

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Approved, September 9, 2021



**REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE via conference call:**

**CLALLAM**

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

**MASON**

87 Brandon Searles, **Secretary/Treasurer**  
5A Matthew Welander absent  
5 Michael Sexton absent  
13 Greg Yates  
28 Sabrina Nelson absent  
28A Kristyn Criss

**WEST OLYMPIC PENINSULA**

10 Louise Smith  
15 Timothy Wade, **At Large** excused

**LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

65 Sky Sexton absent

**OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK**

60

**CONSUMER REP**

70

**VISITORS**

Andrew Clemens, Life Flight  
Mikaela Hagberg, ALNW  
James Richardson, ALNW  
Carly Bean  
Tamarah Hoffman  
John Viglo -  
Brian Swanberg  
Betsy Buckingham  
Kyle Danielson

**JEFFERSON**

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

**KITSAP**

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

**MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTORS**

47 Dr. David Carlbom  
48 Dr. Joe Hoffman, **Vice 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**

Christy Camarata

Jason Norris  
Catie Holstein

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Approved, September 9, 2021

Dr. Joe Hoffman called the Northwest Regional EMS Council meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. via the Zoom Virtual Platform.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim McKern moved and Matt Million seconded to approve the May 13, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### REGULAR BUSINESS

**Chair Report** – Vice Chair, Dr. Joe Hoffman, reported that: Chair, Keith Bogues, retired from PA Fire and has since resigned as chair of the NWREMS Council. Dr. Joe Hoffman appointed himself to the Chair position to fulfill the current term. This appointment leaves the Vice Chair position vacant, Dr. Joe Hoffman appointed Tim Manly to the Vice Chair position for the remainder of the current term.

**Treasurer's Report** – René Ralston reported on: Profit and Loss Statements for July and August FY 22 YTD; Bank Balance as of 8/31/2021 was \$34,062.16. Tim Manly moved and Tim McKern seconded to approve the Profit and Loss statement as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MPD Report** – Dr. Carlom reported on the stress that the current healthcare system is facing with the Pandemic. He noted that local EMS agencies are having great success with getting members vaccinated. They are running an EMT class that started last week with 9-10 students. East Jefferson Fire Rescue's MSO is becoming an SEI. Jefferson County is working on getting state approval for a COP that will address treat and leave for patients they give Narcan to and then the patient wants to refuse transport. They put in for a grant for Naloxone. They are organizing a summit that will address behavioral issues; all agencies are welcome to attend and they hope to address Ketamine use while following the new HB 1310. Jefferson has some questions about transporting STEMI patients, Joey Rodrigues stated that he would make sure everyone received copies of the Inter-local agreement that addressed this.

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

- The DOH holds payment requests near their fiscal year, this always causes a delay in payments, this is something that continues to need to be addressed. René reported that the NWREMS has not received their June payment as of today. The DOH representative reported that they are fast tracking any COVID related payments at this time.
- SB 5198 – new ruling allows for rural EMS agencies to use non-medically trained persons to drive their ambulances with approval from the DOH.
- Rulemaking – 33 sections of the EMS rules have been reviewed and have proposed amendments. The team is meeting weekly to draft the amendments; more information can be found on the DOH website.
- There is a statewide EMS protocol group that meets monthly, this is ran by Dawn Felt, one MPD from each region is asked to attend, but others are welcome to attend as well. Addressing behavioral health issues is a high priority for this group.

- DOH has guideline information their website for the mandated COVID Vaccines; Dr. Carlbom asked about Ski Patrol, do they have to be vaccinated as well?
- SHB 1276 allows EMT's to work in Emergency Services Supervisory Organizations including Diversion Centers; the DOH is working on components needed to implement this law and soliciting input form stakeholders.

#### **Airlift Medical –**

**Airlift Northwest** reported that: Mikaela Hagberg introduced Jim Richardson to the group, he will be attending these meetings now. She also reported that they have a new class of flight nurses and doctors, so there may be more staffing on the apparatus than usual as they get them trained.

**Life Flight:** Andrew Clemens reported that they are seeing an increase in COVID related transports and have been transporting from Seattle to Portland and vice versa, so they are seeing longer transport times as well. They have reduced in person training at this time due to this increase in transports. STEMI and cardiac patients are even seeing delays as the systems are overwhelmed. As of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the state has 170 patients in admitted for COVID related care, that number is up to 1600 patients now!

**Region 2 PHEPR Update/Northwest Healthcare Response Network** – Elya Baltazar reported that: They are BUSY! She is the Planning Section Chief and they are sending out e-mails twice a week to keep everyone informed. They are trying to keep up with the demand as COVID infections increase. Many hospitals are nearing crisis levels and some are already over 100% capacity. There are only a few acute beds in Washington available at this time, of those, they are in Mason and Clallam County and only 32 ICU/CCU beds in Washington. She reported that they are meeting weekly to track available beds and that they are seeing delays in EMS due to wait times as many of these facilities are having a hard time accepting care in a timely fashion. Alternate care facilities are being researched. Many hospitals are canceling all elective surgeries at this time as well. They have seen a huge spike in ventilator use with these patients and more deaths are occurring; they are keeping an eye on morgue situations as they become an overwhelmed entity too. The WMCC now has its own call in line as the regular lines are too busy. WATrack is watching pediatrics at this time; Washington recently had its first pediatric death and the virus is starting to hit children harder than originally thought. Dr. Carlbom asked that Elya encourage her group to support lowering nurse documentation at this time to only the necessary functions; this would free up a majority of their time.

