

MEDIC ONE/EMS 2008-2013 STRATEGIC PLAN

JUNE 2011 UPDATE

KING COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

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<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ems.aspx>

Public Health 
Seattle & King County

Upcoming Meetings

EMSAC:

The next EMS Advisory Committee meeting will take place on **June 15, 2011 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** at Bellevue City Hall (450 110th NE, Bellevue). Agenda items will be distributed prior to the meeting. For additional information, please contact Mary Alice Allenbach at (206) 263-8545.

Regional Purchasing:

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be **September 14, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at Kent Station 77, located at 207 132nd Avenue SE, Kent. Look for agenda details in future newsletters. For additional information, please contact Byron Byrne at (206) 263-8559.

EMS Strategic Plan

The *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* is the primary policy and financial document that steers the Medic One/EMS system into the future, and directs the EMS Division in managing the regional system. This newsletter, published by the EMS Division, updates the EMS Advisory Committee and other interested parties on

the extraordinary efforts of all those involved in carrying out the various programs and activities identified in the *Strategic Plan*.

If you have questions or ideas for future newsletters, please contact Helen Chatalas at (206) 263-8560.

Redmond Medic One's Cardiac Arrest Initiative

In May 2009, Redmond Medic One learned that its service had a recorded compression hands-on ratio of 66% - the lowest in the entire county. Although its service performs more CPR on cardiac arrest calls than the national average for EMS responders, Redmond Medic One knew it had to improve. Acutely aware of research showing that increasing the time spent on chest compressions and minimizing interruptions can lead to increased resuscitation, the Redmond team immediately went to work on a performance improvement plan.

Six months later, Redmond Medic One's hands-on time was 83%—the **highest** in the county. And, the improvement lasted, with its hands-on compression ratio measuring 80% or better for all of 2010. This best practice story demonstrates how a team of dedicated EMS professionals recognized a performance weakness impacting their patient care, and collaboratively built a program for improvement.

Redmond's success comes from a strong understanding of how all the components - people, process and tools - work together to deliver results, and cites the following Keys to Success:

- Quick feedback to paramedics after each cardiac arrest call, sometimes as soon as they return to their station.
- Clear, succinct reports on hands-on compression ratio and compressions per minute, plus a minute-by-minute record showing compression interruptions.
- Having medics review their reports with the EMT crews that partnered on the call.
- Monthly review of cardiac arrest data by the entire paramedic team.
- Training medics and EMTs as teams to finely choreograph their cardiac arrest calls.

For greater details on this Initiative, please contact Jim Duren, Redmond's EMS Chief, at (425) 556-2203.



Interested in participating in Phase II of CMT?

Woodville FD, Redmond, and South King & Rescue have expressed interest in participating in the CMT II project. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact King County EMS Community Program managers Jim Stallings at (206) 263-8661 or Linda Culley (206) 263-8562.

Community Medical Technician, Phase II

A priority throughout the span of this levy is to focus on how we can work with our partners to manage the rate of growth of the EMS system, and develop cost efficiencies. One such project is the Community Medical Technician (CMT), which entails sending a technician in a non-transport capable unit rather than a standard BLS unit response, on lower acuity calls. This helps reserve BLS responders and transport capable vehicles for more serious medical emergencies.

Kent Regional Fire Authority, South King Fire & Rescue, and Valley Communications all partnered on this five-month project, which concluded in December 2010 with positive results. Findings demonstrate that that the two-EMT response in an SUV to low-acuity EMS calls was effective, provided high levels of patient satisfaction, and was overwhelmingly supported by the EMTs staffing the CMT unit.

The success of the initial CMT project has led to planning for a **CMT Phase II** project scheduled to begin in 4th quarter 2011. The new one-year project has broader objectives and response types. CMTs at the participating fire agencies will respond to all BLS-Yellow level calls and a patient engagement component will also be added,

where patients with unmanaged injury, health, or related conditions are identified and CMT personnel provide intervention and assistance by referring them to appropriate outside health agencies and social services.



