

Washington County EMS Alliance



**Washington County EMS Alliance
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 22, 2022**

Attendance:

Member/Delegate			Back-Up Delegate	
Present	Name	Jurisdiction	Present	Name
X	David Downey (Chair)	City of Hillsboro	X	Greg Espinosa
X	Patrick Wineman (Vice Chair)	City of Forest Grove		TBD
X	Marni Kuyl	Washington County		Mjere Simantel
X	Rodney Linz	Banks Fire District		Brennan Nannenga
X	Deric Weiss	Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue	X	Steve Boughey
Affiliate Member Representative			Backup Representative	
X	Shawn Baird	Metro West Ambulance	X	David Weeks
X	Mark Buchholz	WCCCA	X	Jennifer Reese

Other Interested Parties/Staff:

Tim Case (WCEMS), Yera Castaneda (WCEMS), Gaby Rodriguez (WCEMS), Jesse Bohrer-Clancy (WCEMS), Kristin Chaffee (TVFR), Ben Sorenson (TVFR), Joshua Nordberg (TVFR), Chief Geering (FGFD), Casey Schein (LFN), Gail M. Madsen (Consumer Advocate) Ron Morgan (TVFR Union), Sam Flores (AMR EMS), Megan Wever (WC resident) John Goward (Falk Amb.) Sean Baird (MWA CEO), Sam Flores (AMR)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review and approve July meeting minutes
3. Strategic Direction
4. Workgroup Updates
5. EMS Updates



6. Good of the Order (Public Comment)

Opening Comments

Chief Downey opened the meeting at 1:05 PM and welcomed everyone.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chief Downey asked the governing board members for approval of agenda, Chief Wineman made motion to adopt, and Chief Linz seconded the agenda was approved as is.

Review and Approve Minutes

Chief Downey asked the board members if everyone had a chance to review the July meeting minutes. Chief Downey had a correction to Chief Richard's last name from Belches to Vetsch. Chief Linz motioned to approve with changes Chief Downey mentioned. Chief Derek Weiss seconded; the minutes approved with changes.

Public Comment

Chief Downey welcomed public comment. No public comment.

Strategic Direction

- Update from Cambridge
 - Continuing to learn our system from the inside out.
 - Larger group in person meeting in the morning and smaller group break out sessions smaller in the afternoon
 - Meeting in the next few days individually with Washington County administrators and vendors
 - ALS/BLS tiering system
 - Writing draft for RFP for transport provider
 - Writing of the updates for the ASA/ASP plans have commenced but no draft yet
 - System redesign workgroup meetings with Cambridge and using key points to recommendations they gave us
 - Decision points they gave us were looking to see which work group those decisions will fall under but most likely Redesign work group for equipment standardization decision.
 - Another key point was moving from response time compliance based to clinical KPI type with the CSP group
 - System enhancement fund funding.
 - Email has gone out to Vince from Cambridge for a more regular meeting every other week for 1 hour.
 - Working on drafting an interim report with their expertise suggestions regarding our ASA plan
 - Timeline we envisioned is still on track per the one that Adrienne sent out to the governing board.
 - Cambridge is continuing to meet with Fire departments, there will be another round of discussions with fire agencies and law enforcement as well
- First Watch/First Pass:
 - Ready to take some action on this subject.
 - Many of you have been involved in conversations regarding this over the last year or so and all feedback is very positive.

- Looking for permission to move forward with conversations
- Unknown cost to Washington County - IT process and other steps
- System enhancement funds
- Use public health modernization funds which are available right now for this.
- Start conversations with First Watch and get some budget information to present to the Alliance board to determine which funds from system enhancement fund and EMS funds can be used.
- This will not bind us in any way, it is only to start conversations to move forward.
- All board members in favor of moving forward.
- MWA is in favor of moving it along after meeting with First Watch
- The intent with this component is to help unsiloh our data, we intend to purchase it at county level so data lives with county.
- There are annual costs and monthly costs so the contract would live with the county.
- Chief Boughey we do not use it, but they were involved in Clackamas process. We can all participate in county wide QI no matter what charting platform we use.
- Yamhill county is also having this conversation with public health currently around Opioids.
- Adrienne will move forward with meetings with public health and will bring back budget information and details to this meeting next month.
- ALS/BLS high level conversation:
 - More formal discussions to how we want this work to work out.
 - Systemwide view and methodical approach
 - Some districts have better coverage than others so there are different considerations
 - It is meant to be a high-level discussion starter to see how we want to roll this out.
 - There is concern with all the new implementations we may be behind so really looking to get this into committee to start work to identify what the barriers are and how to begin to knock those out and we are not waiting when we have something great and ready to go.
 - Redesign work group would be great for being the hub. Chief Wineman will take on the lead for this but will need support from all the other groups and there is a representative from each group within the redesign work group.
 - Governing documents and that group, there is admin rules approval with the board coming up in October or November. We did not add the component to the admin rule part because there are amendments that need to be made before we send to the board for approval so that we can take into consideration the recommendations from Cambridge.
 - Critical piece is WCCCA involvement. Tremendous amount of work will be done with this piece.
 - Conversations between redesign workgroup and level 0 committee around the ALS service which has been a challenge for MWA and BLS has been okay, so they have been working with trying to incorporate BLS with emergent response. MWA is willing to work with everyone on this.
 - As part of this work, we need to look at the short term and long-range planning

- Chief Downey agrees that we need to make this work a priority
- Pilot option gets us by or there does not have to be a declaration of emergency to get an urgent change made.

