

# MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

BLS Subcommittee meeting 6/6/2024

## Summary

*The BLS Subcommittee discussed and agreed to a BLS funding distribution methodology.*

## Attendees

*Chair: Armondo Pavone, City of Renton*  
Cynthia Bradshaw, King County EMS  
Matt Burrow, Bellevue Fire  
Brian Carson, Puget Sound RFA  
Helen Chatalas, King County EMS  
Cat Cotton, City of Snoqualmie  
Andrea Coulson, King County Medic One  
Lisa Defenbaugh, South King Fire  
Chris Drucker, King County EMS  
Becky Ellis, King County EMS  
Jamie Formisano, Eastside Fire & Rescue  
Matt Gau, Tri-Med Ambulance  
Jason Gay, Burien Fire  
Tom Goff, King County Council  
Jason Hammond, King County EMS  
Steve Heitman, Renton RFA  
Cory James, NORCOM

Vic Kave, City of Pacific  
Ben Lane, Eastside Fire & Rescue  
Doug McDonald, Eastside Fire & Rescue  
Amy Moorhead, Redmond Fire  
Kelly O'Brien, King County EMS  
Rick Olson, Valley RFA  
Eric Perry, City of Renton  
Michele Plorde, King County EMS  
Josh Pratt, Kirkland Fire  
Tom Rea, King County EMS  
Adrian Sheppard, Redmond Fire  
Dave Tait, Bellevue Fire  
Aaron Tyerman, Puget Sound RFA  
Jim Whitney, Redmond Fire  
Todd Wollum, Shoreline Fire  
Rose Young, King County EMS

## Issues discussed:

### BLS funding

#### Overview:

The regional Medic One/EMS levy provides BLS agencies with an allocation to help offset the costs of providing EMS services. Agencies also receive funding for BLS-specific programs such as BLS Core Services, BLS Training & Quality Improvement (QI) activities, and Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH). The BLS Subcommittee is responsible for determining the BLS allocation and programmatic funding levels for the next levy span, and how the funding will be distributed among the BLS agencies.

Subcommittee discussions at the past two meetings have centered on how to equitably distribute BLS funding. Distribution options included "resetting" the first year of the levy, distributing the annual increases based solely on AV, solely on call volumes, and variations of AV and call volumes.

## Discussion and Decisions:

1. **Resetting:** Resetting the first year of the levy dramatically impacts agencies' allocations and would require nearly \$1 million to ensure that agencies would receive funding equal to the previous year's allocation level (also known as being kept whole).
  - There was general support to not reset the first year of levy.
  
2. **Distribution methodology & MIH:** Acknowledging that call volumes are associated with need, and need is often a reflection of inequitable access to care, the King County EMS Division proposed a funding methodology that would distribute funds 60% on call volumes and 40% on Assessed Value(AV). MIH funding would also be increased to help address need in our communities.
  - There was general support to proceed with the 60/40 methodology for all BLS-related funding and to increase MIH funding for the next levy span.
  
3. **Training & QI funding:** Initiated in 2023, the ALS Support of BLS Activities program provides funding to ALS agencies to conduct training and QI activities that were previously paid using BLS Training and QI funds. It was proposed that the BLS Training and QI funding be folded into the Basic allocation so that it is no longer earmarked specifically for QI and agencies can use the funds at their discretion.
  - There was general support for rolling the Training and QI funds into the Basic allocation.

Also discussed was folding the BLS Core funding into the allocation (it was determined to keep it dedicated funding) and increasing BLS funding by various levels.

## Next steps:

Subcommittee members have voiced interest in increasing the total funding level for BLS. Members were asked to consider which program(s) should be increased - MIH, basic allocation, Core Services, or all of those mentioned. **This will be discussed at the July meeting.**

## **Next Meeting**

July 11, 2024:

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Renton Fire Station 14  
1900 Lind Ave SW in Renton

The focus of this meeting will be on determining total BLS funding levels for the 2026-2031 levy span.