

Washington County EMS Alliance



**Washington County EMS Alliance
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023**

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	X	Andrew Cooper
	Deric Weiss	Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue	X	Steve Boughey
Affiliate Member Representative			Backup Representative	
X	Randy Lauer	American Medical Response	X	Jennifer Romero
X	Larry Boxman	Metro West Ambulance		Shawn Baird
X	Mark Buchholz	WCCCA	X	Jennifer Reese

Other Interested Parties/Staff:

Tim Case (WCEMS), Adrienne Donner (WCEMS) Gaby Rodriguez (WCEMS), Yera Castaneda (WCEMS) Alyssa Mooney (WCEMS), Jesse Bohrer-Clancy (WC EMS MD) Dr. Ritu Sahni (WC EMS MD) Dr. Mohamud Daya (TVFR MD) Kristin Chaffee (TVFR), Casey Schein (LFN), Ben Sorenson (TVFR), Kathy Fink (WCCCA), Jennifer Fetterley (AMR), Jim Geering (FGFR), Rob McDonald (AMR) Kim Foster (WCCCA) Megan Wever (WC Resident)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review and approve August meeting minutes.
3. Current Issues
4. Strategic Direction

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5. Workgroup Updates
6. EMS Updates
7. 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 the agenda Chief Boughey made motion to approve, Marni 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 August meeting minutes. Chief Wineman moved to approve, Chief Boughey seconded; the minutes were approved with no changes.

Public Comment

Chief Downey welcomed public comment. No public comment.

Strategic Planning:

- **Strategic Plan-**
 - **Review bylaws to identify potential areas for updates.**
 - Chief Downey recommended the group re-visit the subject of what the Alliance role is, where we are and where we are going as part of the system.
 - As system is evolving would like to get the Alliance members and their delegates. Adrienne Donner shared an organizational chart; this original document was created when the Alliance was formed but it was not widely shared because it got very complex.
 - Contract Management sits in the EMS program bubble of work.
 - Alliance role in ambulance service agreement is not a lot because the compliance piece is in there, but the program will be there for when it needs to partner for problem solving and system improvement.
 - Marni Kuyl added that after reading the bylaws we are moving towards a place where we are now able monitor and report system wide performance, coordinate system activities QI.
 - Chief Downey stated that because there are gray areas in the visualization, we have a good opportunity to meet as a group in a healthy setting. Recommends holding a retreat for board members to discuss and update the items in the next 90 days to look at the structure of this and having a healthy setting would be great to continue to strengthen the oversight committee to the system and hold ourselves accountable.
 - All members present agree that this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later so the system does not appear broken.
 - Adrienne also brought up a concern about having medical direction to become voting members and also to solve the issues with Gaston Fire because their access to time to attend the group

meetings and their call volume is low want to keep this in the radar for continued conversations also.

- Chief Downey will work with Adrienne and Yera to schedule a retreat so that it is an informal and formal setting for dialogue before the 6-month grace period and it aligns with the 6-month transition.
- Dr. Sahni would like to add to the conversations the clinical data sharing which has been identified as a gap.
- Chief Boughey asked for clarification on working on the transition for the centralized dispatch to its next version of a new name and. Updating of that charter and putting the focus for resource integration as part of the strategic plan.
- Chief Boughey will work with Kristen on that and will make it happen.

EMS Alliance Workgroup Updates:

- **Dispatch data workgroup**
 - No new updates
- **Data Workgroup**
 - This group met 3 weeks ago, after a break of several months to allow AMR to settle in and FW to begin setup.
 - Main areas of discussion were the new data landscape and our broad vision for it and how this data group compliments the clinical QI group, and how it doesn't duplicate it.
 - Talked about how FW and the hiring of Alyssa Mooney (our new epi) allows for us to envisage a new goal for EMS data, with it not only serving to guide clinical QI, but serving the wider community and public health more broadly.
 - For example, under Alyssa's direction we've been refining the overdose query in particular, allowing us to capture more and more ODs missing under previous query, illuminating the scale of the fentanyl problem in our county and region. Working with the tri-counties to do the same.
 - Applying the same to cardiac arrest and working out from there to other clinical issues and areas, and the eventual merger of broader social public health data with clinical data to give us a comprehensive picture of our community's health and how we can improve that.
 - A crude analogy would be the visuals in the matrix, seeing how the data reveals the reality of our community life, and the problems occurring.
 - Big vision! In the meantime, as Dr. Sahni and Adrienne mentioned we are going to prioritize data use agreements which are in rudimentary form, when they exist at all.
 - Push forward with trying to help facilitate the health data exchange (Dr. Sahni), that allows hospital charts to speak to EMS charts and vice versa.
 - Revise the charter of working group to capture of vision and goals.
 - And offering AMR assistance to realize the data led contract (quality improvement and clinical performance metrics etc.) over the next 8 months or so.
 - FW is partially up and running for the County (CAD, PCRs etc.) but we need some fire data still. And we need the individual agency partitions put in so

agencies can start using it too. Specific clinical triggers (FW queries) are being designed right now and should be in place shortly. Coming along there.