**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.

#### **Unfinished Business –**

- A. There has been no movement on this due to the COVID pandemic.

#### **New Business –**

- A. **Budget** – René reported that she has been holding invoices until she receives the DOH payment. There was a \$9,200 rollover of unused funds for in-person meetings, etc. There

was \$6,244 rollover from unused grant funds. René reported that she needs a new admin computer, so that will need to be budgeted for on the admin side of the surplus.

- B. Payment Delay** – Due to the DOH payment delay, all members agreed to wait on using the grand funding monies until the DOH payment is received in case those funds are needed for admin costs.
- C. Training Grant Process** – The NWREMS council is asking all local councils to submit their training grand needs for the next two years. These funds won't be allocated until they are due, but this will help the NWREMS council to project funding needs more accurately. There was a long discussion about how funds are allocated equally at this time and some wondered if maybe they could be allocated per capita, this would allow larger councils to receive more of the training funds where others believe that it was more important for the smaller local councils to get more of the funding than a per capita designation would allow. The discussion was tabled at this time. René will reach out to the other regions to see how they structure their training grant funding allocation.
- D. Executive Board Past Chair Positions** – Was handled in the Chair report; Dr. Hoffman will fill the Chair position and Tim Manly will fill the Vice Chair position for the remainder of their current terms.
- E. Activate Nomination Committee** – Tim McKern moved and John Viglo seconded to open nominations. Nominations are: Dr. Hoffman for Chair, Tim Manly for Vice Chair, Brandon Searles for Secretary/Treasurer and Joey Rodrigues, Tim Wade and Tim McKern for At Large members.

#### **Strategic Plan –**

- A.** Zip codes were identified as a known issue with WEMSIS reporting errors; departments should ensure that they are not having errors caused by this as well.
- B.** No report
- C.** One edit for Jefferson county; and update Harrison to St. Michael
- D.** No report
- E.** Done and will review again in November.
- F.** René has sent out a request for local ems agencies training needs.

#### **Committee Reports –**

- A. Executive Funding** – Met this morning to talk about budget and NWREMS nominations.
- B. QI Committee** – Met, no Report.
- C. IPPE Committee** – No Report.
- D. Protocol Committee** – No Report.
- E. TED Committee** – Met, bringing forward two training requests for then next two years.

Kitsap has requested \$13,000 with \$6,500 due in 2021 and \$6,500 due in 2020. Dr. Carlbom moved and Joey Rodrigues seconded to approve the \$13,000 request with half being paid in 2021 and the other half being paid in 2022.

Mason has requested \$13,000 with \$6,500 due in 2021 and \$6,500 due in 2020 Tim McKern moved and Dr. Carlbom seconded to approve the \$13,000 request with half being paid in 2021 and the other half being paid in 2022.

- F. Nomination Committee** - Nominations were opened today under New Business
- G. State TAC/Steering Committee** – Meeting next week.

## H. Local Council Reports/System Panning and Development Issues EMS & Hospital –

- a. **Clallam – EMS** – Started an EMS class this month; working on a COP to address HB 1310 that will address unsecure scenes; COVID cases continue to increase in Clallam County; PenCom underwent a CAD upgrade that has affected all agencies in some way or another, issues are being addressed as quickly as they can; the whole county is using ESO now; PA Fire’s Community Paramedic program is working with Clallam Health on a sharps container project; Trish Duerr resigned from OMC and Derrell Sharp was hired as PA Fire’s Assistant Chief of EMS/Operations.
- b. **Jefferson** – Has an EMT class underway with 8 students; Tim McKern is the Local Regions chair at this time; East Jefferson Fire Rescue has a new MSO, Tammy Ridgway; Jefferson is seeing an uptick in COVID cases too; The hospital still does not have a permanent ED Director and their new ED providers are learning how to triage transport patients.
- c. **Kitsap** – The are BUSY! St. Michaels has 58 COVID patients and a ¼ of those are in critical care and intubated, the average COVID patient stay is 2-3 weeks and the have been on Divert for 4 hours at one point; the Hospital is working with their compliance department to address overflow issues. an EMT class underway and will run another on in January and they are hosting an EMT evaluator class later this month.
- d. **Mason** – COVID census is sky high! They are struggling to get patients transferred to necessary care level facilities; their RN’s are doing medical triage, this was defined last year when the Pandemic hit and has just recently been implemented; they will be hosting an EMS evaluator class in October (registration is now open); an EMT class will be held in January of 2022 and they are working on an EMT bridge class for Doctors, Nurses, etc. that want to practice as EMT’s; they expect this should be a 48 hour class.
- e. **West Olympic** – Has also been hit hard with COVID patients although they are just starting to see it slow down a bit!
- f. **Communications** – No Report.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

- The next meeting falls on 11/11/2021; this is Veterans Day; the meeting will still be held that day as the majority of the group stated that they could attend.

**Next meeting is November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

### ADJOURNMENT

Derrell Sharp moved and Elya Baltazar seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:47