

Northwest Region EMS Council - Regular Meeting minutes

Meeting via Zoom platform

November 10, 2022



MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CLALLAM

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

MASON

87 Brandon Searles, *Secretary/Treasurer*
5 Michael Sexton absent
5A Matthew Welander absent
6 Carly Bean
13 Greg Yates absent
28 Kristyn Criss absent
28A Patricia "Renee" Byrd absent

WEST OLYMPIC PENINSULA

15 Tim Wade, *At Large*
9 Heather Quinones absent
10 Dan Druge

LAW ENFORCEMENT

65 Mike Johnson absent

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

60

CONSUMER REP

70

NWREMS STAFF

René Ralston
Lori Coleman, minute taker

DOH ADMINISTRATORS

Hailey Thacker
Catie Holstein

JEFFERSON

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

KITSAP

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

MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

46 Dr. Danielle Whitley
47 Dr. David Carlbom
48 Dr. Joe Hoffman, *Chairman*

NAVY REGION NEW

62

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL

55

COAST GUARD

61

PUBLIC HEALTH/PREPAREDNESS

75 Elya Baltazar

VISITORS

Andrew Clemens, Life Flight
James Richardson, ALNW
Ray Evans
Mariah Pede, NWHRN

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

Rene noted that she will now be capturing minutes through Zoom meeting recordings in an effort to free up Lori's time. In addition, no new corrections or additions to the agenda.

Tim Manly moved, and Matt Million seconded to approve the September 8, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Chair Report – No Report.

Treasurer's Report – René Ralston shared the Profit and Loss Statements for September - October & FY 23 YTD; Bank Balance as of 8/31/2022 was \$102,084.55. Mary Flick moved and Tim Wade seconded to approve the Profit and Loss statement as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MPD Report – Dr. Hoffman reported:

Washington State Fire Cheifs looking to develop Difficult Airway Curriculum – MPD's tasked to look this over by DOH.

MPD meeting will be held on Monday from 10-Noon

Dr. Carlbom reported:

Training exercise with the Global Center for Infectious Disease and Health

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

- EMS Rules – WAC 246-976 opened in the fall of 2019 with the intent to modernize our standards, align with changes in national standards in EMS, and reduce barriers to certification and licensing. With the addition of the new legislation that passed that allows EMS to partner with Public Health to provide vaccine and testing and Provisional EMS Certification, we updated our CR101 to address these new requirements. Our goal is to conclude stakeholder meetings end of this month and move to the CR 102 phase. We'll hold a public hearing in winter and file the CR103 in spring and rules should go into effect before end of spring 2023.
- **WEMSIS Rules:** Stakeholder meetings for EMS data system rulemaking concluded in March. The rules are in response to the amendment made to RCW 70.168.90 which requires licensed ambulance and aid services to report to the statewide data system. We are working on the draft for public comment then we'll move to CR-102 process. WEMSIS rulemaking timeline is aligned with the EMS rulemaking process timeline.
- **Trauma Rules:** In Fall 2021, the Department opened WAC 246-976-580 (trauma designation process). The intent of the revision is to set in rule clear requirements and criteria for assessing access to level I and II trauma centers and to define criteria to determine which facilities can apply as a new level I or II trauma service. Several rule revision workshops were conducted with broad stakeholder input. In addition, recommendations from the Min/Max workgroup were incorporated. The proposed draft rule were mailed out several weeks ago. It is also posted on the DOH Trauma Designation Rules webpage.
 - Rule related comments can be sent to the DOH Trauma Designation Rules Public Comments email address at traumadesignation@doh.wa.gov or to Tim Orcutt and Dolly Fernandes at tim.orcutt@doh.wa.gov or dolly.fernandes@doh.wa.gov
 - We have received several questions recently regarding the new American College of Surgeons trauma verification standards that were published in the spring 2022. The department uses the ACS standards as a refence to update our own state trauma designation standards in WAC 246-

976-700. We do plan to update the trauma designation standards with the new ACS standards following the completion of the current rule revision work for WAC 246-976-580.

- **Cardiac and Stroke:** The first round of 2023-24 ECS recategorization will begin in Feb of '23 with the N, NW, and W regions participating. The EMSC state partnership grant application was submitted, if awarded, the new project period would begin on 4/1/23.

