

Washington County EMS Alliance



**Washington County EMS Alliance
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2024**

Attendance:

Member/Delegate			Back-Up Delegate	
Present	Name	Jurisdiction	Present	Name
X	David Downey (Chair)	City of Hillsboro	X	Greg Espinosa
X	Jim Geering	City of Forest Grove and City of Cornelius	X	Patrick Wineman (Vice Chair)
	Marni Kuyl	Washington County	X	Mjere Simantel
X	Rodney Linz	Banks Fire District	X	Andrew Cooper
X	Deric Weiss	Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue	X	Steve Boughey
Affiliate Member Representative			Backup Representative	
	Randy Lauer	American Medical Response		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), Jack Nuttall (WCEMS), Ritu Sahni (MD WC EMS Jesse Bohrer-Clancy (WC EMS MD) Kristin Chaffee (TVFR), Josh Nordberg (TVFR) Casey Schein (LFN), Ben Sorenson (TVFR), Kathy Fink (WCCCA), Jennifer Fetterley (AMR), Megan Wever (WC Resident) Cameron Helikson (Tosoh Quartz) Tia Ho (Ride Connection) Zach Hall (AMR), Branden Shepitka (KWMC), Mohamud Daya (MD), Jennifer Reese (WCCCA), Kim Foster (), Larry Boxman (VP MWA), Marie Boman-Davis (WCPH), Mark Bucholz (WCCCA), Monique Roberts (WCCCA), Bill Steward (Clackamas County EMS), Josh Rose (Nurse Navigation) Dr.



Jared Troutman (Nurse Navigation), Sean Burton (Nurse Navigation), Deidre Toczyski, Jason Jensen (AMR)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review and approve December meeting minutes.
3. Current Issues
4. Strategic Direction
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 board members to approve the agenda as is, there were no objections.

Review and Approve Minutes

Chief Downey asked the board members if everyone had a chance to review the December meeting minutes. Chief Linz made a motion to approve; Chief Weiss seconded; the minutes and agenda were approved as is.

Public Comment

Chief Downey welcomed public comment. No public comment.

Strategic Planning

- **Chair and Vice Chair positions – Action Item**
 - Chair nominations – Chief Geering nominated Chief David Downey to continue as EMS Alliance chair. All board members unanimously voted Chief Downey as EMS Alliance chair for one year term.
 - Vice Chair nominations – Chief Rodney Linz nominated Chief Jim Geering as EMS Alliance Vice Chair and Chief Deric Weiss seconded the nomination. All members present unanimously voted chief Geering as vice chair for one year term.
- **AMR WCCCA fee conversation update- Action Item**
 - Mark Buchholz from WCCCA has an update on the allocated fees for AMR for the current fiscal year \$500,000 are in the current fiscal year budget.
 - A discussion originally the 1st presentation of that budget that went to the stakeholders meeting was prior to the Budget Committee meeting and had allocated the same 500,000 from AMR to be in the fire EMS pool which, directly offsets the costs that all the fire agencies were paying.
 - Between those meetings, we had a meeting with fire chiefs, which I attended and as did Adrienne from Washington County EMS and talked about an idea of looking at a program and using some of those funds that AMR is now contributing to the system as being a component dispatched by WCCCA and trying to advance or improve the overall system rather than solely helping to share in the costs of dispatch fees.

- In the budget that was actually proposed to the Budget Committee and the budget that will go to the board at this moment is taking \$150,000 of that \$500,000 and directing it towards a special program like nurse navigator. It drew a lot of interest and some anticipation, while it does not change the workload at the dispatch center the hope would be a program like this would improve the overall system by reducing the number of calls that it actually gets dispatched and require a fire and or ambulance response to it.
 - The one thing and just want to make sure everybody knows what we're hedging right now from a conservative standpoint and that is that. I don't have a signed agreement with AMR about the revenue. The revenue should be \$700,000 for this coming fiscal year, but without that agreement in place, the prudent thing and AMR knows we've had some discussions and they had indicated they're certainly paying the 500,000 for this year and so on the safe side I simply budgeted 500,000, again, 150,000 towards a special project such as Nurse Navigation and \$350,000 into the dispatch which help offset fire EMS, we might be able to revisit this once the contract is signed.
 - The contract is in AMR's ballpark park right now, but it they just got it yesterday and I know Randy is short with Jen out.
 - Chief Downey stated that he appreciates all the work and it was important that WCCCA could provide a snapshot of their budget proposal to the budget committee meeting.
 - Chief Downey also stated that it is important for the Alliance to show support for this project as this is part of the Alliance Strategic Plan and some of the progressive movement.
 - Chief Downey asked the governing board members at this time if anyone would entertain making a motion to support moving forward both with this partnership and with the potential for nurse navigation.
 - Chief Geering made motion to support the fee structure with potential partnership with WCCCA for Nurse Navigation, Chief Linz seconded all present voting members in favor. The motion carries unanimously.
- **Review 2nd half of plan (pages 5-7)**
 - The areas previously reviewed at the retreat in October were Centralized Dispatch, Resource Management Integration shifting this piece ahead a year and Data and Performance Metrics.
 - System Enhancements, Financial Stewardship and Medical Direction are the areas that remain for review.

