

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Approved, January 13, 2022



REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE via conference call:

CLALLAM

1A Daniel Montana absent
2A Jake Patterson
11 Joseph Rodrigues, **At Large**
26 Branton Byers
1 Derrell Sharp
85A Karl Hatton absent

MASON

87 Brandon Searles, **Secretary/Treasurer**
5A Matthew Welander absent
5 Michael Sexton
13 Greg Yates absent
28 Patricia “Renee” Byrd absent
28A Kristyn Criss
11A Greg Waters

WEST OLYMPIC PENINSULA

9 Heather Quinones
15 Timothy Wade, **At Large**

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

65

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

60

CONSUMER REP

70

VISITORS

Andrew Clemens, Life Flight
Peter Corier
Mikaela Hagberg, ALNW
Dan Druge
Kolby Konopaski
Jason Norris
Colleen Rodrigues

JEFFERSON

12 Tim McKern, **Past Chair**
4 Tim Manly, **Vice Chair**
3A Tammy Ridgway

KITSAP

7 Eric Chamberlian absent
8 Matt Million excused
29 Mary Flick
14 Jake Gillanders
8A Hank Teran absent

MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

47 Dr. David Carlbom
48 Dr. Joe Hoffman, **Chair**
49
46 Dr. Danielle Whitley absent

NAVY REGION NW

62

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL

55

COAST GUARD

61

PUBLIC HEALTH/PREPAREDNESS

75 Elya Baltazar

NWREMS STAFF

René Ralston
Lori Coleman, minute taker

STATE EMS ADMINISTRATOR

Hailey Green

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Dr. Joe Hoffman called the Northwest Regional EMS Council meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. via the Zoom Virtual Platform.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim McKern moved, and Michael Sexton seconded to approve the November 11, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

REGULAR BUSINESS

Chair Report – No Report.

Treasurer's Report – René Ralston reported on: Profit and Loss Statements for November and December FY 22 YTD; Bank Balance as of 12/31/2021 was \$38,861.75. Joey Rodrigues moved and Tim Manly seconded to approve the Profit and Loss statement as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MPD Report – Dr. Carlom reported that they have implemented their “leave behind Narcan program”; the Behavioral Health Summit continues; Jefferson is working with AirCare for continued training on partnerships; they are struggling to find Paramedic providers and they have 3 new SEI's. Dr. Hoffman added that he is working on a behavioral health COP in Kitsap and Mason counties; there will be an MPD meeting on 2.15.2022 and alternate care facility information was distributed to all MPD's explaining how Low Acuity patients can be placed in those facilities, the caveat being that the facility needs to agree to take in the patient.

DOH Report – Report was attached to packet; DOH representative Hailey Thacker briefly went over highlights of that report:

- EMS and Trauma Rulemaking met this morning and will meet again on 2.3.2022.
- EMS rules are working hard to get the formatting complete, and the steering committee is meeting virtually next week.
- The DOH is officially in the full swing of the Legislative Session; please note that they are busy and will do what they can to help as time allows. Catie Holstein is the contact to reach out to if you have questions regarding this.

Airlift Medical –

Life Flight: Andrew Clemens was present but had no report.

Airlift Northwest: Mikeala Hagberg reported that they are working with Jefferson to do partnership training.

Region 2 PHEPR Update/Northwest Healthcare Response Network – Elya Baltazar reported that there are over 200 COVID patients admitted to hospitals, however, they do not have all the data to identify if they are there due to COVID symptoms or secondary issues; she does know that there have been patients that had routine tests while at hospitals and were found to be asymptotically positive. Hospital ICU's and Acute Care's are hovering around the 98-100% capacity and this number does not include “boarders”; there are about 1000 citizens boarding in facilities that do not have beds for them in these units. WMCC Is prioritizing patient placements and some hospitals that normally treat just Pediatrics or Adults are treating all the above! She notes that there are

considerate wait times for EMS due to lack of staffing and that the lack of staffing is not only due to typical shortages but there are also many hospitals that are depleted because their staff has COVID. She did note that a hospital that wore only N95's had data to prove that there was no transmission within the facility from staff to a patient or vice versa. Many hospitals are working hard to stay out of Crisis Status, but she noted that many in the state are right on the brink. She reported that medical supplies are running short due to shipments being delayed and that there are hospitals that have had to courier over supplies to other hospitals just to keep them all afloat. Most facilities have canceled elective surgeries, and some have canceled all non-life-threatening procedures; this is up to each facility and there is not a "standard norm". Dr. Carlbom encouraged agencies to consider alternative treatment facilities. She reported that overflow is so bad that many hospitals are treating 60% of patients in the waiting room. The governor is supposed to hold a press conference addressing this issue and many agencies will have more information on this later today. She reported that they use WATrack and it is the best source for current/relevant data. She also mentioned that Kitsap county has done a great job with getting information out to citizens about routine testing sites so that they are not clogging up the ER for asymptomatic testing and that Bainbridge had implemented a nurse triage line that has significantly helped triage patients. She reported that they are researching how and when to implement the national guard to help with patient overflow; Dr. Hoffman added that this concerns him because the front-line workers for the national guard has many of those people already working in the breaking healthcare facility and doing this may break them even more, he encourages further discussion on who to use from the national guard to prevent this. Joey Rodrigues added that there are 6 EMTs at OMC triaging patients in the waiting area and that Olympic Ambulance is working on a program to do in-home follow-up visits on COVID patients to track their oxygen saturations.

