

EMS Advisory Committee Meeting Notes: June 17, 2026

Attendees: Michele Plorde (EMS Division), Dan Alexander (Renton RFA), Matt Burrow (Bellevue FD), Brant Butte (AMR), Helen Chatalas (EMS Division), Andrea Coulson (KCM1), Brian Culp (Eastside F&R), Becky Ellis (EMS Division), Bryan Estibal (Renton RFA), Jon Graziani (Puget Sound RFA), Jason Hammond (EMS Division), JR Klein (KCM1 – ALS Labor Rep), Katy Myers (NORCOM), Amy Raridan (EMS Division), Tom Rea (KC MPD), Anita Sandall (KC Fire Commissioners), Dmitry Sharkov (EMS Division), Doug Tomczak (Kirkland FD), Rose Young (EMS Division)

I. Welcome/Introductions - Michele Plorde

- Welcome to the second quarterly meeting of the EMS Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to track both financial and programmatic activities throughout the EMS levy period and ensure there is a place to host regional discussions as issues arise.
- Presented a special recognition award to Bryan Estibal (Renton RFA) for his role in developing an adult learning mentorship lecture to CBT instructors and delivering many hours of training content.

II. Financial Plan Update – Becky Ellis (handout)

- Becky presented the updated 2026-31 Financial Plan based on March 2026 Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA). Assessed values and inflation came in higher than expected, creating a higher than usual undesignated fund balance.
- Still early in the levy period (first year) and concerned about the volatility of both inflation and assessed valuation forecasts. The EMS Division is meeting with KC/PH finance teams to discuss this issue and hope to continue to monitor trends. OEFA provides updated forecasts twice a year (next on in July 2026). Planning for a mid-levy risk assessment as was done during levy planning.

III. Medical Program Director Updates - Dr. Tom Rea (presentation)

- Presented an analysis on Seizure & Advance Airway Management. Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) is a procedure where a patient receives a paralytic. Post-intubation, sometimes agitated patients may also receive a paralytic. However, when paralyzed, the signs of seizure are masked and present challenges in ongoing monitoring. If a patient receives a paralytic, they are less likely to receive anticonvulsants.
- While paralytics are considered essential for RSI, they are not preferred by doctors in post-intubation situations. If it is possible to avoid a paralytic, it leads to more accurate and ideal care. From 2020-2024, 9-1-1 calls were studied. About 2% fall into this category of requiring advanced airway management.
- Conclusions: Intubation is currently done expertly – we are just considering a nuanced group to challenge paramedics to be thoughtful about paralytic usage.
- Analysis will be distributed as the next quarterly Regional QI Report.

IV. STRIVE Strategic Initiative – Jason Hammond (presentation)

- The purpose of the STRIVE SI was to improve online educational efforts. Funded during the 2020-25 levy to modernize a platform delivery system to make it more akin to college online classes. Before building the platform, it was necessary to consider mobile accessibility, improved security, and integration with other systems. Two RFPs were required to complete the process resulting in an LMS (Learning Management System) and an LRS (Learning Records Store).
- The new LMS vendor is Cornerstone, and the new secure data hub vendor (LRS) is Watershed. Content was moved from a html to a https server for greater security. There are now widgets for assigned courses, transcripts, inbox, profile, etc. The Training Officer page is also much more streamlined. EMS Division owns the data hub, so if Cornerstone goes away, the Watershed LRS can be plugged into a different LMS. Includes CAPCE integration to meet national accreditation for online content.
- Project came in under budget by \$77,000. Plan to implement Continuous Improvement going forward.

V. Annual EMS Statistics Packet – Rose Young (presentation)

- Presented the new annual statistics packet that will be distributed via email to each EMS agency (King County data was used in the presentation) in June. The packet reflects the 2025 data and will include both individual agency level and King County level data. Packet includes population-based information, agency baseline statistics, “heat maps” by agency service area (reflects call volumes), cardiac arrest survival data and Conditions of Focus dashboards.
- In addition to the emailed packets, looking to share reports online for easier access. EMS Online is one option but seeking a location where individual agency reports can be posted without all agencies being able to view them. Open to ideas and/or suggestions.
- These packets differ from the annual Medic Unit Analysis discussion in September.

Next Meeting: Wednesday September 23, 2026 from 1:00pm-2:30pm at Mercer Island Community Center