

CENTRAL REGION EMS AND TRAUMA COUNCIL
Minutes for May 10, 2023, 2:30pm-4pm



Attendees: Mark Taylor, Randi Riesenber, Brant Butte, Matt Gau, Vonnie Mayer, Traci Stockwell, Karen Kettner, Barb Jensen, Chantel Arnone, Kate Bendickson, Emily Agudo, Greg Brown, Nick Gibbons, Michael Pirri, Tom Rea, Michael Sayre, Eric Brown, Jessica Wall, Greg Brown, Kara Welchel, Catie Holstein, Patrician Lynn Anderson, Eric Brown, Elya Baltazar, Cheryl Stromberg, Travis Omura, Krystal King, Aaron Karejawa, Jason Norris, Rachel Weber, Cameron Buck, Dawn Felt, John Madson, Joey Rodrigues, Matt Beecroft

1. Call to Order - Mark Taylor, Chair
2. Review of Minutes from 3.8.23 - *Motion by Trixie, Second Barb, All in favor*
3. Financial Report – Brant Butte, Treasurer - *As of April our total sits at \$175k, reminder for grant recipients to submit invoices by June 15th*
4. Budget for FY24 - *Reviewed proposed budget, approx \$82k in operating expenses and \$69k will be available for the small grants program. Motion to approve the budget as presented by Barb, second by Karen. None opposed. Motion passed.*
5. Reports and Updates
 - a. NWHRN & WATrac - *Elya shared information about vulnerability assessments, working to create and compile a comprehensive assessment that is done uniformly. Kara updates they have conducted 4 separate Alerts training sessions with various users of WATrac in preparation for the upcoming exercises in June, (comms Ex June 8 and MRSE June 22). Held 1 patient Tracking Training with staff from VMFH & MultiCare locations in preparation for their Sound Transit Hilltop Link Exercise/Certification held April 22. Gave a Patient Tracking demo for Skagit Airport Exercise held on May 5. Will be assisting with Patient Tracking for more exercises this year: Operation Broken Wing – St Clare Hospital Exercise May 17th, Virginia Mason Medical Center Mass Casualty Drill June 14, and the SeaTac Airport Triennial Exercise Sept 14. WATrac Steering Committee Meeting will be held on Friday May 19 10:00am-11:30am. WATrac Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 24 10:00am- 11:30am. Lastly, Ashley & Kara are both available to help with any account issues, creating accounts, and with training.*

Just reach out if you need assistance. And feel free to share our contact info with others asking about WATrac.

b. DOH

EMS and Trauma Rulemaking

EMS Rulemaking – EMS rules were opened November 2017. 33 sections in WAC 246-976 were opened to consider updates to align with current national standards, make regulations clearer and concise, respond to statutory requirements, streamline initial and renewal application processes for pre-hospital agency license and EMS provider certification. EMS held 40 stakeholder meetings between December 2017 and August 2022 which included review of the 33 sections, two new sections, and seven pieces of legislation that impacted rules. The EMS team updated the CR101 in May of 2022 to reflect the scope of new work due to legislation that had passed and revised the timeline for completion. Primary delay to rulemaking was the COVID-19 pandemic in which the EMS team was activated to the agency IMT and prioritized COVID work between March 2020 and March 2022. We are working very hard to finish our CR102 package and we appreciate your grace and patience as our workload is unprecedentedly high as our healthcare system is still experiencing impacts from the pandemic. Final draft version rules will be available for you soon.

WEMISIS Rules: Stakeholder meetings for EMS data system rulemaking concluded in March. The rules are in response to the amendment made to RCW 70.168.90 which requires licensed ambulance and aid services to report to the statewide data system. We are working on the draft for public comment then we'll move to CR-102 process. WEMISIS rulemaking timeline is aligned with the EMS rulemaking process timeline.

Legislation implementation: Organ transport vehicles bill passed into law. The law requires the department to conduct rulemaking to establish standards and to issue a license for organ transport services and their vehicles in consultation with the Department of Licensing. The law also allows organ transport services to use lights, sirens, signal preemption devices and HOV lanes to transport time urgent organs. The law also prescribes staffing standards for which includes the required use of a current or retired EMS provider, firefighter, or law enforcement

officer. The department has begun implementation planning work to build this new program within the EMS section.