Olympic Nation Park No Report.

Law Enforcement – No Report.

Correspondence –

- A. **DOH** – Current Council list was included in the packet; René reminded members that there is more information on this on the NWREMS and DOH websites. Lousie Smith resigned and Dan Druge is taking her place and that Heather Quinones from CCFD5 is new and she has submitted her application for review. Dr. Hoffman encouraged everyone to manage their agency's expiration dates and try not to become expired before they are updated.

Unfinished Business –

- A. **DMCC** - There has been no movement on this due to the COVID pandemic; the group agrees that this is a very important topic and they also agree that this is not the right time to pursue it as hospitals do not have the time or staff necessary to dedicate to this project to make it successful. This will stay on the agenda as a placeholder until the pandemic is over or time allows for this to be picked back up and reignited.
- B. **New Computer Shopping** – René is working on this, she will try to have options to review at the next meeting.
- C. **Audit Process** - René is working with the State Auditor's Office to find out if they think the current policy is sufficient to cover the way payables are being handled since this group has only been meeting virtually since the Pandemic began. She will update the group when she knows something.

New Business –

Pre-Hospital Emergency Airway Course – Dr. Hoffman reported that there is a class that will be held and René will be sending out a link after this meeting for agencies to register. This is a one-day class being held on two days and each county has 6 spots for each day; if they do not get filled by March, they will be open to general registration.

Strategic Plan –

- A. Training needs assessment was concluded today.
- B. René asked the DOH for clarification on this objective; Hailey Green reported that the group needs to survey each local council to see if their Min/Max needs are being addressed and identify if there are any deficiencies. René will send out a survey to each council and tally results, reporting back at the next meeting.
- C. René will also survey all of the local councils to ensure that this group identifies any activities and programs provided by agencies that impact the occurrence of and/or reduce incidents of injuries, violence, and illnesses within the region.

Committee Reports –

- A. **Executive Funding** – No Report.
- B. **QI Committee** – Met today; Dr. Carlbom presented on Behavioral Health. They want to do a regional Behavioral Health Analysis since there are limited resources for this on the Peninsula. Elya Baltazar offered to run WATrack reports that could gather a lot of information on this; Joey Rodrigues requested these and offered to gather information from Fire Department and hospitals in Clallam County. AC Sharp added that the needs assessment should include information on homelessness, members agreed. Mary Fleck moved and Tim Manly seconded to engage in a behavioral health needs assessment.

MOTION CARRIED.

- C. **IPPE Committee** – No Report.
- D. **Protocol Committee** – No Report.
- E. **TED Committee** – Met and presented training fund requests.
 - a. West Olympic has requested \$13,000 with \$6,500 due in 2022 and \$6,500 due in 2023. Joey Rodrigues moved and Tim Manly seconded to approve the \$13,000 request with half being paid in 2022 and the other half being paid in 2023. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- F. **Nomination Committee** – No Report. Will activate August 2023
- G. **State TAC/Steering Committee** – Will meet next week.
- H. **Local Council Reports/System Panning and Development Issues EMS & Hospital** –
 - a. **Clallam** – Derrell Sharp reported that Clallam County will be hosting a PA:S class in February for ALS providers and an Advanced Cardiac class in late spring; OMC is working on their Health Data Exchange so that information on outcomes can be shared with local agencies; local agencies have been dealing with first responders getting COVID and the staffing challenges that come with that; the County has 1,995 positive cases in the past 14 days; the County implemented and ran warming centers during the recent cold spells and this went well for the homeless population and he is beginning research on bringing a Paramedic program to Peninsula College; the challenge has been the accreditation process.

- b. Jefferson** – Reported that they had new elections and the new position have been submitted to René; they have an EMT class coming up in the spring and they have implemented the “leave at home Narcan” program.
- c. Kitsap** – Reported that there is an EMT class in progress with 21 students; they are holding an ACR academy with Zoll, they have an Evaluator class coming up and another EMT class in the Fall.
- d. Mason** – Reported that they have an EMT Class in progress; they have a new designated office space in the hospital; their BLS OTEP program is going well; they had elections and will send updates to René; Fire and EMS are in disaster recovery mode at this time and Mason General continues to struggle with staffing as they use their contingency plans.
- e. West Olympic** – Just finished and EMT class with two new EMTs; and are currently hosting another one with Neah Bay, Neah Bay has 7 students, they will use the Forks hospital for their clinicals; and as everywhere else, their hospital is short-staffed too, and dealing with COVID patients along with employees have contracted COVID.
- f. Communications** – No Report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Dr. Carlbom thanked everyone for their hard work and offered to help anyone who may need it with the knowledge and resources he has available.
- Joey Rodrigues reported that he is working with legislator Kevin VanDeWege to sponsor an initiative that would support provisional licenses, this would protect and preserve the DOH’s vetting process. Many believe that this would benefit agencies and departments that are struggling with staffing issues. Ore will be forthcoming on this.
- Joey Rodrigues added that he wanted to acknowledge the improvements in West Olympics’ training program and let them know he thinks they are doing a great job!

Next meeting is March 10, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Tim Manly moved and Derrell Sharp seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:26.