- New electronic protocol software platform. Paramedic Protocol provider mostly just a searchable PDF, what's next? Drug dose calculator etc.
- **Transition workgroup charter**
 - No new updates from this workgroup the majority of this groups work concluded. The only work left is the BLS dispatching tier transition on Nov 1.
 - WCCCA is working with the training of their staff to prepare for this.
- **Level 0 Workgroup**
 - Met a couple times and are still collecting data and reviewing for accuracy. Now that dispatching flows directly through WCCCA data is more accurate when it comes to accounting of for level 0 instances is a lot more accurate whether its ALS or BLS.
 - Alyssa Mooney has connected with John Reiner from WCCCA so she can start replicating some of the data queries that he has been doing. Another meeting scheduled in another 4 weeks from now.
 - We did not have enough data to make actionable decisions yet.
 - Chief Boughey wants to bring to the attention of the group that TVFR had 46 transports 2 weeks ago which is an uptick in transports, and it is a great impact on their agency is becoming problematic with the labor group. He shared this information with Jen at AMR, and she will be working on reviewing this information but would like other folks to help her with the level 0's they are experiencing as well.
 - Forest Grove Fire has also shared their level 0 information with AMR so they can review the data as it pertains to the impact on the fire agency.

EMS Staff update:

- FirstWatch update there is data coming into EMS program and working on getting it all moved in to FirstWatch streaming as soon as those pipelines are taking care of there will be trainings specific for fire agencies.
- There is a meeting happening next week with tri-county board of county commissioner chairs from the tri-county area there will be one EMS representative from each county and representatives from AMR since AMR covers all the tri-county area so that we can all be on the same page and make the healthcare system function smoothly.
- County wide training schedule for Multi-Agency Training on December 5, 6, 7 and 12,13,14 we have lots of participation from all the agencies. Cardiac Arrest is focus there will be an airway management station, and a skills rodeo.
- This year this training has been extended to include our Law Enforcement partners since a lot of times they are first on scene Tim Case connected with HPD, WC Sheriff department.
- Location will be at the Blanton facility across from the AMR facilities.

Agency Updates:

- **TVFR**
 - No new updates
- **Forest Grove Fire**

- No new updates
- **Banks Fire**
 - No new updates
- **Gaston Fire**
 - No New updates
- **Hillsboro Fire**
 - No new updates
- **Medical Directors**
 - No new updates
- **WCCCA**
 - ALS/BLS transition at the end of October is it still on schedule there is a meeting on Monday with Dr. Daya, Kathy and possibly Dr. Sahni to address on a concern for card 33 the card regarding the urgent care on Cedar Hills this card was primarily used by them and now that WCCCA is handling everything that card needs to be restructured to fix the urgent care/immediate care.
 - Will have an update on Monday to get an update in prep for 30 days out ALS/BLS target date.
 - Chief Boughey wanted to get clarification if AMR will send ALS and BLS ambulances to the response call.
 - Tim Case clarified that people based on call notes people started requesting ALS response. After Nov 1 the response will be Fire First plus the appropriate ambulance.
 - Dr. Sahni stated that when they created the protocols for ALS and BLS in terms of medical selection process, with the understanding that the county wide configuration would not change.
 - Dr. Daya will send Chief Boughey a copy of the cards when they are finalized and there will be direct BLS dispatch from WCCCA, not dual dispatch.
 - There will be an ALS with ambulance code 1 and code 3, and fire first with BLS ambulance.
 - The tricky ones are the ambulance only calls which is where this card 33 is a problem and this will require some data in order to refine it so we are being conservative in the beginning to ensure we don't compromise patient safety in any way.
- **MWA**
 - Staffing continues to improve moving patients from hospitals.
 - When level 0 is active we have ambulances waiting at hospitals that would be available to help with this issue.
 - Randy from AMR and Larry will meet offline to discuss this.
- **AMR**

- Randy and Jen have been working on meeting with the fire agencies to discuss the 3 components for an agreement 1) paramedic intercept 2) backup and 3) supply reimbursement making progress.
- Continued work with staffing and are in good trajectory.
- One thing that was noted was that they built their deployment plan based on the data provided in the RFP process which was not good data and are looking at about 8 weeks of data which is not enough data but as more data is available a new plan will be set in motion.

Public Comment

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

Good of the Order

- Agenda items for next meeting please send them to Adrienne, Chief Downey or Chief Wineman and Yera
- Chief Wineman stated that in the meetings with AMR and fire departments lately the topic of equipment supply has raised its head in a good way, and we re-identified that the \$9 and change amount is proving to be a difficult number to manage and not representative of actual expenses.
- In conversation with AMR, they were gracious enough to find alternatives for us which are being adopted on the west end. Going back to the idea of going to an online portal place an order and drop ship to the department that will ensure equipment is used.
- Banks, Cornelius, and Forest Grove are already engaged with this.
- Chief Downey, Adrienne and Yera will work together after this meeting to discuss calendar crunching for the retreat.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Next meeting: Thurs Oct 26th at 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., via Zoom

Minutes compiled by Yera Castaneda