

Northwest Region EMS Council - Regular Meeting minutes

Meeting via Zoom platform

March 9, 2023 *appvd.*



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 **absent**
85 Karl Hatton **absent**

MASON

87 Brandon Searles, *Secretary/Treasurer*
5 Michael Sexton
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

DOH ADMINISTRATORS

Hailey Thacker
Jason Norris

JEFFERSON

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

KITSAP

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

MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

46 Dr. Danielle Whitley **excused**
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
Scott Mundy
Christina Chavez
John Nokes

Dr. Joe Hoffman called the Northwest Regional EMS Council meeting to order at 12:03 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. No new corrections and 1 additional item added to the agenda (Hood Canal Bridge Closure).

Tim McKern moved and Mike Sexton seconded to approve the January 12, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

REGULAR BUSINESS

Chair Report – No Report.

Treasurer's Report – Dr. Hoffman noted that Training Grant submission deadline is JUNE 15, 2023. He reminded everyone to submit before that deadline. In addition it was reminded this is a good time to reallocate any unused funds or communicate if your County Council does not intend to use their full grant dollars so that they can be utilized by someone else. René Ralston shared the Profit and Loss Statements for November & December 2022 & FY 23 YTD; Bank Balance as of 12/31/2022 was \$90,046.22. Mike Sexton moved and Tim Manly seconded to approve the Profit and Loss statement as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MPD Report – Dr. Carlbom stated he participated in the State Workgroup to look at BLS Provider Trauma Patient Care Guidelines, results will be forthcoming to the MPD group at the next meeting. In Jefferson County we are hoping to send 3 Paramedics to become instructors for the Airway Course Train the Trainer. Hopes to hold the class once a year.

Dr. Hoffman reported that there was a State MPD meeting. Discussion on Legislation, Wall times and discussion on the Survey of the States' Cardiac & Stroke System. There will be more surveys coming out, please fill these out when you receive them.

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

- **Legislative Session** – Legislative session began January 9, 2023. This is a long session, and it will end in April. Bills you may be interested in that impact EMS include:
 - SB 177 – Organ Transport Vehicles - The bill requires the department to issue a license for organ transport vehicles and services in consultation with the Department of Licensing. The bill prescribes standards for staffing which includes the required use of a current or retired EMS provider, firefighter, or law enforcement officer. The law requires vehicle and equipment standards and directs the department to collaborate with the DOL to adopt rules to implement the new standards. The bill prescribes employment parameters for employees working for organ transport services including background checks, driving records, driver training, general and automobile liability insurance, defines relevant terms related to organ transport, allows organ transport vehicles to use sirens and lights, signal preemption devices, and high-occupancy vehicle lanes.
 - SB 5122 - Extending the expiration date of the ambulance transport fund.
- **EMS Rulemaking** – EMS rules were opened November 2017. 33 sections in WAC 246-976 were opened to consider updates to align with current national standards, make regulations clearer and concise, respond to statutory requirements, streamline initial and renewal application processes for pre-hospital agency license and EMS provider certification. EMS held 40 stakeholder meetings between December 2017 and August 2022 which included review of the 33 sections, two new sections, and seven pieces of legislation that impacted rules. The EMS team updated the CR101 in May of 2022 to reflect the scope of new work due to legislation that had passed and revised the timeline for completion. Primary delay to rulemaking was the COVID-19 pandemic in which the EMS team was activated to the agency IMT and prioritized COVID work

between March 2020 and March 2022. We are working very hard to finish our CR102 package and we appreciate your grace and patience as our workload is unprecedentedly high as our healthcare system is still experiencing impacts from the pandemic. Final draft version rules will be available for you soon. Anticipated date of updated effective rules is by March 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 services and to define criteria to determine which facilities can apply as a new level I or II trauma service. The last rules workshop was January 4th, which concludes their stakeholders meetings for now. ○ 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](#).

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.

Projects

- **Community paramedic programs** - In 2022, Washington State Legislature approved a request for a one-time \$1.5 million appropriation from General Fund-State in the 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget ([ESSB 5693](#)) to the Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health (GCACH) to develop and implement an innovative emergency medical services program (EMSI) to bridge the gap of unmet healthcare needs in the community. The Department of Health was identified as the agency responsible for distribution of the funds to GCACH. DOH has contracted with the GCACH to provide the funding and is monitoring and providing support for the project.
- **Health Equity Education for EMS** - In 2021, legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5229. This bill directed the department to create minimum standards for health equity continuing education that health professionals must take every four years. The department held four (4) listening sessions and four (4) rule-workshops to help develop proposed rules for minimum standards for health equity continuing education. The proposed rules create four new sections in chapter 246-12 WAC to implement RCW 43.70.613. The proposed rules require completion of two hours of health equity continuing education every four years for all health professionals which includes certified EMS providers credentialed under RCW 18.130.040 with a continuing education requirement. The proposed rules also require that the two continuing education hours include implicit bias training to identify strategies to reduce bias during assessment and diagnosis. The legislation requires DOH identify a free training to meet the minimum requirement. Health professions can point to the proposed rule or adopt rules under their own authority that meet the minimum requirements. Dawn Felt has been monitoring this work and is updating the EMS Multicultural Awareness Curriculum to include the minimum standards noted here. We'll keep you informed of the progress of our updated curriculum and the free education offering once we have more details to share.