Dr. Hoffman asked about an update on IT Security regarding Trauma Registry and data on the current vendor to make it available outside of the SAW portal. Catie will check into this. She updated us on this, the response she received is: "The trauma registry waiver has been approved. We are awaiting a final security design review. We will then be able to implement..."

Region 2 PHEPR Update/Northwest Healthcare Response Network – Elya Baltazar reported:

Discussion re: extreme weather planning/response:

- Kitsap Public Health District is working with DEM and Kitsap Transit but would love to hear more from other counties about their formalized plans.
- Bainbridge Island has a response team of 4-wheel drive vehicles and the use of volunteers. They use a google form to compile requests. They can help with groceries, pharmacy pick up, doctor appointments, and such. These volunteers are covered completely when under a mission number, whether given by state for large storms or for local response, just need a mission number and they are completely covered. They share the google form through their facebook and on their website. They activate often times a day before the event and send notice to the volunteers, so they have an idea of who is available and lean into planning. Recommend you contact your local emergency management offices to find out the mission number and/or request early conversations and support.
- Jefferson County Emergency Management uses their storm team which is compiled of partners that are needed during that type of response. 911 is the primary contact but passes on the non-emergency calls to the team/DEM. They also use the NPREP program to share/response to community requests. One of their major learnings recently was regarding folks who are oxygen dependent. They were calling 911 during power outages. Jefferson continuing to process how to meet this need in the future. Few hospitals can handle the influx of people who need oxygen/power support but without medical need and EMS/hospitals don't have supplies to lend them or support that need.
 - o Laura with Leading Age mentioned that reaching out to LTC facilities may be an option for respite oxygen since they are required to have generators. Every SNF is required to have an emergency plan and contact, a generator, but not extra water supply which has been an issue in the past so they link with the local fire departments for support. Assisted living do not have the same regulated requirement, a disaster plan is required, but not a generator.
 - o Bainbridge DEM mentioned they've used battery backups but have to revolve through the needs.
 - o Blaine, Sequim/Clallam fire- They bring people to the LTC/SNF facilities, and they have a public space at those places for people to plug-in. They have an MOU (agreement in place) so EMS can transport them there and they have an RN on staff who can keep an eye on the area but these on non-medical needs, just power support. It does mean the output of staff to transport people there and the facility to agree but it is much better than inundating the local hospital with non-medical needs. They also utilize operational areas during storm response which then filter information to ECC management team that can start sharing with more partners as needed for further support.
 - o All DEM's mentioned they use social media and their websites for further info and encourage local city management and agencies to share this information further. Reiterated that it is critical to take on preparedness ahead of time.

NWHRN and Regional Updates:

- Annual communications exercise is coming up on December 6th. Please see attachment for more information.
- Significant pediatric capacity challenges and large spike in RSV across the country. Please see attachment for more information.
- Continuing to coordinate conversations around Ebola planning with regional partners and DOH.

Large amount of work to get Departments up on WaTrac. Please reach out to NWHRN if you are not utilizing.

Airlift Medical – Life Flight: Drastic change in weather changes flight pattern and ability to take calls.

Airlift Northwest: Weather challenges. Encourages checking all bases and locations to see if others are available.

Olympic National park – No report.

Law Enforcement – No Report.

Correspondence –

- A. **DOH** - Current Council list was included in the packet and there is a link on the website to view this information as well; Gaps noted in yellow.
- B. **Kitsap Airway Course** – Flyer attached in Packet, posted on Kitsap EMS Website as well. Focus on Pediatric and Bariatric special populations.

Unfinished Business –

- A. **DMCC** – Assembling County plans for the Regional Strategic Plans. As previously noted Harborview will be our DMCC in the event of a Disaster, but will prefer they not if given an option.
- B. **Behavioral Health System** – Joey Rodriguez has had some progress. We do have primary sponsors and have shared information and presentation with them. Still have momentum. Just trying to education and stay educated on this. Joey will share presentation with Catie & Matt Million as asked. Dr. Carlbom asked for some help in Behavioral Health issues and Catie will check into this and get with him on this topic.
- C. **FY23-25 Regional Plan Guidance** – Rene noted that our 1st draft for our strategic plan is due 2/28/23 so this would need to be approved at our January 12 Meeting. State plan guidance has been sent to all 4 Counties to help them with the process of writing their goals for the region. Rene has a scheduled Zoom meeting with Jefferson County to clarify their task and answer any questions for them. Dr. Carlbom asked for clarification on Min/Max when Fire Departments merge. Catie stated that DOH is looking to create state guidance in some topics of PCP's for continuity. Dr. Carlbom initiated discussion on Start vs. Salt Triage. Looking for uniformity within the Counties/Region/State.
- D. **Fire Update** – René reported that she still has not heard back on the Hard Drive recovery effort. She will again reach out to check the status.

