

King County Emergency Medical Services

Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan

May 2011 Update

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Introduction

This newsletter is designed to update the EMS Advisory Committee and others on the progress of the Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan. If you have questions, please contact me at (206) 263-8560.

Helen Chatalas

EMS Advisory Committee

The next EMS Advisory Committee's meeting will be June 15, 2011 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Bellevue City Hall (450 110th NE, Bellevue). Agenda items will be distributed two weeks prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mary Alice Allenbach at (206) 263-8545.

Regional Purchasing Program

The annual Life-Assist EMS Vendor Fair is scheduled for May 18, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kent Fire District Training Center (24523 116th Avenue SE, Kent). Admission is free. Please RSVP to Anne-Marie Fote, Life-Assist Regional Manager, at anne-marie@life-assist.com; or 425-398-1236.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Bill Oung at (206) 263-8638.

Other News & Announcements

Resuscitation Academy

The Resuscitation Academy, a partnership of King County EMS and Seattle Medic One, is holding a 2-day symposium on strategies to improve cardiac arrest survival rates. Over 100 participants from around the country will gather at Harborview May 16-17 for a series of lectures and demonstrations led by Drs. Leonard Cobb, Michael Copass, Mickey Eisenberg, and Tom Rea. Attendees will be given the knowledge and essential tools to return to their

communities and develop a concrete plan of action to improve survival. This program is made possible by the generous support of the Medic One Foundation.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ann Doll at (206) 263-8659, or visit the website at: www.resuscitationacademy.org.

Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES)

Complete, accurate, and timely information is integral to the management of all aspects of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system in King County, but most specifically Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) data. Washington's Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (WACARES) is a secure, Web-based data management system in which participating communities enter local data and generate reports. Thanks to a grant from the Medtronic Heart Rescue Foundation, Washington is launching a statewide effort to collect OHCA data. Participation allows the State of Washington to be part of a national effort in cardiac arrest surveillance and improvement. King County has been a front runner in cardiac arrest surveillance and our involvement in CARES will strengthen this national effort. Quickly implementing the "chain of survival" is crucial to surviving OHCA, but many communities cannot measure how effectively EMS providers activate the chain. Without adequate performance measures, these communities lose opportunities to improve emergency cardiac care and save lives. King County has participated in a Cardiac Arrest Registry for over 30 years, and our registry (Cardiac Arrest Surveillance System) has allowed us to measure and improve out-of-

hospital cardiac arrest and resuscitation.

By using WACARES, local agencies outside of King County will now have a platform to collect data, run reports, and use data for quality improvement and targeted programs to improve resuscitation. Communities can compare their EMS system performance to de-identified aggregate statistics at the local, regional, or national level and discover promising practices that could improve emergency cardiac care.

For more information, please contact Randi Phelps at (206) 263-8602, or visit <http://mycares.net>.

May 15–21 is National EMS Week

National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." We are working with Public Health – Seattle & King County Director Dr. David Fleming and King County Executive Dow Constantine to proclaim the week of May 15-21 as Emergency Medical Services week to recognize the value and the accomplishments that the regional EMS system delivers. This declaration is timed to celebrate EMS's 41st anniversary of delivering emergency medical care to the residents and visitors of the County.

Upcoming Newsletters

Starting next month, our EMS newsletter will have a new look and feel as we alter the layout and make the content more inclusive and parallel to the four major program areas highlighted in the Strategic Plan.

EMS Week Proclamation

To designate the Week of May 15-21, 2011, as Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services in King County will celebrate the 41st anniversary of delivering emergency medical care to the residents and visitors in the County; and

WHEREAS Emergency Medical Services will put into action the new King County cardiac and stroke system developed by the Washington State Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of Emergency Medical Services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, I, in recognition of this event, do hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 2011, as
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK.

With the theme, EMS: A Proud Partner in Your Community, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.