

SCFCA-SCEMS-SNO911 EMS Governance Joint Task Force
Meeting Summary for June 11, 2024 / 09:00 – noon
Location: In Person Meeting at SNO911's New Headquarters

Meeting Attendance:

Voting Members					
Dave DeMarco		Gary Lingel	✓	Roy Waugh	✓
Don Waller	✓	Joe Hughes	✓	Shaughn Maxwell	✓
Staff, Support and Guests					
Dr. Ryan Keay, MPD	✓	Roger Vares		Sharon Brendle (notetaker)	✓
Scott Dorsey	✓	Kurt Mills	✓		
Karen Reed	✓	Terry Peterson	✓		

Decisions are underlined; follow-up matters are in *italics*.

- 1. Welcome / Review of Agenda.** Vice-Chair Roy Waugh called the meeting to order at 9:05. Joe Hughes moved and Shaughn Maxwell seconded to approve the Agenda as written. The motion passed.

Dr. Keay asked to make some initial remarks about the host agency decision. She stated her concern with building the same systems we used to have in place. SCEMS was previously at a “host agency” and contracted for finance/HR etc. If the relationship with the host agency wasn’t ideal, SCEMS was jettisoned. She is concerned that we need to create something sustainable where this bouncing around won’t happen. She noted that in the past, the investment of part-time and contract workers for whom SCEMS was not a primary commitment created an environment where people were not committed to the mission and vision. Having it be “tag on” work leads to work half done.

- 2. Approval of meeting minutes from May 14, 2024.** Gary Lingel moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Shaughn Maxwell and approved unanimously.

3. Updates/Communications:

- Consultant’s contract - the Fire Chiefs approved the extension of the contract, but also acknowledged that SCEMS funding will be paying for it.
- Board and Chief’s input. The JTF members shared the outcome of their visits with individual chiefs. Major highlights of their visits:
 - Most chiefs expressed support for SCEMS and agreed that the agency has been neglected for a long time.
 - No concerns were expressed about the proposed 2-year priority action plan items.
 - Several noted that fire chiefs need to step up and fund the agency as well as be engaged with the SCEMS Board.
 - In terms of host agency options, opinions were varied. Several noted a preference for SCEMS to be housed in a Fire Agency rather than at SNO911. To date, no fire agency has come forward offering to house SCEMS.
 - Chiefs are concerned with the budgetary impacts and want more clarity on the budget and FTEs.
 - Some would like a phased-in approach to funding to mitigate impacts on current fire agency operations.

- 4. Review & Discussion: Draft 2025 Budget Placeholder.** Terry presented the draft budget for 2025 utilizing the Stand-Alone Option A. Some comments included:

- Questioned the annual start-up cost. It was agreed that the \$75K would be a one-time cost.

- Are there any grant opportunities? Can there be any legislative help with start-up costs?
- Could the County fund any part of it through the upcoming public safety tax levy vote? Terry will contact the county about this.
- Reduce the budget to \$1.2 million, with the aim of increasing the total to \$1.5 in the second year (increase from funding reserves, not increased staffing).
- Concern expressed that operating reserves are not in place in year 1, minimum target of 3 months operations mentioned.
- Revisit funding from private services (ambulance companies). A new fee schedule will need to be developed for non-fire agency partners.
- Before presenting the budget to the Chiefs at their 7/15 meeting, a summary cover sheet needs to be prepared.
- Determine what drives the direction chiefs are taking - governance or budget?

5. Continued Discussion/Potential action: Recommending a host agency for EMS. The group discussed the three different options and while none favored A, there was some support for C. Most recommended Option B. Don Waller moved to support Option B with SNO911 serving as the host agency. The motion was seconded by Roy Waugh. After discussion, **Don amended his motion to support Option B without identifying a host agency at this meeting so that further discussion can take place. Roy seconded the amended motion, and it was approved unanimously.** All agreed that there needs to be transparency around the host agency. Public Health and DEM were considered at one time but determined to not be feasible. SNO911 has the space in the new facility and the necessary support. SNO911 was also seen as a more neutral party to some, although in the individual meetings held by JTF members last month, some chiefs expressed concern about SNO911 being the host.

6. Structuring the oversight board for regionalized/standardized EMS - tabled until the next meeting

7. Next meeting agenda:

- Narrow down governance plan
- How should the SCEMS Board interact with the TCC?
- Voting, Supermajority Vote Items
- Funding plan.
- Refine budget placeholder, approve document for circulation to agencies,

8. Meeting was adjourned at 12:02. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, at SNO911's new building, 9:00 a.m. to noon.