- **Provisional certification** – Draft rules were socialized with EMS stakeholders in July and August of 2022. The DOH EMS team worked with OCS and AAG to identify if EMS providers who satisfy all other licensing requirements and qualifications may receive a temporary practice permit (which is different than a provisional certification) while the national background check is completed - as authorized in 2013 for other professions under WAC 246-12-050 (RCW 43.70.040, 18.130.064 and 18.130.075). Yes – EMS can be included. Our credentialing team built the new credentials in ILRS for temporary practice permit and Dawn Felt worked with our credentialing team to develop the process for how a temporary practice permit can be requested and approved and this option was implemented in October of 2022. The anticipated date for provisional certification is March/April 2023 when updated rules are made effective.
- **Rural EMS Workgroup & Learning Action Network** - In 2020, the DOH was awarded a federal EMS supplemental FLEX grant to support a project designed to improve sustainability in rural EMS services. This 3-year project just ended August 31, 2022. EMS staff worked with the DOH research analysis and data team to identify the criteria to be used to determine which rural EMS services should be considered for the project. EMS services were selected based on their geographic coverage area, population, call volume and initial attribute scores on our statewide EMS Rural Sustainability Assessment Survey conducted in 2019. We contracted with 12 EMS services (distributed across the state) and provide funding to support them to develop action plans, attend training, improve technology in their department, and support participation in the project. We contracted with a variety of organizations and subject matter experts to develop and provide tailored education and tools related to each organizational attribute. John Nokes, our grant project coordinator facilitated 1:1 consultation with participating services throughout the project to provide technical assistance and support for developing action plans and achieving improvements. We established a Rural EMS Learning Action Network (LAN). This workgroup was comprised of the EMS service enrollees, grant project coordinator, various EMS program staff and was used as a forum to provide information, education, support, accountability, sharing of practices and experiences as the cohort worked to improve their lowest scoring attributes. The grant focused on improving recruitment and retention plan, public information, education, and relations (PIER), reporting data to the statewide EMS registry and improving the number of EMS instructors in rural communities. Over the course of the project, 12 EMS services were provided \$30,400 each to participate in meetings, attend trainings, develop and implement action plans, initiatives to improve attributes and measure improvements. About \$85,000 was used to fund contractors to develop and provide education, training, and tools that could be easily customized and deployed by any EMS service. All these materials are available to EMS services on an external SharePoint site. The grant also supported 0.7 FTE for 3 years to lead this work, \$750,000 total. 80 hours of training were provided to the EMS service leaders and MPDs that were a part of the co-hort. Trainings were provided virtually in monthly meetings and several specialized courses were developed and provided. Presenters were local, regional or national EMS experts well known in our profession that covered topics related to all 18 attributes. All sessions were recorded and are available to any EMS service. Participating EMS services improved in all attribute areas. The largest improvements were in public information, education and relations, and contemporary equipment and technology. 7 of 12 participating EMS services were already reporting to WEMSIS when they began the grant work. Four more services started reporting during the grant work. The number of records submitted in 2021 increased by over 500, or by 38%, from the year before the grant started. New services were most of the new reporting, though prior reporting services have started reporting **more** records to WEMSIS. Participating EMS services increased the number of EMS personnel recruited into their services collectively by 27 and 14 EMS providers became EMS instructors.

- **Rural EMS Flex Supplemental Grant 2022-2025** – EMS staff working on implementation of the grant which includes a role for clinical faculty & MPD’s. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement strategies to establish quality assurance and improvement plans, improving data submission, data quality, and analysis of EMS key performance indicators to assess baseline performance and identify areas for quality improvement. The participants will implement quality assurance and improvement activities, using the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Model for Improvement and Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles on time sensitive emergencies. Rural EMS services will test, adopt, and continually improve clinical practices to achieve improvements in clinical outcomes for time sensitive emergencies. Initially, we had envisioned that EMS fellows from UW could be used to support this work. However, MPDs have voiced that they would rather be included in the work than delegate to EMS fellows. We are currently working to garner MPD commitment for the clinical faculty model component of this work. MS instructors.
- **NREMT Cognitive and Psychomotor & Certification Examination Updates** – NREMT is sunsetting the psychomotor examination in 2024. The cognitive exam is being re-designed as a part of this work. Dawn Felt is participating in NREMT workgroups leading this work and keeping our EMS stakeholders informed of progress, changes, and implementation dates. Rural EMS services continue to express concerns for lack of access to NREMT testing sites. Dawn is working with Wenatchee Valley College to see if they would be willing become a host for a NREMT testing site. The DOH EMS program continues to partner with Rural Health Section who provides FLEX grant funding to support vouchers for rural EMS providers to take the NREMT certification exam.