System Enhancement Fund

- System Enhancement fund \$109,000 left in there would be wiped out if we move forward with Nurse Navigation. There is question as to whether we need to have a system enhancement fund or not have one.
- Adrienne wants to check with this group to see what their thoughts are around this enhancement fund.
- Hillsboro Fire is in full support of finding a way to sustain and maintain a System Enhancement, funded by ways to continue moving the system in the direction we want to go adding emission.
- Identify ways to contribute to System Enhancement Fund
 - From fees or fines
 - Constant stream – budget thru county

- All board members in favor of maintaining a system enhancement fund.
- Chief Weiss would like a little more information as this requires a little more work and may need to create a subgroup to work on this with key people.

Financial Stewardship

- Kristen Chaffee is looking back at some of the work that was put into the discussions and will pull together some of the bullet points that came along with this concept of financial stability, unsure where financial stewardship came from, but will grab a few of those bullets and I can forward to Adrienne and chief Downey.

Medical Direction Piece

- The medical directors have 2 monthly meetings:
 - a. QI Quality Improvement meeting
 - b. CSP - Clinical Strategic Planning Meeting
- At last week's meeting a good discussion with the training officers for agency training needs and the balance of other training needs.
- Dr. Daya, Dr. Sahni, Dr. Neth and Dr. Jiu are OHSU faculty.
 - Each Agency has their own different needs this makes it challenging to centralize medical direction but can continue to collaborate on QI and county support.
 - OHSU now has an accredited EMS Fellowship – Washington County EMS is not a big participant due to all the changes that were happening during the application.
 - Fellow will be assigned in Multnomah County with Dr. Jiu and Dr. Neth
 - Dr. Daya states medical direction is currently coordinated and collaborative, and it is working well.
 - Dr. Daya disagrees with centralized medical direction and is more in favor of continuing a coordinated and collaborative medical direction.
- We are on track with the workplan at least for the next year.

EMS Alliance Workgroup Updates:

- **Dispatch data workgroup**
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- **Data Workgroup**
 - No new updates from this group
- **Transition workgroup charter**
 - No updates
- **Governance Documents Update**
 - No new updates

EMS Staff update:

- First Watch Update – Still moving along with FirstWatch, early on there was confusion some folks thought that the county was kind of dictating each next step but now that you have access to the FirstWatch triggers and IDV, each agency

can work with them to design the triggers specific for your agency specially with IDV (Interactive Data Visualization).

- We are working on pulling together some triggers that look at various public health aspects:
 - Opiate Trigger for overdose which Jack Nuttall and Alyssa Mooney
 - Hospital and Transport status dashboard: we will share this data with our county hospital partners and it basically gives us real time look at data such as How many ambulances are in route to the facility? How many are there? What the average wall time is as well as other hospital information.
- Chief Downey shared his experience working with FirstWatch in the last 60 to 90 days and the experience has been positive.
- Washington County is very interested in Nurse Navigation as part of county EMS modernization, and it benefits us with health equity.
- County Wide training coordination for west end happening and it is going to be tailored to be delivered to each agency on the west end instead of holding it at the Forest Grove fire station this is coming in April.
- Jack Nuttall regarding the app on the phones of paramedics carry that has all the protocols for the county and it's the same as Clackamas County as well, we have had the app for several years now and it is basically just a lot of PDF's from the book to the phone but we are going to start looking at maybe some other software that includes drug calculators among other things. If any of the paramedics have expressed some frustrations about the current protocol system on their phones, please let them know we are working on it.

Agency Updates:

- **TVFR**
 - Chief Weiss would like to include regular data updates regarding performance where we stand and re-supply issues if they are still there.
 - Advanced Practice Community paramedics launched Jan1 will go on for another 6 weeks and after that they will conduct home visits.
 - They are happy to have low transport numbers sometimes as low as 1 or 2
- **Forest Grove/Cornelius 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**

- No New Updates
- **MWA**
 - The contract with AMR is going well.
 - They have had 170 requests for service and are available 70% of the time.
 - Most of the calls are between 7 pm and 7 am
 - They are working with Multnomah County on contracting with them and if this happens, they will pull their resources from Washington County so that they can have something more sustainable.
- **AMR**
 - No new updates

Presentation of Nurse Navigation

- Presentation was led by Josh Rose, Sean Burton and Dr. Jared Troutman from Nurse Navigation and started at 2:00 pm.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Next meeting: January 25th at 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m., via Zoom

Minutes compiled by Yera Castaneda