

## EMS Advisory Committee Meeting: March 18, 2026

**Attendees:** Michele Plorde (EMS Division), Will Aho (Eastside FR), Dan Alexander (Renton RFA), Cynthia Bradshaw (EMS Division), Brant Butte (AMR), Helen Chatalas (EMS Division), Andrea Coulson (KCM1), Matt Cowan (Shoreline FD), Jamie Donley (NORCOM), Chris Drucker (EMS Division), Maggie Eid (Kirkland FD) Becky Ellis (EMS Division), Lawrence Garrett (828 Consulting), Jason Gay (KCFD#2), Jason Hammond (EMS Division), Strojan Kennison (Shoreline FD), JR Klein (KCM1), Eric Lee (Bellevue FD), Kelly O'Brien (EMS Division), Josh Pratt (Kirkland FD), Amy Raridan (EMS Division), Tom Rea (EMS Division), Dani Smith (828 Consulting), Eric Timm (Paramedic Training)

### I. Welcome/Introductions - Michele Plorde (handout)

- With turnover in membership, shared the purpose of the EMS Advisory Committee which was to ensure and track progress on implementation of the EMS Strategic Plan, including major projects and the financial plan. We are required to meet quarterly, and although the membership represents the regional partners of EMS (see handout), all are welcome to attend regardless of membership.
- Strategic Initiatives (SI) are large regional investments and therefore updates will be presented regularly to check on progress. We have an introduction to the EMD Strategic Initiative on the agenda for today with the STRIVE Initiative wrap up (implemented last levy period) in June, the PRIME Strategic Initiative in September and ECHO in December.

### II. Financial Plan Update – Cynthia Bradshaw (handouts)

- Presented slides of the 2020-2025 Financial Plan summary and the projected 2026-2031 Financial Plan (see handout). During the 2020-2025 levy span, property taxes increased over what was originally planned, as did inflation. The region was able to carry forward \$86 million from the 2020-2025 levy period to help reduce the initial starting levy rate for the 2026-2031 levy span.
- New economic forecast came out last Friday. In comparison to July 2025 when the last forecast was published, revenue is 5% above what was planned for this current levy. We have a very healthy economic reserve, but because this is the first year of the levy and there is much volatility in the economic world, we are not making any big moves. Overall, the Financial Plan is in good shape but will consider redoing the risk analysis in a couple years/midway through the levy.

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

- Shared summary findings of the quarterly Quality Improvement Report on the new Nurse Navigation system. EMS call growth increased from 2019-2025, but ~25% of calls do not require emergency transport. The EMS Division contracts with Global Medical Response (GMR) to provide an alternative to the traditional EMT response (replaced the decades-old service provided by Evergreen Nurseline).
- Selected assessment of this new contracted service as the topic for the quarterly QI report. Some calls are sent back from the Nurse Navigator to the Communications Center for response, and of those send backs, a very small amount result in ultimately needing an ALS response (3). Review of these calls showed no negative impact to patient care. Note: Calls sent back for response are not necessarily inappropriately sent to the Nurse Navigator as medical concerns can escalate in the course of a call. Dispatchers do a great job.
- Is MIH going to be integrated into the data tracking? Hoping to work with GMR on that and can report back when that change happens.
- Conclusion: Nurse Navigator better aligns patient needs with appropriate medical resources by moving patients out of the 9-1-1 system to a space where they can receive more care time and not take resources of EMS services. Oversight is strong in our system – lots of checks and balances should reassure people about safety concerns.

### IV. King County Workforce Survey Results – 828 Consulting (presentation)

- Lawrence Garrett and Dani Smith from 828 Consulting presented the results of the latest EMS demographic survey and the comparison with the 2020 survey. Some challenges included several

mergers amongst BLS providers since 2020 and response by 18 out of 23 agencies with some inconsistent data. Gender-representation increased by 1% overall. Reported on nonbinary representation for the first time. Race distribution had some mixed results with increases in some areas and decreases in others. Recommended going forward to have a clear purpose - what it is, but also what it is NOT. Resources need to match goals. Start with retention not recruitment - if the culture isn't shifting, it will feel like bait and switch to new recruits. Recommend 'Leadership Archetype Assessment' as a tool for self-assessment.

- Next Steps: Will discuss strategies for moving forward with DEI Subcommittee.

#### **V. EMD Strategic Initiative - Chris Drucker (presentation)**

- Shared new Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Strategic Initiative roadmap for this levy period which includes the modernization of eCBD tool and pilot projects for improving 9-1-1 call-specific issues. In 2026, expect to work with IT and infrastructure prep, development of committees and partner input and ultimately getting an RFP in place. Pilot projects may include addressing community inequities, medical evaluation, AI, etc.
- Budget: About \$1M for modernization and another \$200K for pilots.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 from 1:00pm-2:30pm at the Tukwila Community Center**

## **EMSAC Notes (March 18, 2026)**

### FINANCIALS

Reviewed purpose and timing of EMSAC Financial Subcommittee. Encouraged participation.

Financials: Reviewed both 2020-2025 and 2026-2031 financial plans.

- Highlights of 2020-2026 financials include expenditures (with allocations tied to local CPI-W) exceeding original plan due to higher than planned inflation; offset by underspending in some programs. Revenues higher than planned (property tax due to higher KC EMS Fund split of overall taxes with Seattle) and increased interest income in 2023.
- Highlights of 2026-2031 financials include revenues higher than planned due to property tax split to KC EMS Fund higher than planned. Currently have higher than planned economic reserves which is an advantage as we enter a period of economic uncertainty.