

# Washington County EMS Alliance



**Washington County EMS Alliance  
Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Jan. 5, 2023 (Off-Schedule)**

**Attendance:**

Member/Delegate			Back-Up Delegate	
Present	Name	Jurisdiction	Present	Name
X	David Downey (Chair)	City of Hillsboro		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
X	Deric Weiss	Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue	X	Steve Boughey
Affiliate Member Representative			Backup Representative	
X	Shawn Baird	Metro West Ambulance		David Weeks
X	Mark Buchholz	WCCCA	X	Jennifer Reese

Other Interested Parties/Staff:

Tim Case (WCEMS), Adrienne Donner (WCEMS) Gaby Rodriguez (WCEMS), Kristin Chaffee (TVFR), Casey Schein (LFN), Gail M. Madsen (Consumer Advocate) Ron Morgan (TVFR Union), Sam Flores (AMR), Megan Wever (WC resident) Josh Nordberg (TVFR), Ben Sorenson (TVFR), Kathy Fink (WCCCA), Kenny Frentress (TVFR) Shane Ryan (MWA), Dr. Mohamud Daya (TVFR MD), Aaron Monnig (Multnomah County), Jacob Grant (MWA), Gene Frye (MWA), Jennifer Fetterley (AMR), Jennifer Reese (WCCCA), Jim Geering (FGFR) Larry Boxman (MWA) Mark Buchholz (WCCCA) Dr. Ritu Sahni (WCEMS) Shane Ryan (MWA) Shawn Wood (MWA) Shawn Baird (MWA) Ben Sorenson (TVFR) Kim Foster (WCCCA) Austin DePaolo (Teamsters)

**Summary of Actions and Decisions**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review and approve September meeting minutes
3. Strategic Direction

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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.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Chief Downey asked the governing board members for approval of agenda, no objections from the board members, the agenda was approved as is.

### **Review and Approve Minutes**

Chief Downey asked the board members if everyone had a chance to review the November meeting minutes. Chief Linz made a motion to approve as is, Chief Weiss seconded; the minutes were approved with no changes.

### **Public Comment**

Chief Downey welcomed public comment. No public comment.

### **Strategic Direction**

- ALS/BLS high level update:
  - Tim invited MWA to comment on this update as well.
  - Addition of BLS units has created a lot of chatter on dispatch channel
  - Shane will reach out to WCCCA to diminish the added chatter
  - Meeting with medical directors regarding protocol expansion, missing patients that would be eligible but fall out because of the way the protocols were developed.
  - MWA will be doing a deeper dive into calls/clinical data and how to better define for the crews to eliminate some of the confusions
  - BLS units operating are at 4 in the daytime and added an additional unit for evening on the weekends Friday thru Sunday.
- Strategic Plan Update:
  - Adrienne sent out the matrix with a link to it which is also posted on the EMS website which has the full matrix and the whole strategic plan is also up to date on our website. There is a plan for year 3 in the update
  - Centralized dispatch as we move with the RFP this is a big part of it to really centralize it.
  - Resource management - we have added a lot of the work that we are doing with the ALS/BLS tiering and the goals need to be assessed.
  - Data - We are in the process of procuring FW/FP to help with how the data is viewed, the new franchise agreement will include clinical and operational measures.
  - Jack Nuttall with the EMS program is doing work with epidemiologists using Cardiac Arrest data to identify hot spots/ gaps in AED's within the county.
  - System enhancements- Suggested creating a new work group to create a decision-making process for annual system enhancement in the next year.
  - Financial Stewardship – Create a new work group to create and implement new system enhancement fund.

- Medical Direction – Create a new workgroup to create a countywide EMS training program.
- Adrienne suggested tackling any of the last 2 groups more in depth next month.
- Tim has started the conversations of what the dispatch will look like for transition once the new franchise becomes effective so far conversations are happening with WCCCA, and he believes there will be room for the dispatch workgroup to participate Chief Weiss would like to be able to participate.

### **Inappropriate Use of 911 Resources:**

- Dr. Daya stated the issue that has been that patients have been transported from hospitals to clinics for evaluation (for example a patient was transported from the hospital to an eye clinic for evaluation. And this is an issue because the clinics don't have the means to transport interfacility transfers back to their facility and they end up calling 911.
- The process at WCCCA is to take the calls as usual.
- It comes down to making sure that the line personnel follow the rules of transport.
- How do we handle this as a system? Do we alter the WCCCA process or just work with the responding units?
- There has only been 2 calls and no others since then.
- Discussion –
  - WCCCA has not heard of any others since the last fire defense board meeting.
  - These scenarios happen sporadically
  - Dr. Daya wants to ask how you would process these calls moving forward. Everyone has a different process on how to handle them.
  - Dr. Sahni mentioned experiences he has had with clients in the emergency room calling 911.
  - Dr. Daya stated that the question is should we use fire resources to take care of some of those calls where facilities would need to lend a hand to special cases where additional support is needed.
  - Ron Morgan asked about the protocol regarding patients who have been seen within the last hour and it would be a code 1 call without fire response, primarily used for care homes but also applied to urgent care clinics.
  - Dr. Daya referenced the card that MWA uses.
  - Chief Boughey also mentioned that Dr. Daya brought to his attention that MWA when they use that card, they use the same one that WCCCA uses and asks the same questions as when there is no provider present.
  - Dr. Sahni stated there is a lot going on in the EMS program including an RFP that will impact how WCCCA operates with certain things and suggested making this issue a part of the restructured process with the RFP. Dr. Daya agrees and does not believe any more discussion is needed.
  - Chief Downey stated because of the frequency of these calls it is best to have it become part of the discussion with the workgroup that will work with WCCCA dispatch. Chief Weiss, Chief Linz and Chief Downey believe there is consensus with these topics (How does WCCCA respond to

these calls from ED in the future? Education of providers and the calls that come in from Urgent Care clinics)

