



Meeting Agenda

Milwaukee County Council on Emergency Medical Services

Thursday March 2, 2023

9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85237876698?pwd=UFIJeTA3VkxOWWtJWFNHY056YzRydz09>

Phone: 312 626 6799

Passcode: 852 3787 6698#

Public Notice: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors who are not members of this committee may attend this meeting to participate or to gather information.

Call to Order – 9:00 AM

Supervisor Martin (Council Chair) led the meeting but was interrupted by technical difficulties. Fire Chief Whittaker (Council Vice Chair) took over while Supervisor Martin was disconnected.

Attendance & Introductions

Present: County Supervisor Felesia A. Martin, Health Officer Ann Christiansen, Program Director Alyssa Cahoon, Division Director Dan Pojar, Deputy Chief David Hensley, Mayor Steve Olson, Fire Chief Mason Pooler, Lieutenant Jerry Biggart, Fire Chief Kenten Kais, Program Manager Ben Thelen, Dr. Tony Thrasher, Dr. Ben Weston, Fire Chief Robert Whittaker, Fire Chief Jeff Bloor, Battalion Chief Daniel Weber, Case Manager Alison Lopez, Dean Kim Litwack, Director Cassandra Libal, Data Privacy and Compliance Manager Ulla Pinion, Village President Wanda Montgomery

Excused:, Lieutenant Ryan Wendt, Operations Director Chris Anderson,

Public Comment

No members of the public wishing to speak.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Fire Chief Mason Pooler, seconded by Lieutenant Jerry Biggart for approval of previous minutes, passed unanimously.

Recurring Reports & Old Business (7-min maximum unless chair or vice chair allows extension):

1. Old Business

a Status of Chapter 97 Update

Division Director Dan Pojar presented on the status of chapter 97 changes and updates. Chapter 97 is the ordinance that governs the EMS Council and the EMS System in the County.

Changes discussed at prior meetings were presented to Director Steve Cady with Legislative Research Division. Director did an analysis and drafted changes in an ordinance. Next step is to submit to the County Board for approval, which is already in progress.

2. Milwaukee County Association of Fire Chiefs

Fire Chief Mason Pooler presented. The Saint Francis Fire Department has recently upgraded their service to include paramedic services. This adds one additional paramedic ambulance to the County.

Mayor Steve Olson asked how the St. Francis paramedic position is staffed, and if it is staffed 24/7. The Fire Department has a transition period to work up to 24/7 staffing coverage.

Fire Chief Robert Whittaker also spoke. Working through the contracts for 2023 for the County. No additional information to report at this time.

3. EMS System Medical Director

Dr. Ben Weston presented. Dr. Weston used the newly released EMS Activity Dashboard to share updates:

- 111,155 patient encounters in the past year, which is a substantial increase.
- 8,824 patient encounters in the past 30 days.
- 42,546 total transports in the past year.
- 3,365 total transports in the past 30 days.

Demographic Updates:

- Milwaukee has highest number of patient encounters and transports (50%) followed by West Allis, Wauwatosa, and Greenfield
- Dashboard also highlights patient race and ethnicity data, encounters by age range, and percent of encounters resulting in transport by both race/ethnicity and age.
- In the past year, 42,546 patients received by hospitals, roughly 116 patients per day

Specialty Conditions – that result in advanced alert to hospital (in order of frequency)

- Trauma Activation (8,331), Isolation Alert (5,914), Stroke Alert (3,780), Opioid Alert (2,463), Stemi Alert (1,313), Sepsis Alert (805)

- Majority of alerts go to the three largest hospitals: Froedtert, St. Luke's, and Ascension

Health Officer Ann Christiansen inquired into the timeframe of the data, which Dr. Weston demonstrated can be altered to display any range of dates.

Dr. Weston also presented the Diversion Dashboard, which illustrates the number of diversions by hospitals.

- 3 types of diversions, capacity diversions, limited diversions, and bypass diversions.
- Milwaukee County does not allow capacity diversions. In 2022, there were 20 total diversions with 434.1 total hours on diversion, with an average of 27.1 mean hours on diversion.
- Dashboard also shows resources diverted by hospital system and the total hours on diversion by resource.

High level overview of patient care guideline updates:

- Around 100 changes
- Top changes:
 - o Adding two medications to medication list (magnesium and buprenorphine)
 - o Activating livestream on all online medical control consults – helps with distance-based communication
 - o New guideline for telemedicine
 - o Pediatric seizure study – change to weight based as opposed to age-based dosage
 - o New document with specific guidance related to hydrofluoric acid
 - o Updated trauma guidelines for traumatic cardiac arrest – prioritize life saving measures over CPR
 - o Inter-facility transport services, allowing for chest tube monitoring
 - o Providing closer scripting for providers on how to deliver news of death to families and loved ones.

Ann Christianson asked what the follow-up plan is for those receiving buprenorphine under the new guidelines. Still finalizing the guideline, but will likely be as follows:

- Patient provided with buprenorphine as an oral medication
- Can be transported to a hospital that has the resources in place to continue treatment and connect them with outpatient resources.
- If they refuse transport to the hospital, they will be connected with the mobile integrated health services who will connect them with outpatient services.