Region 2 PHEPR Update/Northwest Healthcare Response Network – Elya reported that Kitsap public Health is taking on the ESF8 process of updating the plan and coordination with partners. Next meeting is in April. For the Healthcare Coalition they are wrapping up the end of year deliverables. June 8 is a communication exercise, Elya will send out information. Will also be doing a medical surge exercise. Reported that they are almost fully staffed as well. Added a WATRAC position in Eastern WA. Robust discussion at the meeting yesterday regarding the Hood Canal closure. Elya is happy to help or support in any way she can.

Air Medical : Andrew from Life Flight reported that training is stacking up and with the Bridge Closure coming up we are aware of this. We also have other assets we can pull from if we need to. Opening Grays Harbor Base hopefully by this Spring.

Jim from Airlift – Scheduling a lot of LZ trainings for the Spring if needed. Actively involved on the Hood Canal Bridge Closure.

Discussion on a need for pre-designated LZ spots during this time to help with the process. Dr. Carlbom will share his information that he has with Joey Rodriguez. Please also share Closure information with Mike Sexton.

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 or items that need attention are noted in yellow.

Unfinished Business –

- A. **DMCC** – Discussion about the plan needing updated. Joey invited Lori Danko from St. Michaels to start attending out meetings to get this discussion started and make this a focus.
- B. **Behavioral Health System** – Joey reported that things are moving forward and hoping to see this evolve. The 998 bill capitalizes on this.
- C. **FY23-25 Regional Plan Draft review** - Rene shared a working document to capture the Historical Snapshots and Challenges & Priorities. The Council reviewed, edited and approved what was presented. Rene will format and submit to DOH for review.
- D. **Archive Documents** – Cost to shred the Documents at Central Mason is approx \$580. Motion made by Tim Manly and Mary Flick to proceed.

New Business –

- A. John Nokes from DOH gave a powerpoint presentation on Rural Health outcomes and remote instructor methodology class.
- B. Discovery Bay Jefferson County FD #5 Renewal (signature/approval needed)- It was noted that the Region does not need to sign this because it is a renewal. It is not required.
- C. East Jefferson Merger Amendment Application (signature/approval needed)- It was noted that the Local Council has not voted on this. This will move to Jefferson County EMS. They will hold a special meeting to vote on this prior to our next meeting. A motion was made by Derrell Sharp and seconded by Mike Sexton to have Dr. Hoffman approve and sign this document pending Jefferson County approval.
- D. Hood Canal Bridge Closure – previously discussed above.

Strategic Plan –

- A. Rene updated the Council on the progress of the current plan.

Committee Reports –

- A. **Executive Funding** – No report – Did not meet, will meet in May
- B. **QI Committee** – Had a case presentation on Chest Trauma from Mason County, DOH presented Chest Trauma data as well. Discussed Triage process throughput and how they plan to improve. Also discussed the bridge closure. next topic is Cardiac in May.
- C. **IPPE Committee** – No report did not meet, still waiting on the Grant to come through.
- 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** – EMS reported they conducted an ACLS class. County wide agencies are moving forward with ESO. Thank you OMC for covering the first 3 years of cost. Spring EMT class is closed and starts April 4. Tactical Emergency Medical Class slated as well. Working on updating/developing the Clallam EMS.
 - b. **Jefferson** – EMS, holding an EMT class. New CPR mannequins. Just had a PM Base Station skills day. Cares program is up and running in East Jefferson. No winter EMT program. We are purchasing new equipment to upgrade our classes.
 - c. **Kitsap** – EMS just finished the EMT Class portion of the Candidate Academy. Graduated 18 new EMT's that will move onto the Fire Academy. Hosting an EMS Evaluator course on March 16. Special populations Airway class on March 16 or March 18. Hospital – finished Trauma designation waiting on the final report
 - d. **Mason** – Hospital – Construction for more Isolation – rooms, no wall time. Working on left without being seen. EMS EMT class currently. Mobile Integrated Health in North Mason. Looking for that to expand. Working on Instructor Methodology. SGA endorsement class in April. EMS Evaluator class October 14 and IV Therapy class end of October.
 - e. **West Olympic** – EMS participating on a Quality Improvement Class. Clallam Bay has an EMT class. Beginning Advanced EMT online class starting April 2. Uptick in River drownings.
 - f. **Communications** – Jefferson County is looking for a director.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Joey wanted to compliment this group on the NW Region involvement on State Committees and TACs. Joey will shoot Dan Druge the information to attend the PreHospital TAC and represent Tribal and NW Region.

ADJOURNMENT

Tim Manly moved and Dr. Carlbom seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:40.

The next meeting is on May 11, 2023