

# Chief's Advisory Committee

## April 27, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

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**Zoom Meeting Participants:** Chief Bieber, Captain Braman, Captain Buttice, Sandy Garcia, Earl Gooding, Noah Leavitt, Ruthell Martinez, Steve Moss. Guest Tom Deccio of WESCOM (9-1-1 Dispatch)

**Absent:** Brooke Bouchey, Roger Esparza, Kanasha Henderson, Dick Morgan, Curtis Phillips, Roberto Rodriguez

### 1) Chief's Welcome

- 2) **WESCOM**—Dispatch Supervisor Tom Deccio gave a slide-show presentation on the County 9-1-1 System and organizational structure. RapidSOS is a new tool for locating 9-1-1 callers that are calling with a smart phone. Currently we have six radios sites (located at the County Jail, Coppei, Eureka, Pike's Peak (in Oregon), Skyrocket), and Wallula. We have obtained a USDA grant to add a simulcast site in the north end of the County—when the Hair project is completed, we will have seven radio sites.

WESCOM serves a population of approximately 60,000.

- Annually WESCOM receives between 100,000 to 125,000 calls into the Center
- More than 25,000 9-1-1 calls are received annually
- Almost 80% of these calls are from wireless callers
- Between 50,000 to 65,000 Calls for Service annually

The current building where WESCOM is housed is not a good fit for an emergency location. There are potential natural disaster issues with the building, and the outside traffic noise is problematic for taking 9-1-1 calls.

WESCOM tends to get more 9-1-1 calls between 1pm through 10pm (year-round). There are a minimum of two and up to four people on shift (including a Dispatch Supervisor) at all times. People who can multi-task and keep calm under pressure tend to be good Dispatchers. The minimum qualifications are being age 18 or older and a high school education. Training takes place on the job. Before completing their probationary period, a dispatcher must be able to pass the required certifications.

A previous Dispatcher that was bilingual told Tom Deccio it was harder to talk in Spanish and type in English while taking a 9-1-1 call then he anticipated. When a bilingual employee is not on shift, WESCOM uses Language Line for translation services.

- 3) **Traffic Stop Data Analysis (specifically ethnicity and reason for the stop)**— Ethnicity data is not listed on drivers' licenses and we are not allowed to ask the questions. The

Washington State Patrol (WSP) does compile ethnicity data; however, there is concern about the accuracy of the data provided by the WSP's traffic stop race data. Chief Bieber will be working with the City's Technology Service Department to overlay traffic stops with a map including the City wards. It will be interesting to see what roads have the most traffic stops. There are about three times more traffic stops than tickets. We do not track data if an officer simply stops a driver, but do NOT write a ticket. There may be a comment added on the call of "warning given," still comments are not searchable through a statistical query. Chief Bieber will speak with Chief Tomaras of the College Place Police Department (and used to work for the WSP) on how the WSP are capturing the data—it may be simply a capture of the officer's perception of the ethnicity of the person in the traffic stop.

- 4) **Mental Health Calls for Service (Differential Call Response)**— During April 2020 to April 2021 there were 187 suicide threats and 45 suicide attempts for a total of 232 calls total. Patty Blakely pulled the new mental health disposition call stats—there were 9 calls last month. This would average around 108 health disposition calls for a year. When compiling those statistics together there is approximately one mental health related call per day. It may make more sense to place an embedded crisis worker at the WWPD. Still, we try to use an existing resource whenever possible for maximum cost efficiency.

232 suicide threat/attempt calls per year and  
+108 health disposition calls  
340 mental health related calls per year

- 5) **Anything for the Good of the Order**—Chief Bieber will send a survey question to the board members asking if quarterly meetings would be better than monthly meetings. Chief Bieber will also send the latest WASPC legislative summary out.
- 6) **Next Meeting**—May 25, 2021, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:35 on Zoom platform.

The April 27, 2021, meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Deborah Minter