- Dr. Daya also agrees to put all 3 parts of this discussion under the work group Tim is putting together.

### **EMS Alliance Workgroup Updates:**

- **Dispatch data workgroup**
  - This group has no updates.
- **Data Workgroup**
  - Jack Nuttall is going to schedule a meeting later this month to continue working on cardiac arrest and usage data sharing as well as mapping associated with cardiac arrest as Tim and Adrienne work to transition to FW/FP.
  - There was no meeting in December.
- **Redesign workgroup charter**
  - This group has no new updates
- **Level 0 project workgroup**
  - This group has no new updates

### **EMS Staff update:**

- ASA plan is still with OHA expect to hear from them soon with any minor things they may have for us, Tim clarified that there are no deficits or issues being found and the delay is mostly related to bandwidth.
- Continued work for FW/FP, there is no set timeline as of right now it is just stuck in processes, the easy process with IT is tedious but should be in the last steps, once this is complete and approved it will move into the contracting process.
- The goal is to have FW/FP contract in place and paid for by the end of the fiscal year on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Mark from WCCCA would like to know when data collection conversations will be happening. Adrienne stated that as soon as the software is approved by IT conversations on data collection can commence.
- Dr. Sahni opened discussion the ambulance diversion in the hospital ED which has been a big issue in our system.
- For purposes of this public meeting hospital emergency department diversion is when the hospital tells EMS when they do not want to receive an ambulance for whatever reason they have for about 30 min or however long they request (It is a request from the hospitals to the EMS system to not bring patients to them, it is not an order or formal requirement) mostly due to short staffing and hospital overcrowding.
- This is embedded in our system and the hospital has the option to turn their ED red and hospitals often misunderstand the concept.
- EMTALA – Emergency Medical Treatment Active Labor Act trumps anything and the law requires every hospital to evaluate everyone who comes into the ED, regardless of their states.
- To solve the issue of resources and keeping ambulances from driving longer periods, Dr. Sahni and Dr. Jiu as medical directors made the decision to put hospitals on no Ambulance Diversion for a period of 2 weeks which ended yesterday, and it went well. Hospitals were given a 2-hour diversion time slot,

after this period was over, they were required to stay on no diversion for a period of 2 hours. Dr. Sahni wanted to bring this to the group to keep everyone informed of how this is working out for them.

- Hoping to see less diversion with this system, but maybe a little more traffic from other region patients being brought to our hospitals.
- Dr. Daya suspects that the Metro Region is in line with this but feels the others are not. Can WC public health try to get a hold of EMS offices in Marion/ Yamhill County to go over this, so they are aware of the need of having a plan for these situations and the solution is to not send their patients further away.
- WC EMS has been in touch with the EMS programs in a couple of jurisdictions and some of them have public health directors as head of these programs. The tri-county region is very close on how they operate but outside of that area it is very different.
- All protocol books are in, Tim will be distributing them to the agencies and other agencies have already picked them up.
- The protocols app will be going live on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **TVFR**
  - Changed staffing model on a couple of their cars, on Jan 3rd they stood up a 10-hour medic unit that is primarily dedicated to responding to the still ongoing ARMUP volume 7-5 Tuesday thru Friday. Primary response is to respond to ARMUP calls and secondary is to take some first response. Medic666.
  
- **Forest Grove Fire**
  - No New Updates
  
- **Banks Fire**
  - No New Updates
  
- **Hillsboro Fire**
  - The rescue 1 will go into service tomorrow at 8 am full time. You will not hear rescue 5 anymore on the air.
  
- **Medical Directors**
  - No New updates
  
- **WCCCA**
  - About to commence moving officially on Monday, over the course of the next 75 days until March 15 which is the target to turn over the facility to the county.
  - Dispatch operations which will impact this group more will start happening on the week of Feb 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - CAD upgrade right on top of this happening on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 am Pacific time so there will be some down time during this period.
  
- **MWA**
  - Larry Boxman has re-joined Metro West as the vice-president of people development.

## Public Comment

Chief Downey opened the meeting up to public comment. There is no public comment.

**Good of the Order**

- The Oregon Fire Chief's Association Round Table is happening the afternoon of January 26<sup>th</sup>. Chief Downey and Chief Weiss will be attending and conflicts with the Alliance January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting so cancelling this meeting will work out best.
- Life Flight Setting up training summer and spring schedule so please look at your calendars for those trainings

**Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm**

**Next meeting: Thurs Feb 23rd at 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., via Zoom**

Minutes compiled by Yera Castaneda