A key goal of the project is to engage patients in management of ongoing medical conditions, reducing their need for EMS assistance and providing them with links to necessary medical care. The project will also allow further study of long-term cost efficiencies possible with alternative EMS response modes and staffing models.

King County Council Proposes Amending EMS Advisory Task Force Membership

The current EMS levy is expected to expire December 31, 2013. In late May 2011, King County Councilmember Julia Patterson introduced legislation that would amend the composition of the EMS Advisory Task Force designed to lead the planning effort. Proposed Ordinance 2011-0239 would reformulate the group by reducing the number of representatives in an effort to create a more manageable size. The majority of the reductions come from within county government.

The legislation has been referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration, but has not yet been scheduled for discussion. Text of the legislation can be found at the Council's website, <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/clerk>

Helen Chatalas is monitoring this legislation for the EMS Division. For additional information or updates, contact her at (206) 263-8560.

Maximizing Joint Purchasing Power

Since its development in 1998, the Regional Purchasing program has consistently provided cost savings to EMS agencies. The program relies upon inter-agency purchasing agreements that allow any EMS agency in King County to purchase EMS supplies, equipment, and medication, using the regional contract.

Opportunities for expansion exist, which will require the region to work collaboratively to take advantage of other intergovernmental contracts that already exist. Examples

include vehicles purchasing, defibrillators and pharmaceutical safes. Using such agreements will avoid the duplication of time and effort spent when individual agencies must go to bid for the same items. It also assures that goods and services can be purchased at the same price during the term specified in the bid.

For more information, please contact Byron Byrne, KC EMS interim Regional Purchasing Program coordinator, at (206) 263-8559.

Other Regional Purchasing News:

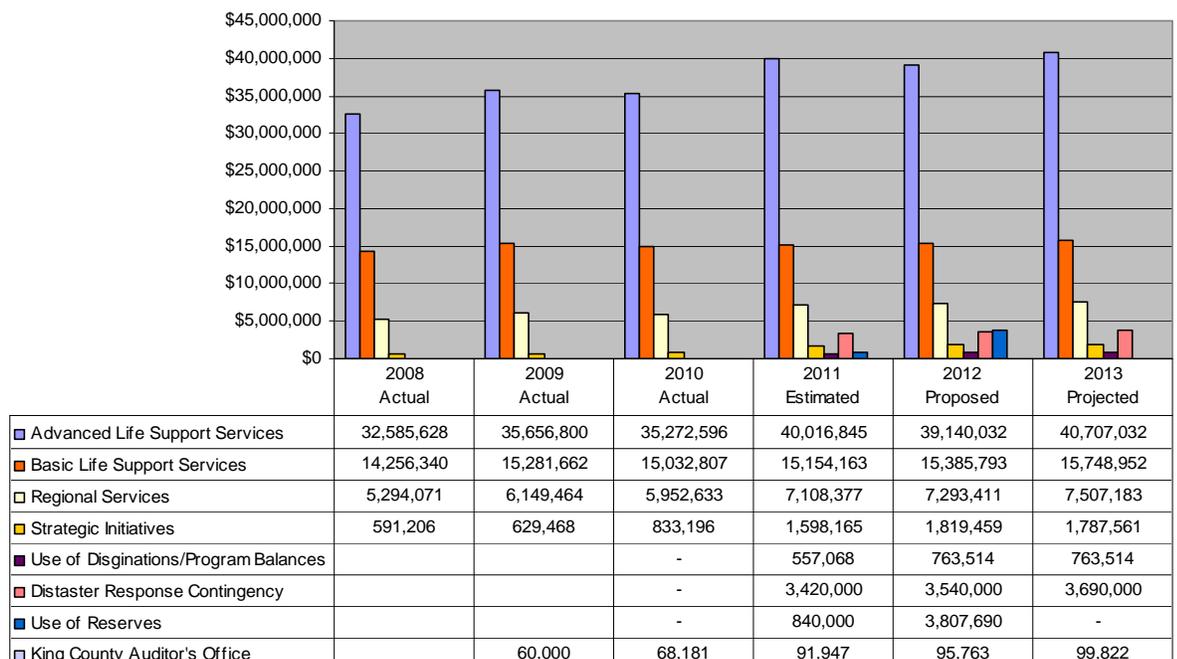
It was announced at the May 11, 2011 Regional Purchasing Committee meeting that Life Assist will continue to provide BLS supplies and equipment, and . Bound Tree will continue as the ALS supplier for another year.

