



Snohomish County

Executive

Dave Somers
County Executive

Executive Directive to the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management

Date: November 20, 2017

To: Jason Biermann, Director of Snohomish County DEM

From: Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers

Subject: Opioid Epidemic

Opioid Epidemic

Snohomish County is experiencing an opioid epidemic that is ravaging communities and burdening local governments, social services, law enforcements, emergency medical services, and public health agencies. From 2012-2016, Snohomish County experienced 14.5% of all opioid-related deaths in Washington State and had the fourth highest rate of opioid-related deaths per 100,000 people during that period.

Leading agencies and governments in Snohomish County partnered to collect data on the overdose occurrence countywide during a seven day period in July 2017. During this period, 37 overdoses were reported that appeared to be opioid related. Three of the 37 overdoses reported were fatal.

Opioid use disorder is a life-threatening chronic medical condition that is having devastating impacts across Snohomish County and that must be addressed using a multiagency coordination approach. A successful path to fully respond to and treat county residents impacted by the disease of addiction requires collaboration and coordination between agencies and governments, public outreach, education, targeted investment, and accountability.

I convened the Opioid Response MAC (multi-agency coordination) Group to focus on using multiagency coordination tools to respond to the opioid epidemic in Snohomish County. Partner jurisdictions and other key stakeholders worked together to develop goals and objectives for reducing opioid related deaths and negative impacts to communities. In response to the Opioid Response MAC Group's initial

recommendations, I am activating the Snohomish County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and partially activating the Snohomish County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC).

Activating the Snohomish County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)

The Snohomish County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) coordinates the County's response to emergencies and disasters in partnership with jurisdictions and other key stakeholders throughout the county. The CEMP contains annexes titled Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) that assign roles and responsibilities to agencies and departments that support a response.

The Snohomish County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) is the physical location where implementation of the CEMP occurs. When staffed, the mission of the ECC is to ensure coordinated planning, information sharing, and resource prioritization and allocation occurs in support of response operations throughout the county.

I am directing the activation of the CEMP, a partial activation of the ECC, and requesting representation from the partner agencies named in the CEMP to support the following Emergency Support Functions (ESFs):

- ESF #3 - Public Works and Engineering (to coordinate solid waste disposal, as well as water and waste water management)
- ESF #4 - Firefighting (to address the coordination of basic medical care and immediate life safety services delivered by fire and EMS agencies)
- ESF #5 - Emergency Management (to support management and administrative functions of the ECC and overall Snohomish County Government)
- ESF #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services (to address the non-medical mass care, emergency assistance, housing, and human services needs of impacted populations)
- ESF #7 - Logistics Management and Resource Support (to manage the provision of services, personnel, commodities, and facilities)
- ESF #8 - Public Health and Medical Services (to maintain health and sanitation supervision, prevent the spread of any dangerous, contagious or infectious diseases, and to prevent, control or abate nuisances which are detrimental to the public health)
- ESF #13 - Public Safety and Security (to address and support public safety and security capabilities and resources)
- ESF #15 - External Affairs (to provide accurate, coordinated and timely information and warnings to impacted communities, the general public, first responders, governments, media, tribes and other stakeholders)

In conjunction with the ECC activation, I am directing the activation of a joint information center (JIC) under the purview of ESF #15 and establishment of a joint information system (JIS), which will facilitate the delivery of accurate and timely information to the public and other stakeholders.

I welcome collaboration with jurisdictions and agencies throughout Snohomish County.

Directive for Activation

1. The overarching purpose of this activation is to align the countywide efforts in responding to the opioid epidemic.
2. The initial activation period shall be through the first quarter of 2018 to ensure coordinated actions and information sharing occur. The need to shorten or lengthen the activation will be reassessed based upon the recommendation of the multiagency coordinating group.
3. In addition to staffing the multiagency group, executive department directors may be asked to provide other support to the ECC. Such requests will come from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Director.
4. Operational periods will be established by the group, and initial operational goals and objectives documented. Progress toward the objectives and updates to planned activities will be documented and shared on a bi-weekly basis.
5. Agencies will use the ECC/JIC's established processes and procedures for developing coordinated plans, requesting resources, and sharing information.
6. As outlined in SCC 2.36.130(2)(e), jurisdictions may provide input to the DEM Director through the DEM Advisory Board.
7. As with any response, agencies may establish other incident management systems (e.g. departmental operating centers, unified command structures, etc.) to address tactical actions within their purview. I expect those structures to work closely with the ECC to ensure that we maintain unity of effort.

ECC Goals

These are the initial goals against which ESFs will establish objectives. Goals and objectives will be reassessed throughout the duration of the activation.

Goal: *Reduce opioid misuse and abuse.*

Goal: *Lessen the availability of opioids.*

Goal: *Connect individuals to available resources.*

Goal: *Reduce criminal activity associated with opioids.*

Goal: *Use data to detect, monitor, evaluate, and act.*

Goal: *Reduce collateral damage to the communities.*

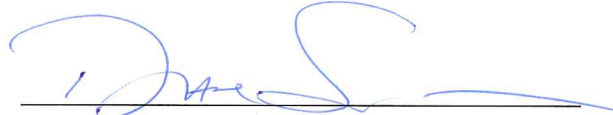
Goal: *Provide information about the response in a timely and coordinated manner.*

Goal: *Ensure the availability of resources that efficiently and effectively support response efforts.*

Contact for Further Information

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Snohomish County Department of Emergency Director Jason Biermann at Jason.Biermann@snoco.org.

APPROVED this 17th day of November, 2017.



Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive