

# Washington County EMS Alliance



**Washington County EMS Alliance  
Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2021**

**Attendance:**

Member/Delegate			Back-Up Delegate	
Present	Name	Jurisdiction	Present	Name
X	David Downey	City of Hillsboro		Greg Espinosa
	Patrick Wineman	City of Forest Grove	X	Patrick Fale
X	Sia Lindstrom (Chair)	Washington County		TBD
X	Rodney Linz	Banks Fire District		Brennan Nannenga
X	Deric Weiss	Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue	X	Steve Boughey

Other Interested Parties/Staff:

Adrienne Donner (WCEO), Jack Nuttall (WCEO), Tim Case (WCEO), Gaby Rodriguez (WCEO), Marni Kuyl (WCHHS), Jesse Bohrer-Clancy (WCEO), JD Fuiten (MWA), Shane Ryan (MWA), Kristin Chaffee (TVFR), Karen Eubanks (TVFR), Jennifer Reese (WCCCA), Gail Madsen, Donna Adams.

**Summary of Actions and Decisions**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review and approve June's meeting minutes
3. Strategic Direction
4. Workgroup Updates
5. EMS Staff Update
6. Round Robin Updates

**Opening Comments**

Sia Lindstrom opened the meeting at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Adoption of the Agenda**



Sia Lindstrom reviewed the agenda with the group and asked for any changes, and if no changes she welcomed a motion for approval of the agenda. Motion for approval of the agenda was made by Chief Linz and seconded by Chief Downey. All were in favor and the agenda was approved.

### **Review and Approve Minutes**

Sia Lindstrom asked for changes or approval of June's meeting minutes. Chief Linz said he had a question about the first page of the minutes, where they talked about backup delegates and he asked Adrienne if she had received the paperwork for his backup? Adrienne said she had received it and it would be updated in this set of minutes. Chief Linz thanked her. Sia Lindstrom added that she was the only one left without a delegate. She will work on getting Marni Kuyl on there. Chief Linz set a motion to approve the minutes as presented and it was seconded by Chief Downey. All said aye and the minutes were approved.

### **Public Comment**

Sia Lindstrom reminded all that this is a public meeting and she paused at this point to see if there were any public comment from the audience. She commented that these meetings are small enough that people can chime in throughout the meeting. If they get too far afield or too complicated, she might have to reign it back in. At this point, they can still function with having normal conversation throughout the meeting, but since this is a formal meeting, she is pausing now to give people an opportunity for comment. No public comment.

### **Strategic Direction**

Sia Lindstrom recapped Monday's training and said the next step is to plan the strategic retreat. Right now, it is set for two half day retreats in September or October to finish off setting their priorities. She thanked the team that put together the training session on Monday. She added that the only thing she has outstanding is they have talked about the possibility of getting hospital representation on the EMS Alliance, and before September's retreat she wants to get this group's thoughts on this.

JD Fuiten said hospitals have had the greatest impact on response, in a negative way. Sia Lindstrom thanked JD for his comment and said it is consistent with the feedback they have received in the last few sessions. Chief Weiss said he agrees with what JD said and he believes they are a valuable part of the EMS system. He asked at what point is too many too much. And is that something that is represented with the doctors they have and that attend these meetings? He said he isn't saying no, and he knows there was hospital presence at the EMS Advisory Council, but he wants to see if they have that with the medical directors? Sia called out for Dr. Sahni or Dr. Daya to provide their insight on this. Adrienne said Dr. Sahni is at the emergency department today working and he is not present on this call and she added that it's a matter on how to do it. She thinks maybe it would be helpful to have someone who can speak to the OLMC or one emergency department nurse representative. She believes there is a way of bringing in representation when the topic is right and depending on the needs and not necessarily bringing in someone for every single hospital. Sia clarified that they can make it one representative affiliate to represent all the hospitals.

JD Fuiten said he wanted to clarify that he does agree with Chief Weiss' comment in the fact that they might get the hospital representation with the medical directors they have

in place but he added that if there is a problem it goes over their heads and this is what he was referring to. He was looking for someone higher up that can be brought to this group. Tim Case said he also had some questions, what level within the hospital hierarchy do they bring in? And he is curious on Dr. Bohrer-Clancy's perspective on this. He also added that the doctors on this group are more representatives of the agency they are affiliated with and not the hospital they work for.

Dr. Bohrer-Clancy said that as medical directors they do not have much pull on the hospitals side and there isn't much that can be done on the emergency department's side with staffing, when there is a shortage in the whole hospital. He believes they need representation from someone higher up, like at chief nursing level from each major health systems, OHSU, Kaiser, Legacy, Providence. This is because they don't always talk to each other as consistently as they would hope.

Chief Weiss recommended to bring in hospital representation when the topic is specific to things that affect the hospitals. Sia Lindstrom suggested to let the strategic planning unfold as this will probably be identified and maybe create a workgroup for this. Chief Downey said he agrees with what everyone has said, and his concern is the who and how it would engage them.

Donna Adams joined the conversation, she introduced herself. Donna is the nursing director for the emergency department at Kaiser Westside and she is in nursing operations in both Kaiser Westside and Sunnyside. She mentioned she had just joined a few minutes ago and was not able to hear all that was being talked about and asked to have someone explain what the discussion is about. Sia Lindstrom said the question is the impact of the emergency department has on the EMS system as a whole and how to integrate their perspective to this table. Sia mentioned she is happy to hear any thoughts on how to navigate the EMS system and the emergency department. Donna said that for the meetings with emergency department topics she believes good representation would be emergency department directors from the various hospitals and they can take things back to the CNEs. Sia thanked Donna for being here. Donna asked what workgroup this is and who all is on the call? Sia answered this is the EMS Alliance made up of Washington County, Metro West Ambulance, WCCCA and the fire agencies in the county and their mission right now is to look at system enhancements that can be made in the EMS system. Donna thanked Sia. Donna said from an emergency department perspective that is relevant to this group is zone management and stress of the number of patients they are receiving as they do not have beds for them. Sia said zone management has come up on this group and she sees good conversations coming out of this.

Kristin Chaffee added she had a thought while Donna was talking and any channel that she can create would be good, so that there can be a way to communicate concerns or needs of assistance from both groups. Sia said she agreed, and she was happy to have Donna as she is creating a great path by just being here. Adrienne Donner added that the EMS stakeholders list is a long list and any with a stake in EMS can be on there. They all get the invites and agendas and that is how Donna got on it. They can do some reaching out to those key positions so they can be on.

Sia Lindstrom asked the group if a half day retreat in August was doable? Chief Fale said he thinks they may be impacted by fire season, but he will look to see what they can do. Patrick will be in this role in September until the new chief comes on board. Sia said they will push for August and hope it works for everyone. She asked if there was anyone from WCCCA objecting. Jennifer said August works, but Mark will be out on vacation for a few days August 14<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>. Sia asked Metro West Ambulance, JD said yes depending on where. Sia said she would put her team on scheduling.

Sia called on Chief Linz to discuss cardiac monitors for Banks Fire. Chief Linz said Banks just as all other agencies agreed on doing the same cardiac monitor, but they were not able to budget the monitors in. They looked into requesting grants and hoped to get money from the feds under the recovery act but they were excluded as a special district. They met with the City of Banks because they were getting some funding and they agreed to contribute with some but not much. They also decided to email the office of US Congressional Representative Suzanne Bonamici, as each of the Congress members can take 10 projects to be funded back to Washington, D.C. for Congress to consider. Bonamici accepted the project as one of her 10 and took it up to Washington D.C.. In Washington D.C. Congresswoman Bonamici met with the committee, they reviewed, approved and proposed funding. The project was accepted to continue on, but the whole amount of \$76,000 was not accepted. They were told by Bonamici's office that the amount approved would be sent once the bill to pass comes to vote.

Chief Linz reached out to Washington County to see if there was any funding left. They worked with Tim to see if there were any funds that could be reallocated and now it is being brought up to the EMS Alliance as suggested by Sia. Sia asked Chief Linz what the gap is? \$64,000 out of the \$76,000 is what is still needed. Sia said changes like this are more difficult for smaller districts because they are more limited in funding.

She asked Adrienne to lay out what the funding picture looks like or other options on how they might support this. Adrienne said there is one thing in play, it did go to the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization Fire EMS Workgroup as a last-minute funding in their current cycle of the remaining UASI grant. She saw the survey that came out for folks to prioritize the remaining UASI grant funding but has not seen the results yet. She says it is possible there could be funding through UASI, just as the centralized dispatch modification was funded through UASI.

