



Orting Valley Fire and Rescue

Pierce County Fire District 18
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Resolution 2016-003

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 18. AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, REFERRAL AND EDUCATION SERVICES PROGRAM OR A COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the 2015 Washington State legislature passed SSB 5591 authorizing fire departments to utilize EMTs, paramedics and other healthcare professionals to provide community outreach and assistance to residents in order to improve population health and advance illness and injury prevention; and

WHEREAS, these programs are used to identify members of the community who use the 911 system or emergency department for non-urgent or non-emergency purposes and connect them to their primary care providers, other health care professionals, low-cost medication programs, and other social services; and

WHEREAS, hospitals and insurers can partner with fire departments to reduce the incidence of readmissions by enlisting them to monitor recently released patients in their homes; and

WHEREAS, diverting low acuity calls for assistance from the 911 emergency response system improves the availability of responders for actual emergencies; and

WHEREAS, connecting residents in need of services with the most appropriate resource improves their lives and health, reduces unnecessary utilization of more expensive and unnecessary services and therefore ultimately saves tax dollars;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 18 will create and operate a community assistance, referral and education services program or a community paramedicine program by seeking grants or within existing resources until the funding for a permanent program can be identified in the next budget cycle.

Adopted this 18th day of February 2016.

Shawn Mahoney-Commission Chair

Rich Meek-Commission Vice Chair

Shelley Jackson-Commissioner

Troy West-Commissioner

Margaret O’Harra Buttz-Commissioner

Kimberly Kemp-District Secretary