



## PIERCE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES June 22, 2023

In Person at SS911 – 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, WA and Remotely via Zoom

### CALL TO ORDER

President Moffett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### WELCOME and THANK YOU TO HOST

President Moffett thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

### ROLL CALL – SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

There were 7 people in attendance and 18 people attending via Zoom for a total of 25 people in attendance.

### GUEST SPEAKER:

#### Chief Parkinson – Incident Response with Autism Patient

Vice President Gorder introduced Chief Jon Parkinson with East Pierce Fire and Rescue. Chief Parkinson introduced Hannah Weaver, Firefighter. Developed a course for response to incidents patients with Autism. Shared screen, presentation on First Responders & Autism, How should First Responders interface with autistic individuals. Very near and close to her. She was diagnosed in 2020 with Level 2 Autism, a neurological disorder, born with it. Wants to bring awareness about autism. Learning what it is, what to look for, techniques and tools. Essentially a different brain in how processes, neurological difference in the brain. Can be genetic. Offered to come and teach this to all Departments. Runs 2-3 hours. Questions? Contact information: email address is [hweaver@eastpiercefir.org](mailto:hweaver@eastpiercefir.org)

A lot of benefits just in better awareness. Kits have been helpful. Different levels of compassion and empathy. Discussion followed. Association thanked Hannah for her presentation.

#### Diana Caber, SS911 Communications Center Manager – Update on 988

President Stan Moffett introduced Diana Caber. Launched 988 yesterday. Introduced Courtney Ops Manager with Volunteers of America and Rachel Crisis Counselor on site 40 hours a week working on communications floor. Wed, Thur, Sat and Sun 2-midnight. Can connect with additional resources. Talking to a number of familiar callers and able to work with them on coping skills, follow-up care, etc. Also offering de-escalation when police or fire is enroute. A lot of layers and just starting up. Already getting positive feedback. 988 launched last July. Routed based on area code. Had a soft launch last week. Hard to know impact just yet with it with only a week in. Have job postings out now to bring on 2 -3 more people. It is currently a pilot program piloted through the Department of Health. The Association thanked them for their presentation. Great program.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA and TREASURER'S REPORT**

President Moffett asked if there were any changes, additions to the agenda. President Moffett stated the election of District 7 representative will need to be added under New Business. It was moved by Commissioner Egan and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the agenda as amended and Treasurer's Report (see copy included with the Agenda) as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

## **MINUTES OF May 25, 2023, MEETING**

Commissioner Werner moved and Commissioner Mitchell seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Any discussion? There being none, the minutes were passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

## **SGT. AT ARMS – NAME BADGES**

We still need to make arrangements to have pictures and badges made.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

N/A

## **REGULAR REPORTS:**

### **a) Regional Representative Report – Jerry Bickett**

Commissioner Rankin reported there is a Board Meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> at noon. Need a District 7 representative elected. Moving on with 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning at the banquet. The conference at Chelan had 189 people in attendance. Ran smoothly and speakers gave great presentations. The Legislative meeting is on June 28<sup>th</sup> on zoom. Commissioner Egan asked if the fall conference can be announced? Commissioner Rankin stated dates are October 25-27 at Tulalip.

### **b) Legal - Joe and/or Eric Quinn**

Eric commended speaker Hannah Weaver on her presentation. Something each department should consider for training opportunities. Attorney Thomas Burk has passed away. Great loss to the legal community.

### **c) SouthSound 911 – Deborah Grady**

Not present.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

### **a) Legislative - Brandon Faust**

Not present.

### **b) Bates Technical College – Dan Rankin**

Reported had a meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30. Purchasing a new engine company to replace one that needs to be removed.

### **c) Fund Raising Activities - Ed Egan**

Reported he has received \$ 15.00, winner gets \$ 10.00. Commissioner Allison drew the ticket. Commissioner Werner won the drawing. \$10.00 for a coin that was sold.

**d) Annual Picnic/Potluck –Arlene Dannat**

Not present. It will be held at Orting Park at 6:00 pm, on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Pizza will be served.

**e) Annual Banquet – DORMANT - Mike Cathey / Olivia Werner / Kathy Kadow**

Commissioner Werner reported she talked with Jody Reynolds. She has worked on the banquet for 10 years. Asked Denise to ask the Chiefs for someone to take over and work with Jody to learn what needs to be done. Going to meet with Mike Cathy to start planning. December 7<sup>th</sup> is the date of the Banquet. The room is already reserved.

**f) Education - Tom Sutich / Stan Moffett**

Commissioner Sutich reported several years ago Eric Quinn had put on a seminar, responsibilities of Chiefs and Commissioners and how they should or should not interact with one another. Eric stated he thinks that was a municipal roundtable. Board and Fire Chief working together, knowing respective roles. Commissioner Sutich brings it up to the group as he thinks it would be worthwhile with new Commissioners and Chiefs, etc.

**g) Awards Committee – DORMANT - Arlene Dannat, Olivia Werner**

Have not met yet.

**h) Membership – Arlene Dannat / Pat McElligott / Kathy Kadow**

Not present.

**i) Programs – Kevin Gorder**

Reported would like to thank Cynthia Wernet for suggesting the speaker tonight. August meeting speakers will be Jen Kilien and Melissa Haney to speak on Mobile Integrated Health.