She added that the idea today is to have a backup plan, and would we want to use the funding in the County EMS program as that backup? The preference would be to make a decision today in case the UASI funding falls through. Sia asked what their thought are? Chief Downey said he doesn't know much about system enhancement funds and doesn't really know what is available. He understands the purpose but wants to know more. Adrienne said most people don't know all that much about it; they are looking at a longer-term perspective to give that extra support to move up the system for the system enhancement fund. There was a discussion a few months about having a system enhancement fund for this type of need like they are seeing today or for a whole system type request. Sia said Adrienne has been doing work on finding out what is available. Adrienne responded yes, she was looking at the budget and what COVID did to it, which is all good because most all staff was deployed to and funding through the COVID Response and due to this they have left over funds. Adrienne believes there

is a couple hundred thousand in left over funds. But it is a matter of this group to decide how funds are allocated. Right now, they have this money, but they are not reoccurring funds.

Sia asked if they want to move forward to provide funding to Banks? Chief Downey said he did also see the RDPO survey and there were eight items on the list. The email with the survey listed the amount of UASI money RDPO had, which was a decent amount between that and a combination of Congress project funding and the City of Banks. They may be able to get there with the system enhancement funds. Chief Downey likes the backup plan, and recognized Chief Linz has a very small district and these types of changes come with challenges like this.

Chief Weiss said he appreciates what they are doing here and asked on the life span of Banks' current monitors? Chief Linz said they need to be replaced – they are not end of life today, but they have one that has gone out and they replaced it with a used one. They are trying to stay in compliance with what the agencies and Alliance have decided on. If they can obtain the funding needed, they want to purchase all new monitors so their staff can perform the same as all other agencies. Chief Weiss said they had a conversation when they first talked about monitors on how they did not expect everyone to go out and purchase, but they were more hoping that in their next cycle they would purchase the recommended monitor. He says what pops in his head is subsidy and no policy and if they don't have policy or procedures on how they will use fund of this source he believes it presents a risk for this group. If there is policy in place, they can support it. But before they agree on it, he is asking that they get to some semblance of a policy? Sia said so far as they are looking at funding possibilities they have used as their guidance is the priorities set by this EMS Alliance. First was centralized dispatch, which they also looked for funding for. The principle she finds in this is if it's a priority set by the EMS Alliance, then it is something they can potentially fund. As of right now there is only a few priorities in place. Her other suggestion is based on timing with Chief Linz to weigh in on, she proposed waiting for the next month's meeting to see what funding was given for this project and go from there. Adrienne added that they should see results come in from the RDPO survey very soon and should know then if this is something that can be funded by this fund. Kristin Chaffee asked there was limits as to how long the pricing was available from the vendor? Chief Linz said he has been in contact with the vendor and they said they would honor the pricing even if they had a delay as they know their funds situation; a month or two he thinks is okay.

Chief Weiss knows that within Washington County there is significant amount put into the EMS system enhancement funds and it is used for various things but doesn't know how they have been used. Chief Weiss meant to say Clackamas County not Washington County. Chief Boughey said yes, he is happy to present to this group how Clackamas County does it and how they decide when things like this are brought up. There is a process as to how this is done, somewhat as they have seen today but more formalized. Sia asked for him to send it to them ahead. Chief Boughey said he will forward it to the stakeholders. It is funded in a different mechanism then what they have in this county.

Sia said they will stay tuned on the RDPO results and it will be taken up in August. Chief Linz thanked them all for listening. Sia thanked him for helping them grow as a group.

### **EMS Alliance Workgroup Updates**

Centralized Dispatch- Chief Weiss said he received an update from Shane Ryan this morning as to the work they have done to connect the CAD to CAD, and he passed it along to Shane to explain. Shane said he got email from ZOLL saying the initial project is done they are ready to start testing. He thinks they will have some issues with testing as they don't have a testing environment for CAD, like WCCCA does. They expect to do some testing next week, once they do the testing, they will report what works and what doesn't. They will go through Chief Weiss and the workgroup to see if they want to turn it on. There will be some training as well. They can use test units but have to turn it off if something needs to be changed or tweaked. Then they turn it on and go. Chief Linz asked to clarify if by the next meeting in August they will have done the testing and will be ready.? Shane said he does think so, but he can't speak on behalf of WCCCA's training. He knows there will be a change for Metro West and not for WCCCA. He anticipated they will say it is ready to go next meeting. Sia commented that it is exciting that it's happening this fast and asked Jennifer Reese to comment on WCCCA's side.

Jennifer Reese passed it to Kathy Fink as she is the training coordinator supervisor. Kathy Fink said Monique Roberts has been involved longer, but their understanding is there will be information passed along to their staff and they will be making sure supervisors are available to answer any question. She said there is not significant change to what they are doing now. Sia said good news all around.

Chief Weiss said COVID slowed their efforts down, but they pulled it together and now he is excited to see results.

