

SCFCA-SCEMS-SNO911 EMS Governance Joint Task Force
Meeting Summary for June 25, 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 (via Zoom)	✓	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.** Chair Dave DeMarco called the meeting to order at 9:03. Karen went over the agenda and the upcoming meeting schedule. Dr. Keay is attending via Zoom today due to her work scheduling conflicts. There were no changes proposed to the agenda.
2. **Approval of meeting minutes from June 11, 2024.** Shaughn Maxwell moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Joe Hughes. The motion passed with Dave DeMarco abstaining.
3. **Updates and Communications.**
 - a. Shaughn reported he's heard the fire chiefs gave unanimous support for funding EMS from the upcoming public safety sales tax vote, with 80-90% of the chiefs expressing support to fund Nurseline, but he still feels that it's not a done deal with the chiefs in terms of supporting the tax measure itself.
 - b. Kurt, Terry and Scott met with City of Kirkland, who is hosting RCRA (The Regional Crisis Response Agency, pronounced 'racer') as a "stand-alone" agency (Option B). All personnel, including the director, are employees of the city, and on loan to RCR. The city set it up as a separate department. Terry thinks a simplified version of their model would work for SCEMS/SNO911. RCR has its own board and oversees their director. Employment is probably contingent upon the acceptance of the RCR Board.
4. **Review and Action: Proposed 2025 Budget.** Terry went over the budget and explained the changes that were made following feedback received at the last meeting. A true up on the projected overhead cost would be included in year 2 since it is difficult to know in advance. Initial projections are that Option B is slightly more expensive than Option A. Some comments included:
 - The ¾ of one cent (based on assessed value) was still being recommended as a funding calculation.
 - Should the salaries be reduced by more since personnel would likely not be starting until early second quarter?
 - Should the budget include links to another spreadsheet that will include more detail?
 - What things are being done in Option B that make it more expensive than Option A? There's a \$47K difference.

- Surprised that Option B is more expensive than Option A. The overhead numbers need to be re-examined for both Options.
- What value will SCEMS receive by being hosted by SNO911 (parking, meeting space, professional support, etc.) These are intangible but bring important value and should be explained in the presentation.
- Can there be a slower ramp up than 2 years? Some of the chiefs may feel it's too steep, too fast.
- Dr. Keay commented that partial funding isn't a practical solution. The current situation isn't sustainable. The State has repeatedly informed EMS that the current model doesn't work.
- Shouldn't SNO911 be contributing to the budget? (after establishing the costs after the first year, SNO911 will come up with a contribution amount).
- Missed revenue opportunities were discussed: private ambulance services is one such source that should be tapped.
- Additional communications to explain to chiefs individually will be needed if this is to go forward.

5. Review and Action: Funding Formula Recommendation. The group discussed various funding formulas on whether to use the 3/4 of one cent based on assessed value or applying a formula similar to the one SNO911 uses, which incorporates AV, population and calls for service. The group supports the AV formula. Additional comments on revenue included:

- There were differing thoughts on reserves. One recommendation was to collect more the first year, while another was to ramp up for the second and third years.
- All agreed that private ambulance providers are getting a lot of service and paying very small amount and this needs to change.
- Dr. Keay confirmed that the MPD needs to provide certification to all EMTs whether they're private or public.

6. Continued Discussion/Action: Recommending a host agency for EMS. Roy Waugh moved to support Option B with SNO911 as the host agency. The motion was seconded by Don Waller and approved unanimously. Some comments:

- All agreed that SCEMS should be shut down and replaced by a new agency structured as a nonprofit corporation (same as SNO911 and SCEMS and RCRA).
- Since the agency is new, there should be a new name. The JTF could propose a name and/or seek input from fire agencies on this.
- Stressed again that it will be important to explain the value the new agency will receive while being hosted by SNO911.

7. Discussion: Structuring the oversight board for regionalized/standardized EMS. Points discussed:

- How to reasonably divide up 22 agencies into board seats (Caucuses based on assessed value and population or regionally, based on geographic area and workload)
- Should the delegate physician areas we intend to establish be similarly used for board seat structuring?

- Dr. Keay noted that there are different needs in different areas, and small agency needs in rural areas are different than needs of the larger agencies.
 - Would we be able to reach agreement now on the districting maps if that was the basis for the board seat allocation?
 - Discussion on the number of board seats. **Don Waller moved that the governing board should consist of seven members. Gary Lingel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.**
- 8. Updates/Communications:** Board voting (weighted, uniform, super-majority items) will be discussed later.
- 9. Next meeting agenda:** Another meeting was added for July 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to noon. to discuss how to divide and distribute the seven board seats. Karen has a conflict and will not be able to attend. The regularly scheduled meeting for July 9th at 9:00 a.m. remains in place.
- 10.** Meeting was adjourned at 12:00.