EMS Alliance Workgroup Updates:

- **Dispatch data workgroup**
 - This group is idle currently and has no updates.
- **Data Workgroup**
 - Work group met last month
 - Acknowledged difficulty of working to effect change in the uncertainty of the RFP process, but key take aways were:
 - Discussed and established which agencies are interested in an immediate expansion of data sharing on key issues such as cardiac arrest, and opioid overdoses, and we are working on getting data use agreements in place. It is an easy expansion of data that is already readily available.
 - We agreed to the establishment of a system-wide and regional plan for overall data collection and distribution, with county acting as visionary on this.
 - Timeline for this is not held back by RFP process, and it is to include more than clinical quality improvement data and extend to communitywide data on health disparities and social vulnerabilities. Also agreed that that data Workgroup should really focus on high level planning and not get into the weeds on issues covered by existing groups like EMS Clinical QI, (eg. clinical key performance indicators.)
 - Agreed that the group will bring data, some operational and clinical to the Alliance, for transparency of the system, and to also facilitate publishing of public data as needed.
 - Discussed health data exchange per Dr Sahni's discussion with a potential vendor. The Health Data Exchange sounds great (streamlined data flowing in both directions between EMS and hospital charting systems so ER staff can have immediate access to patient information from EMS, and EMS can get outcomes information), it's going to be super beneficial to EMS, and discussions are ongoing with hospital chief medical officers to bring this to fruition. At some point in the coming months, we will do an overview of the platform, and request the Alliance pass a motion in support.
 - Discussed First Watch/First Pass. All in agreement that we want this software for our County but experience from other counties shows it needs epi/data analyst oversight to fully utilize it. Something to think about in the future with EMS FTE.
 - The motion for support will be needed sometime this year.
- **Redesign workgroup charter**
 - Turned over the working document of their work to Cambridge and they had many questions on that effort
 - Redesign committee is the working group with a lot of talent and if the county continues to leverage that group it will be successful.
- **Level 0 project workgroup**

- 30-day pilot had some discussion of BLS/ALS resources more to come
- Pilot is still ongoing with just a little bit of time left and then we can see if there is any benefit once the data is in.
- Level 0 impacts and ARMUPs chaos
- Fire resources have been abused for a long time now it is creating strain on the fire agencies
- TVFR had a 55-minute wait for a level 3 ambulance a couple of weeks ago during our fire event. This an example of a very difficult decision for our crews to make.
- Big thanks to Mark and Jennifer for loaning us John Rannier the person providing us data to show us what is happening in the system with level 0

EMS Staff update

- City of Gaston Chief Morris – Adrienne has reached out and no response yet since he is out of the country.
 - Focused on RFP and System Redesign work
 - Data to keep things moving on
 - Adrienne will bring a System Enhancement budget update next month
 - EMS team is busy supporting all this EMS work PHEP is doing some joint work with EMS to do outreach around CPR/First Aid/AED to develop core trainers. Through CBO partners who speak other languages to help them support the classes to train people in their languages. Their time is being paid for, leveraging the PHEP program to get that program going.
- **TVFR**
 - No updates
 - **Forest Grove Fire**
 - Chief Geering requested a meeting with Tim Case and Chief Wineman regarding Level 0
 - No updates
 - **Banks Fire**
 - No new updates
 - **Hillsboro Fire**
 - Actions taken last week in Hillsboro, they are short-handed and working on directive on how to handle transport when a BLS unit is not available.
 - Created a policy to if a paramedic is riding in a BLS ambulance then they take a fire medic with them and they know all the equipment and kits.
 - ARMUP has become a regular use
 - **Medical Directors**
 - Talks about BLS/ALS and tiering that out are happening to make a decision on logistic as to who gets which.
 - **WCCCA**
 - No updates
 - **MWA**

- Appreciates others sharing the impact of resource difficulties with staffing shortages.
- Focus remains on paramedic training, currently have a hiring freeze.
- Completed 4 EMT program recruitment and retention internal training
- 2 paramedics are reaching coveted senior paramedic positions at the end of this month
- 2 brand new paramedics that have become newly mentored paramedics Internships completed this week
- 5 additional students in clinical moving into clinicals and 14 more students behind them.
- Continue to work with hybrid program with Boston group.
- In addition, also supporting employees with their school with local colleges.
- Appreciates the work around BLS unit resources to alleviate the strain on the system.

Public Comment

no public comment

Good of the Order

- FGFR just entered a contract with PCC open house with informational sessions EMT class is for priority for Washington County people wishing to become EMT's,
- Training Chief Steve Black is the trainer.
- AMR reach out to their office to discuss EMS system in Washington County and engaged them without compromising the RFP process.
- Engaged Larry Boxman and Mr. Goward from Falk ambulance to have a civil conversation with him. His office will continue to engage everyone equally. Wishes to make this as transparent as possible.
- Find alternative dates for November and December for Alliance meeting to work around holiday conflicts.

Next agenda items

- System Redesign Update

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm

Next meeting: Oct 27 at 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., via Zoom

Minutes compiled by Yera Castaneda