Chief Linz asked how much time to get things lined up? Is there potential for a next meeting? Chief Weiss said he anticipates the workgroup will meet before that and WCCCA. Kristin Chaffee is planning on a workgroup update before next Alliance meeting. Shane said if everything is working as they plan, they will turn it on.

Sia said metrics is something they talked about last time. She is curious in the collaboration of the data group of metrics on this. Chief Downey said he has WCCCA contact to discuss what they are doing and talked to Dr. Daya about it as well. They will be able to see what they are doing and see how the data is, but he needs to meet with John on what they are doing now and what they are changing.

Sia said she wants to be able to tell how they have seen a system change. So they know what kind of improvement they can see. They might not see immediate results but with time they will. By that time, they will be in person and celebrated.

Regulatory Documents Review- Adrienne Donner said Tim Case should chime in if she misses anything. They have been working on the Administrative Rules and County Code and they are moving into the next big step. They will send out a timeline and update so

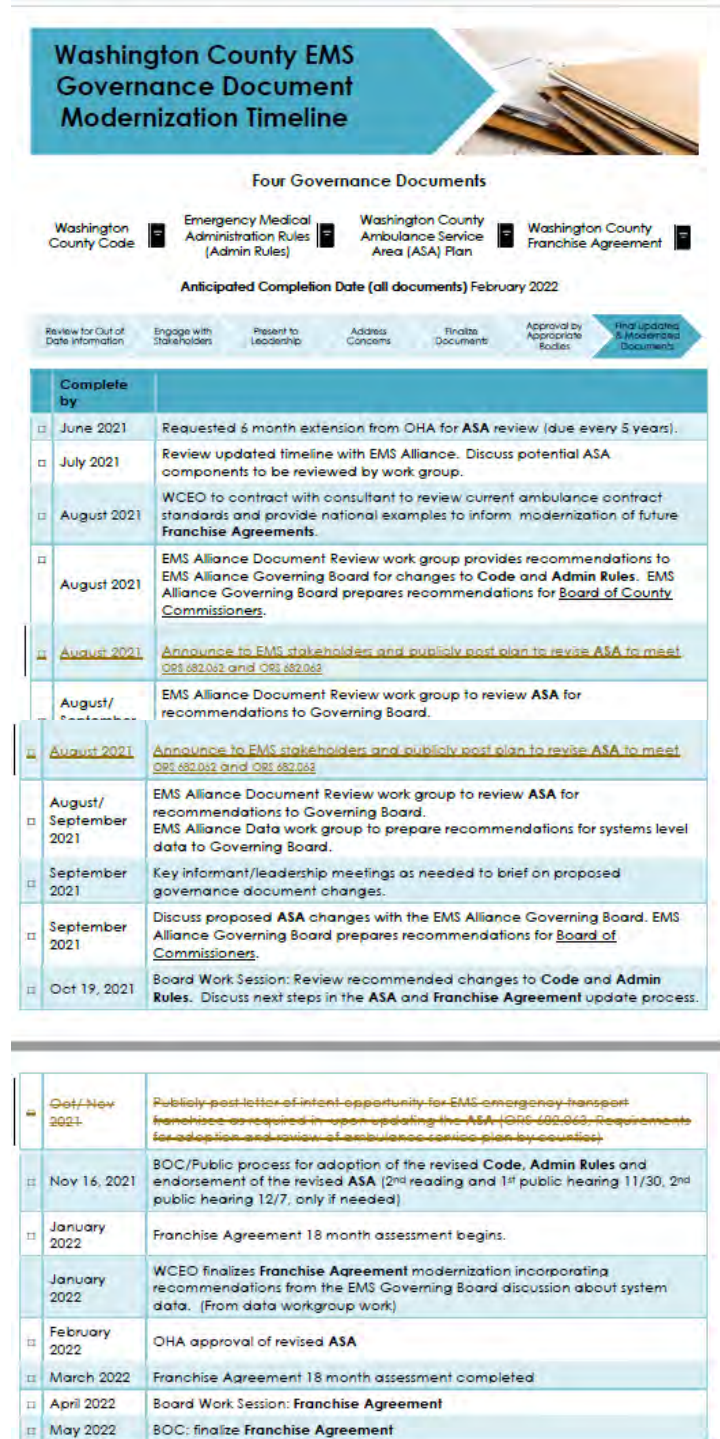
everyone can see what is expected. They will come to this group more and the County Board of Commissioners for them to approve or give their stamp of approval.



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Document Moderniz

She pulled up the timeline . Tim added day to day operation of the group was they just finished section 600 and it leaves only section 700. After that they will start to look at the proposed change and what needs to be elevated, tidy it up so when they are presenting it will be readable.

