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*

- Michelle Lightfoot, KCEMS
- 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
- 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.
Discussion:
EMS staff walked through a list of these programs, and asked BLS to consider how these programs could be simplified or amended to be made more useful for the next levy span. Regional Services and Strategic Initiatives will be discussed in greater detail in the Regional Services Subcommittee meetings.

Information requested
Call data:
- All EMS calls
- BLS only calls
- BLS & ALS calls
- BLS vs low acuity calls

Population data
Economic overview (presented at 2/1/18 Finance Subcommittee meeting)
Funding data:
- Further breakdown of BLS funding
  % of BLS to the total EMS (show on annual basis), without Core Services/Initiative funds
- Considerations for a possible methodology to determine “unit allocation” for BLS

Next Meeting
March 8, 2018: 1:00 – 3:00 pm Renton Fire Station 14 1900 Lind Ave SW in Renton

Items for discussion include BLS allocation methodology and programs to increase system effectiveness, specifically addressing lower-acuity calls.