**j) Sunshine - Arlene Dannat**

Not present.

**k) NAEFO – Gerry Gustafson**

Not present.

**l) Nominating – DORMANT - Dan Rankin**

**m) Audit – DORMANT – Olivia Werner / Ed Egan**

**n) SS911 Committee – Pat McElligott**

Not present. Commissioner Rankin reported there is a meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Moffett turned the floor over to Commissioner Rankin for nominations for WFCR Region 7 Representative. Stan Moffett, Kathy Kadow and John Linboe. Stan

Moffett removed his name as he has too many things going on. 2 candidates: Kathy Kadow and John Linboe.

Commissioner Homan asked if either candidate has any statements. Kathy is not present. John Linboe was given the opportunity to give a statement. Commissioner Werner stated both are good candidates. John is involved legislatively. It is a two-year commitment for the position. Paper ballots gathered. Online attendees text their vote to Denise.

Commissioner Sutich moved to close the voting; Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED. Votes were tallied and the next representative is John Linboe. Denise will email Jordon at WFCA with name.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Commissioner Homan stated Ryan Portman with Graham Fire and Rescue turned in his resignation for personal reasons. Wanted to publicly thank him for all of his hard work and contributions.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, Commissioner Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rankin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Submitted by:

Denise Ross,  
Secretary/Treasurer

Website: <http://www.pcfirecommissioners.org/SitePages/Home.aspx>

**2023 Meeting Schedule:**

January 26, 2023 – 7:00 pm - Remotely via Zoom

February 23, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

March 23, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

April 27, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

May 25, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

June 22, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

July 27, 2023 – 6:00 pm - PICNIC at Orting Park – 110 Train St SE, Orting

August 24, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

Sept 28, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

October 26, 2023 – No Meeting – Annual Conference

November 16, 2023 – 7:00 pm - hybrid – SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and/or Zoom

December 7, 2023 – No Meeting – Annual Awards Banquet

# First Responders & Autism

How Should First Responders Interact with Autistic Individuals?



## Topics:

- What is Autism?
- Challenges First Responders May Face
- What Might Signal that Someone Involved in a Call is Autistic?
- Overcoming Misconceptions about Autism
- Anatomy of a Call
  - Approaching the Scene
  - Entering the Home
  - Speaking to the Family
  - Approaching the Patient
  - Eliminations & Additions
  - Assessing Vitals
  - Transportation
  - Restraining
  - Hospital Arrival
- Techniques & Tools
- Key Takeaways
- Audience Q&As

## Learning Objectives:

- What is autism?
- Develop empathy for neurological differences facing autistic individuals.
- Learn how to adjust our practices and mindset when recognizing or suspecting someone may be autistic.

# What To Look For:

## In The Field Reminders:

- **Positional asphyxiation**

- Caution with restraints

- **Seizures**

- ASD and epilepsy linked

- **Elopement**

- Drownings

- **Paradoxical reaction to medication**

- **Interoception**

- **Alexithymia**

- Altered responses to stimulus

- Difficulty communicating sensations/injuries



# Misconceptions about Autism:

## Examples:

- Attention
- Responses
- Body Language
- “Aggressive Behavior”

## Common Misconceptions:

Disrespectful  
Noncompliant  
Unwilling  
Unmotivated  
Lazy  
Mean  
Arrogant  
Deceitful

## Through a Neurological Difference Lens:

Social Communication Differences  
Sensory Discomfort  
Ambiguity  
Depleted Internal Resources  
Anxiety  
Trauma

# Low & Slow Technique:

## LOW

Lower your body to at or below autistic individuals eye level

Lower your voice

Lower the complexity of your language; use shorter sentences

## SLOW

Slow down your heart rate and breathing rate

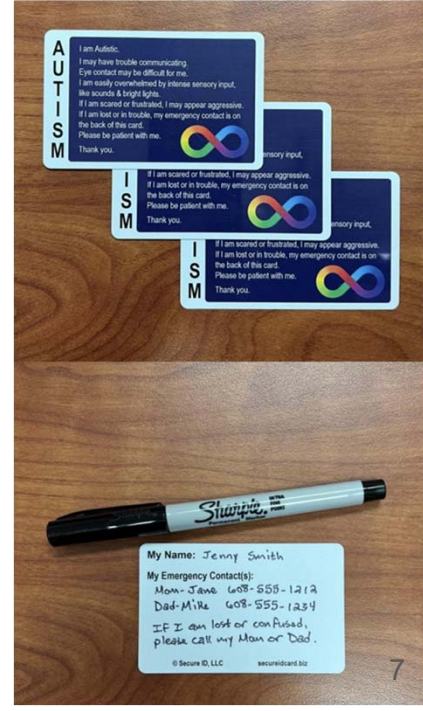
Slow down your rate of speech

Slow down your movements

Slow down your own agenda

# A.S.K. - What's In The Kit?

A bag containing numerous fidget toys, sunglasses, communication cards, dry erase boards, noise cancelling headphones, ID cards to provide the patient, and one 7lb weighted blankets.



Questions?

Want to Connect?

Email: [hweaver@eastpiercefire.org](mailto:hweaver@eastpiercefire.org)

Call/Text: (817) 455-3182