Adrienne explained what took place and what is to come.



She welcomed any questions.

Sia thanked Adrienne for the presentation and invited anyone to chime in.

Chief Weiss said he doesn't think the timeline meshes well with the strategic planning that is taking place and he asked if the timeline is too tight? Adrienne mentioned that the only way to do an extension from OHA is by doing it in six month increments and if they need more time, she will ask for more time, with this extension it gets them to December. As to the meshing part with the strategic planning, Sia said she is looking at the timeline and the refined priorities should be in place by the end of September. She



thinks it might come together. Adrienne also added that she thinks it fits well, she plans to come to this group in August on the County Code and Administrative Rules. She doesn't think strategic planning will affect how those are written and she added that this timeline is not writing in stone, they will lean toward getting it right instead of getting it on time. Sia asked if there were any other thoughts? She appreciates that this timeline is flexible and can be changed if needed. Chief Boughey commented that he is involved in the same process at Clackamas County and based on the amount of time he is seeing it take at Clackamas County he believes it will take Washington County longer than expected to get through all these document. He agrees with Chief Weiss. Adrienne added that these documents were significantly different from Clackamas. For example, Clackamas' ASA is more overarching facts as Washington County's ASA is a leaner document that won't be the same as Clackamas. Washington County is only hiring a contractor consultant for the franchise agreement as it was written a long time ago and it needs to be modernized and rewritten and all other documents will stay in house.

Chief Weiss asked will the EMS Alliance, this group, look at what the consultant has to say? Adrienne said she doesn't see why not. Adrienne added that part of the process of updating the ASA is to find out with each agency here the city boundaries and she prefers they talk to city folks as well. Sia mentioned they have interacted with city managers in the past. Chief Weiss said he thinks the city manager is the right place. Chief Downey agrees that city manager seems most appropriate.

Data- Chief Downey said he doesn't have much to update the group on. He said they will need to discuss what this group wants to see out of the data group. Sia asked how often they would like this group to present? Twice a year or quarterly? Chief Weiss said it depends on what they are wanting to see, and he would like the doctors to weigh in. Chief Downey said with the integration of centralized dispatch they would have to think about what with in that data is important for them to see. Chief Boughey suggests once Chief Downey has a better handle on what is coming through and what they are able to see, they can decide from there. Sia said the presentation Chief Downey did a few months ago was very helpful.

### **EMS Staff Update**

Adrienne Donner gave an update on EMS staff; they still have a vacant position and they will start to see more of the team in the office. Tim Case added that the CSP group, EMS's version of the OPS group, has been discussing Clackamas's move to a systemized medical kit and he believes this is another project for this group. It will be brought to this group next month, likely like they did with Cardiac Monitors.

### **Round Robin Updates**

Hillsboro - Chief Downey said he did not have a whole lot. He is glad they will have talks on kits. If they have not placed the order to hold off. Everything else there is the same.

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue - Chief Weiss said he had nothing, he asked Chief Boughey if he had anything. Chief Boughey said they were finishing up firefighter interviews.

Banks - Chief Linz said he had nothing new to add, he enjoyed the session on Monday and looks forward to more in the future.

WCCCA– Jennifer Reese said they are working on the new radio system and facility.

Forest Grove, Gaston and Cornelius – Chief Fale was thankful for the training they had, and he said he appreciated getting know everyone.

Metro West Ambulance –JD Fuiten said David Weeks is ready to rip the band aid off and take all Phillips monitors away. There is one monitor that Chief Linz uses to train people in Banks with.

COVID Response and Vaccine Planning- Adrienne mentioned she is weaning out of COVID response and is mostly weaned out. Her last project with the vaccine team is to reach out to fire agencies to look at partnering on lower vaccine rates. They think fire locations would be helpful to those communities. She will reach out to those with lower rates in certain zip codes.

### **Public Comment**

Sia Lindstrom welcomed public comment.

Cassy with Life Flight Network said hi and mentioned she would send in her contact information to the group. Sia thanked her

Adrienne mentioned the strategic planning retreats would be scheduled and invites would be sent.

**Next meeting: August 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., via Zoom**

Suggestions for next meeting:

- Clackamas County's system enhancement funding
- Chief Linz's requested funding support and finding out where that is
- Conversation about the kits
- Centralized dispatch celebration and maybe a live demonstration

### **Good of the Order**

There was no good of the order.

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m. With the next meeting scheduled for August 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom.**

Minutes compiled by Gaby Rodriguez