New Business –

- A. **Air Medical PCP Update** – Tim Manly reported that we need to update our current plan. He will have a draft ready by the January meeting.

Strategic Plan –

- A. Rene updated the Council on what she has received from each county regarding MCI and Pandemic disease plans. Joey Rodrigues motioned to roll this over to the next Strategic Plan. Carly Bean seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

Committee Reports –

- A. **Executive Funding** – No report – Did not meet
- B. **QI Committee** – Discuss Trauma Rehab Facilities Min/Max. Recommend to change from 0 min/0 max to 1 min/2 max. Tim McKern motioned to approve and Dr. Carlbom seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**
Had a presentation on Stroke data, next topic is Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse in January.
- C. **IPPE Committee** – Focus of discussion was roll over grant funds. Plan is to construct leave behind Nalaxone kits. It was recommended by the IPPE Committee and voted by the Council to assemble approx. 1,000 pencil pouch kits. Costing approx. \$3 per kit in conjunction with the Grant totaling \$3,000. These would be

distributed throughout the Region. Dr. Carlbom made the motion to approve, Carly Bean seconded, Matt Million opposed, **MOTION CARRIED**. Dr. Carlbom will share his County Operating Procedure with others.

- D. **Protocol Committee** – Dr. Hoffman suggested we may want to start looking at Protocols in the near future.
- E. **TED Committee** – No Report.
- F. **Nomination Committee** – No Report; will activate in August of 2023.
- G. **State TAC/Steering Committee** – Will meet next week.
- H. **Local Council Reports/System Panning and Development Issues EMS & Hospital** –
 - a. **Clallam** – Derrell reported that they just finished up the difficult airway course. Working on Goal 4 for NW Region strategic plan. Local agencies have been working on Tactical Emergency Casual Care Refresher. Has an Ferry Active shooter Table top drill scheduled with Border Patrol and local agencies on November 15. Send Derrell an email if your interested in attending a meeting on December 5 to discuss potentially making Peninsula College a TCC Satellite Campus.
 - b. **Jefferson** – Tim McKern reported that weather caused many calls. Tim Manly reported IV Tech class is going well. New EMT class beginning in January.
 - c. **Kitsap** – Dr. Hoffman reported they had a cadaver lab, was successful. Fall EMT class wraps up in December, have 1 spot open January. Fire Academy class starting in February with 31 students. Working on Region goals. Evaluator class begging in March. Special population Airway class March 16-17. Advanced Healthcare provider RN to EMT bridge class sponsored by Olympic Ambulance Winter 2023.
Mary reported that the system was down for 14 days due to a cyber attack, will take time to catch up, but problem is now resolved. Ongoing problems with our ED saturation. New ED director starting next week. Currently renewing Trauma Designation.
 - d. **Mason** – Dr. Hoffman reported new ED Manager starts Monday. Kristin Criss has a new position with Mason General. Seen lots of RSV calls, crowded ED still, falls still make up the majority of Trauma. Working on developing new relationship for LVL Stroke patients as that service is dissolving at Providence St. Peters.
Carly Bean reported that evaluator and IV Tech class has just finished up. Gearing up for January EMT class, posted on website. Getting training schedule up and running for next year. Working on Live lecture for BLS as they do for ALS.
 - e. **West Olympic** – Tim Wade reported they had power failures and storms. SEI candidate course in progress. DOH allowing us to mentor via zoom and in person. They will report back to DOH in hopes they can get feedback to help other rural area be able to do these types of programs. Also working with Department of Corrections on MCI drill scheduled for December 2. Forks Ambulance is now officially a career-oriented agency. All employees of the Hospital, long time coming. Developing a class on how to treat patients while inside the vehicle. Will share once completed.
 - f. **Communications** – No Report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURNMENT

Tim McKern moved and Matt Million seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:37.

The next meeting is on January 12, 2023