

Washington County EMS Alliance



Washington County EMS Alliance Governing Board Meeting Minutes May 26, 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
	Marni Kuyl	Washington County	X	Mjere Simantel
X	Rodney Linz	Banks Fire District		Brennan Nannenga
	Deric Weiss	Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue		Steve Boughey

Other Interested Parties/Staff:

Adrienne Donner (WCEMS), Tim Case (WCEMS), Gaby Rodriguez (WCEMS), Jack Nuttall (WCEMS), Jesse Bohrer-Clancy (WCEMS), Muhamud Daya (TVFR), Ritu Sahni (WCEMS), JD Fuiten(MWA), Shane Ryan (MWA), David Weeks (MWA), Kristin Chaffee (TVFR), Ben Sorenson (TVFR), Joshua Nordberg (TVFR), Chief Frentress (TVFR), Mark Buchholz (WCCCA), Jennifer Reese (WCCCA) Casey Schein (LFN), Gail Madsen, Sam Flores (GMR), Tara, Yera Castaneda (WCEMS)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review and approve April's 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 1:00 PM and welcomed everyone Adrienne stated we have quorum.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chief Downey asked the governing board members for approval of agenda, with addition of the St. Vincent update from Dr. Sahni and the RFP Consultant draft review, all members in favor, agenda approved with additions.

Review and Approve Minutes

Chief Downey asked for any suggestions or deletions to April's meeting minutes, none given. No other changes, Chief Rodney Linz made motion to accept, Chief Wineman seconded it, all in favor of keeping meeting minutes as is.

Public Comment

Chief Downey welcomed public comment. No public comment.

Strategic Direction-

- **Annual System Enhancement Discussion -**

Adrienne began with discussion for key considerations in developing a decision-making process for the annual system enhancement plan and welcomed feedback or thoughts from everyone. Dr. Sahni had input on how Clackamas County uses funding for system enhancement, he would like to see what we already have in place. Adrienne will send the bylaws out to everyone as they were very well thought out. Adrienne agreed with Dr. Daya that it is important to have transparency.

- **Dr. Sahni Discussion on PSV situation/Level 0 Contingency Planning Discussion**

Dr. Sahni opened the discussion about the email that was sent out the group about the Providence St. Vincent nurse staff situation, at least 3 of the hospitals are working on expired nursing contracts. It is not just St. Vincent it is also the other three providence hospitals Willamette Falls, Milwauke and Hood River. He does not have the answer but will share situation status and concerns as of today. Providence St. Vincent nurses have voted to go on strike. Bed availability at PSV will be cut in about half if there is a strike. Unsure of what special services will be available there. Dr. Sahni stated that the plan works until the battle starts.

Dr. Sahni said that at their Management Diversion meeting it was made clear that we would not take hospitals out of rotation that is not standard part of plan. PSV is the largest in the region and will need to shrink from 550 beds to approximately 350+/- should the strike happen. There is concern because AMR is no longer doing inner facility transports on a regular basis only as emergency. MWA with staffing issues cannot do that, but they are borrowing paramedics from other places to do inner facility transfers. Three counties are affected, other health care systems may open-up, to make more availability, closing or decreasing elective surgery suites, providence will start halting elective surgeries in the next 10 days to create staff availability.

June 10th is the potential Covid peak, expect continued issues with Level 0 in all three counties and continued use of fire transport shall this occur.

Epidemiologists have not been finding a huge wall time changing.

Dr. Daya referenced the OHSU strike in 2001 and mentioned it was not as traumatic as it was expected to be. There definitely needs to be a plan in place and hopefully it does not disrupt operations.

Chief Medical directors at OSHU and Legacy to facilitate inner transfer of patients.

Rumor is 5-day walkout and hospitals will basically request staffing from outsourced staffing companies and that staff does not all come in at the same time.

Chief Frentress asked if MWA can we borrow out of area paramedics to help with regular needs for 911 calls.

MWA said that what the intent of the out of area paramedics is as to not have to pull 911 paramedics to help with inner transport, they are familiar on operability of equipment, out of county EMT's will be paired with experienced paramedics.

Chief Wineman asked if MWA can create the same strategy for incorporating it to 911 calls, for bringing external paramedics in?

MWA said no because that requires that they pair them with one senior paramedic and they have only 1 senior paramedic so it is not possible, the maximum resource for them would be +1.

Dr. Sahni, Tim Case and Bill Conway and Aaron Monning are continuing to meet for planning. They will continue to plan but does not feel they are the solution; they are just working through the cards they have been dealt and are good at it.

Adrienne – Shared the RFP draft that county EMS has been working on for the consultant, Tim will send out a draft to members of system redesign group to bring in a contractor to evaluate the RFP that is going out ASAP so we can get someone on board.

Not everyone on the call has had a chance to look at the document so Adrienne will make sure to share with those who have not seen it. The process is broken down into smaller phases. Timeline of how quickly we are trying to finalize very quickly, feedback is very helpful to get this sent out in the next week or so. It is not a full process to go through the board. Kristin asked about there not being a section of requirements for the consultants in reference to their expertise, is there a plan for the things we can ask for specific things, Adrienne stated that the pool of contractors is smaller for this one, and they will have similar experience to us.

Dr. Daya feels that the report is not reflective of what the public partnership in EMS. Adrienne stated that we are trying to move forward on a very tight timeline so are looking to engage with Alliance for feedback.

Chief Downey recommended sending feedback to Adrienne by the end of the day next Wednesday so that we can post through RFP system or through our system following the next dates, so plan to get feedback to Adrienne by end of day on Wednesday June 1st, for potential posting of the RFP by June 6th so it goes live.

Comments from the chat:

13:41:12 From Jennifer Reese : I reviewed it and didn't have any updates or changes

13:45:05 From Patrick Wineman, Forest Grove : I am very thankful for Tim's work on this. I am hopeful we could recommend moving this forward ASAP and getting started.

13:45:53 From Daya, Mohamud : we have a current consultant already doing work, what will come of that report?

13:47:03 From Daya, Mohamud : Agree with these thoughts since consultants come with their own set of biases that we have to be aware of

13:51:07 From Patrick Wineman, Forest Grove : Thank you, Kristin. This is a key add, in my opinion, and I would like to see language adding this. Specifically experience in joint public-private systems, serving metro to rural environments.

13:52:14 From Kenny Frentress : I couldn't agree more.

13:53:00 From Daya, Mohamud : thanks for the clarification, that makes sense

13:59:24 From Kristin Chaffee : Experience with EMS system financing would b good too...

Kristin on Page 1- bullet 4 asked about the recommendations for the consultant would consider or are they considered system requirements that the Alliance has already done a lot of work on.

Adrienne said that it will be a balance to have someone come in and look at these ideas and evaluate the level of support that this system is trying to accomplish due to certain costs so there will be some back and forth.

Adrienne will make sure everyone has copy of it and so if it needs additional review before posting it can be done. Adrienne requested that the comments be sent directly to Tim.

EMS Alliance Workgroup Updates-

Data Workgroup – had a very productive meeting this week, key points of that meeting are below:

- Present at data workgroup meeting: Jack Nuttall, Chief David Downey, Chief Ben Sorensen, Dr. Mohammed Daya, Shane Ryan
- Develop a regional plan for an EMS data driven system of care, with the County acting as visionary and leader on this. Centered on our system here in Washington County, but also embracing regional partnerships.
- This should include other leaders in EMS data and research, for example Dr Lupton at OHSU and his Epistry cardiac arrest team, integrate community data and clinical data into a more informed view of EMS care and health outcomes together.
- The data should also be actionable, and applicable to enhancing the quality of care. Not just stats for the sake of tracking them. Data for data's sake can be a PHI risk.
- Fire agencies are ready and willing to share data, they are looking for a partnership where (to the last point) actionable results are returned to them to inform QI and training. Not just a data black hole, as happens with some state and national data repositories.
- DUAs must be thought through to protect data and transfer responsibility and stewardship to the County.
- Agreed upon KPIs will form part of the wholistic approach, and these KPIs may inform compliance metrics at some point. Clackamas has rolled out KPIs, we can base our approach off theirs'.
- Early projects for this regional approach should include a trauma map, sharing of OD maps based on Narcan deployment, airway, and cardiac monitor analysis for smaller agencies by the County.
- The Data WG will present Narcan response data to the Alliance in June (if there's time on the agenda) as an example of actionable EMS data gathering.
- FirstWatch will form part of this new data-centric vision of care.
- Agencies and the County should include participation in EMS research as an essential part of a modern EMS system.

No further comments on the data workgroup

Redesign workgroup charter –

- Chief Wineman will send a doodle on Tuesday for our next meeting with goal of continuing redesign needs and concepts in anticipation of consultant RFP
- Chief Downey will revisit any further workgroup changes to approve 2 weeks ahead of the next meeting agenda.

Dispatch workgroup charter –

- Go Live Plan is running the final fixes now so that WCCCA can start sending calls to the closest MWA unit on the morning of 05/31/2022, it is a pilot program and will run for a month to see how it works, centralized dispatch currently running it so if issues arise it is very easy to revert back

Chief Downey will revisit any further workgroup changes ahead of the next meeting agenda, Adrienne asked to have any updates sent to her so that she can officially add them to the agenda

EMS Staff update

City of Hillsboro had no updates other than they passed city levy.

Chief Frentress – they have a graduating class of 25 people next week ARMUP & surge system still down 12 people, August academy also which is unusual trying to get ahead to solve staffing issues

Chief Linz – Recruit academy class of 5 to help with summer fire season.

Chief Wineman – Passed city levy and hiring additional personnel starting July.

Washington county – Staffing is stable and just working on RFP’s are our top priority

Medical direction – Dr. Daya commented regarding contingency planning for the potential strike and for long term to also look at BLS-ALS public private partnership system when the RFP goes out. Adrienne said that she is already looking into what are the requirements should this become part of the new system redesign.

Dr. Sahni mentioned that both him and Tim Case have already started laying the groundwork to authorize BLS in the current system in an ARMUP kind of way.

WCCCA – they have 3 folks in their graduating class of today.

MWA – they continue to have staffing issues; they had an unexpected number of leaves in the month of May that are winding down and have graduated some senior paramedics there will be significant improvements moving into the month of June

Nothing specific to be included in the June agenda Adrienne will not be present for the June meeting

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Good of the Order

Life flight opened a 24/7 permanent base effective July first in hopes to free up the Aurora base.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Next meeting: June 23 at 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., via Zoom

Minutes compiled by Yera Castaneda