4. Milwaukee County EMS Division

Division Director Dan Pojar presented.

Image Trend Update – Electronic patient care records system.

- Infrastructure is in place to develop a single form and system for the entire county. The team has been working hard and expects to roll out in the next

couple of weeks. When complete, there will be a uniform single platform for data collection.

Quality Assurance Team

- Has been busy entering all the cardiac arrest cases from last year into the system.
- Over the past 6 years, there have been around 900 cases per year.
- Since 2020, there has been a 20% increase in cases per year.
- Working hard to get information out into the community about the importance of CPR and improved CPR training.

Continuing to Participate in Clinical Trials:

- Pediatric Seizure Medication Dose
- Ventilation Study

Guest Anesthesiologist Visit

- Showed techniques to secure airways in certain patients

5. Private EMS

No updates at this time.

6. State EMS Board

Lieutenant Jerry Biggert presented. Service operational plans, which will be updated before the end of the current cycle (June 30), are all online now. This will be the first-time things will be renewed in an online operational plan, and all are encouraged to utilize the provided checklist.

Things that will need to be uploaded for each provider into the licensing system include CPR and ACLS. CPR and ACLS will expire at some point in the licensing period before the license is up for renewal. Providers will need to go in and update their cards as they expire.

Make sure that rosters are checked after renewal. When providers renew, they should email the electronic version of their license to the Service Director. The Service Director can then update the roster.

EMTs can go through the same class as the Paramedics and now get credentialed as Community EMS as opposed to Community Paramedic and be utilized as a part of the EMS Team.

Heads-Up CPR is not being recommended and is a deviation of international standards. More research needs to be done before departments should consider moving forward.

GEMT, recently passed legislation that gives extra money for Medicaid reimbursement is in motion. All Medicaid calls in 2023 will be back paid.

The State of Wisconsin is now required to go through all complaints to determine if complaints have merit, and deal with them accordingly.

Mayor Steve Olson commented that local complaints that are dismissed for lack of merit are often also reported to the State. Lieutenant Biggert noted that if everything is documented correctly, the State will cite the local decision to ensure that everything is handled correctly.

7. Health Systems and Emergency Departments

Program Manager Ben Thelen presented. Over the last several months the Mental Health Emergency Center opened in Milwaukee, as part of the restructuring of the Mental Health System in Milwaukee County. Mr. Thelen shared a document with updated guidelines and information on the new Mental Health Emergency Center.

8. Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)

Mayor Steve Olson presented. ICC has been concentrating primarily on financial issues: state funding, shared revenue, \$7 billion in excess funds at the state level. ICC has also been working on transitions to new software packages for tax billing and the future of Milwaukee County Parks.

Village President Wanda Montgomery added that a report came out from the PSAP Committee. The report discusses 2019 Act 26, related to cell phone taxes for 911 calls. The State Legislature is working with communities to figure out how to allow better distribution of those funds.

The ICC also now has a subcommittee that is bringing racial equity and inclusion topics to every meeting.

Senator Baldwin's office also met with the ICC to highlight funding opportunities for fire departments and other community safety resources.

9. Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC Region 7)

Deputy Chief David Hensley presented. They are working hard to prepare for tabletop training on March 15.

10. Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)

No updates at this time.

New Business

a Milwaukee County Opioid Settlement Funds

Division Director Dan Pojar presented. The County has received over \$50 million to combat the opioid epidemic. There are currently four programs through the OEM office:

- Getting harm reduction kits for the EMS System

- Bolstering the data team with a GIS position and Data Analytics position to focus on harm reduction in the community.
- Educator position will team up with EMS to educate about overdoses and the resources available.
- Buprenorphine program

There is also a new dashboard of information on the opioid epidemic that will be launching publicly soon. The data will help OEM target interventions and care.

It was asked if any of the opioid settlement money can be used for community paramedic scholarships. Director Pojar said yes, and that the intent of the buprenorphine program aligns with that goal. It was then questioned whether training paramedics could be included in the use of these funds. It remained unclear what the limitations for funding are, but Director Pojar said he can certainly look into it.

b March 15th – EMS on the Hill Day in Madison, WI

EMS on the Hill is a lobbying day and coordinated effort by the Fire and EMS Coalition, which includes the PFFW, State Fire Chiefs, Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, and others. Information should have been shared through professional organizations.

c Acute Disease Dashboard

OEM is working to utilize data to inform and educate the public on cardiac arrest and other acute diseases. An interactive cardiac arrest dashboard for the County is currently in the works. Other acute diseases will also have dashboards soon. The goal is to launch the public facing dashboard in May.

Items from EMS Council Members

Lieutenant Jerry Biggert presented. At the June Meeting, the State EMS Board will be electing committees. These committees are incredibly important, and Milwaukee County is under-represented. Applications will be dropping soon, and Lieutenant Biggert urged anyone interested to apply.

Items from Non-Members

No updates at this time.

Announcements

No updates at this time.

Adjournment – 10:07 AM

Supervisor Martin moved adjournment.

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, (414) 278-3932 (voice) or 711 (TRS), upon receipt of this notice.

