattle & King County

Public Health 
Seattle & King County

Introduction

This newsletter is designed to update the EMS Advisory Committee and others on the progress of the Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan. If you have questions, please contact me at (206) 263-8560.

Helen Chatalas

EMS Advisory Committee

The EMS Advisory Committee (EMSAC) met on September 15, 2010 to discuss a 2011 Proposed EMS Budget summary, a review of reserve recommendations from the Financial Subcommittee, the EMS 2010 Annual Report, and the Proposed EMS 2014-2019 Levy Planning Work Plan. In addition, a Taxi Voucher Pilot Proposal was presented for approval.

EMS 2014-2019 Levy Planning Work Plan: When the current EMS levy was passed by the King County Council in 2007, a new Task Force to lead the region through the next round of levy planning was also created. A Work Plan, detailing the Task Force's objectives and how to meet its goals was submitted to the King County Council in mid-September 2010. Earlier this year, a subcommittee of EMSAC convened to discuss how the planning process should proceed and what this Work Plan should entail. With the Task Force expected to be 35+ in size, the idea was to create subcommittees to bring proposals to the Task Force for review and endorsement. Important assumptions identified by the group, including demonstrating the value of EMS to the community, the importance of the medical model, and the stability of the EMS levy as a funding mechanism, are expected to be incorporated into the EMS Orientation at the first Task Force Meeting in the Fall of 2011.

Taxi Voucher Pilot Proposal: The EMS Division is partnering with Redmond Fire Department, Renton Fire Department, and the Evergreen Healthcare Nurseline to initiate a nine-month Taxi Transport Voucher pilot program. Through this pilot, EMTs can supply round-trip taxi vouchers to low-acuity patients who require non-emergent follow-up medical care.

Providing alternative transport methods is just one way the region is working to decrease the average BLS unit out-of-service time, reduce unnecessary ambulance transports, and encourage transport to appropriate facilities other than hospital emergency departments.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for **December 15, 2010** from 1PM to 3PM at Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-112 (450 110th NE, Bellevue).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact **Michele Plorde** at (206) 263-8603.

Regional Purchasing Program

At the September 8, 2010 meeting, the **Regional Purchasing Committee** discussed the recent Vendor's Fair, how best for each department to handle surplus or outdated stock, and review of various EMS product highlights.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for **January 12, 2011** from 10AM to 12PM at Kent Fire Department, Sta. 77 (207 132nd Ave SE, Kent).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact **Bill Oung** at (206) 263-8638.

Other News & Announcements

EMS Levy Financial Audit

The King County Auditor's Office (KCAO) recently completed its 2010 review of the King County EMS fund.

The focus of the audit was to assess how closely the Division's financial operations were managed in accordance with the Council-adopted levy policies and financial plan, and to review the cost savings and efficiencies achieved by the Division's individual Strategic Initiatives. The audit also identified potential opportunities for achieving system efficiencies and cost effectiveness.

The overall results were positive, with the KCAO concluding that the EMS fund was managed consistent with the financial policies, and that the Strategic Initiatives were achieving the EMS objectives of improving patient care, managing the rate of growth on the system, and containing costs. The KCAO identified ways to strengthen internal controls to increase the accuracy of financial reporting, and proposed using a different vehicle price index that might better forecast future ALS vehicle costs.

Developing additional performance measures, project milestones, targets and benchmarking were suggested so that EMS could more conclusively identify and determine the efficiencies that Strategic Initiatives provide the EMS system, and that future Initiatives consider focusing on EMS business operations. The report also recommended conducting an ALS vehicle life cycle cost analysis and use these results in conjunction with remounting standards to optimize vehicle replacement cycles and lower costs. Next steps include development of a detailed Work Plan to implement the Auditor's recommendations – look for details in upcoming newsletters.

For more information, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 263-8560.