State of the KC EMS Levy Fund and Proposed 2012 Budget

The status of the King County EMS Levy fund and the proposed 2012 budget was presented on May 13th to a combined EMS Advisory Committee and Financial Subcommittee audience. Of note is the fund's resilience given the challenges posed by changed economic conditions. Overall revenue projections are \$16 million lower than planned in the financial plan

associated with the levy vote, and forecast expenditures are \$21 million lower. This reflects not only reduced inflationary increases, but specific decisions made to cut costs by not implementing two 12-hour ALS units planned for 2012 and 2013, and a decrease in the overall Strategic Initiative program budget.

KC EMS Fund Projected Expenditures



2012 budget continued
from page 3

The proposed **2012 budget** will focus on realigning resources to promote efficiencies, increase services and improve value to EMS partners. Also to be considered will be the use of reserves as needed and where appropriate, and changing the inflation timing for ALS and BLS allocations to eliminate reconciliation process and better reflect agency costs. In addition, measures implemented in previous budgets to accommodate ALS costs not in unit allocations, a desire to carry funds forward to the next levy, and the ongoing priority to manage levy funds to reduced revenues, will be reflected in the budget proposal.

The combined EMS Advisory Committee and Financial Subcommittee recommended appropriating \$3.8 million in reserves and designations to cover planned and potential expenses above ALS allocations in 2012. Of the \$3.8 million, \$3 million relates to retirement costs – both PERS to LEOFF for King County Medic One and excess LEOFF1 medical costs for fire agencies.

For additional information, please contact Cynthia Bradshaw at (206) 263-8558.

Teaching CPR in Schools - The Program Works!

Through the EMS Division's Student CPR/AED program, more than 10,000 students on average per year receive instruction on CPR and AEDs by teachers and local firefighters. The benefits of this program are reflected in the extraordinary survival story below:

Friends, using CPR learned in school, save Covington teen.

<http://www.king5.com/news/local/Friends-save-Covington-teen-using-CPR-122378084.html>

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43118731/ns/local_news-seattle_wa/friends-save-covington-teen-using-cpr/

For more information about this program, please contact Barbara Welles at (206) 263-8669. You can also learn more by reading the EMS Division Annual Reports, available here:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ems/reports.aspx>,

Paramedic Recognition

The EMS Division recognizes the following paramedics who successfully saved patients suffering cardiac arrests during the month of March. Thank you for your dedication and for helping make our EMS system such an outstanding public service.

Paul Ahrens - King County Medic 1

Jeffrey Allen - King County Medic 1

Bill Barnes - King County Medic 1

Michael Damm - King County Medic 1

Jason Guy - King County Medic 1

Keith Keller - King County Medic 1

Andrew Johnson - King County Medic 1

Craig Overfield - Shoreline Fire Dept.

Ron Pentecost - King County Medic 1

Aaron Pompeo - Shoreline Fire Dept.

Paul Regalia (x2) - King County Medic 1

Steve Richardson - Shoreline Fire Dept.

Kitt Selig - King County Medic 1

Tony Smith (x2) - King County Medic 1

Kris Warren - Shoreline Fire Dept.

Gabe Webster - King County Medic 1

Doug Wiegand - King County Medic 1