Trauma Triage Workgroup: Earlier this year, the American College of Surgeons released updated recommendations on [field triage of injured patients](#). Here in Washington, we have similar recommendations in the [Prehospital Trauma Destination Procedure Tool](#) which was based on these same ACS recommendations from 2012. The DOH has established an Ad Hoc workgroup to update our state tool with the new ACS recommendations. A virtual kickoff meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 1st from 3:30 – 5:30 PM to begin this work.

Health Equity Education for EMS – Dawn Felt is working with DOH equity team and EMS educators to update the EMS Multicultural Awareness Training to include content required in newly adopted [WAC 246-12-830](#) which requires all health care professions including EMS to take health equity continuing education every four years in response to Legislation that passed into law in 2021 (ESSB 5229). The goal is for the EMS curriculum to be updated by end of year.

EMS and Law Enforcement Response to Uncooperative People – DOH EMS staff are participating on a workgroup led by the Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WSASPC), the University of Washington, Criminal Justice Training Center, and representatives from POC advocacy organizations to develop a state model policy and training guideline to improve EMS and LE response to uncooperative people experiencing excited delirium. WSASPC asked DOH EMS staff to collaborate with them to proactively work to improve response models for this purpose because of some high-profile cases with poor outcomes that have occurred in other states. This work is ongoing and expected to conclude by summer 2023.

BH Co-Responder Education – Dawn Felt continues to represent EMS on a workgroup led by UW to develop best practices, recommendations, and a model training curriculum for first responders and behavioral health professionals working on co-response teams. (SSB 5644, 2022). This work is ongoing.

OIC – Balanced Billing Workgroup – Catie Holstein and Jason Norris are participating on the Balanced Billing Workgroup lead by the Office of Insurance Commissioner (OIC) in response to recent legislation that tasked the OIC with determining if ambulance services should be subject to balanced billing laws. The final draft report is due to the Legislature by October 1, 2023.

DOH EMS Controlled Substance Guidance – We are working with DOH Pharmacy Commission staff to begin updating guidance for MPDs for developing policies and procedures related to controlled substances, use of expired medications when EMS experiences medication shortages, and guidance for Hospital Pharmacy Provision of Drugs to Ambulance or Aid Services after RCW 18.64.540 passed in 2015.

Some certified EMS providers are authorized by physician standing orders (protocols) to administer controlled substances to patients in the course of their duties. Historically, EMS services have ordered, stored, and managed controlled substances under the MPD or physician delegates' DEA license. [WAC 246-976-920\(3\)\(c\)](#) states “The certified MPD must establish policies for storing, dispensing, and administering controlled substances. Policies must be in accordance with state and federal regulations and guidelines.” In the past, our EMS section worked with the Pharmacy team to develop guidance to help MPD's with this task. We have old guidance that needs updating and there are new controlled substance requirements for EMS under the [Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017](#) . Our MPDs and EMS Chiefs are asking us for updated guidance because they are running into some issues with regional DEA offices that impacts their ability to manage controlled substances for their ambulances.

Rural EMS Flex Supplemental Grant 2022-2025 – EMS staff working on implementation of the grant which includes a role for clinical faculty & MPD's. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement strategies to establish quality assurance and improvement plans, improving data submission, data quality, and analysis of EMS key performance indicators to assess baseline performance and identify areas for quality improvement. The participants will implement quality assurance and improvement activities, using the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Model for Improvement and Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles on time-sensitive emergencies. Rural EMS services will test, adopt, and continually improve clinical practices to achieve improvements in clinical outcomes for time sensitive emergencies.

- c. WMCC - Mark reports the WMCC is still active and going strong as a service for the state. Particularly for Critical Access Hospitals looking for resources & placements. Averaging 10 calls per day. None of which have been COVID since May 1. Questions and further discussion around ongoing funding and implementation -

anything around bed and boarding availability. Discussed an efficient system being used in Oregon.

- d. *KC EMS - Dr. Rea shared that two additional Associate Medical Directors are working with KC EMS: Jessica Wall and David Murphy. Shared some of the dashboards being built, one being a collaboration on the topic of gun violence: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/firearms/EMS.aspx>*
Also discussed a SAMHSA grant to trial the leaving of naloxone with family
6. *Strategic Plan - Review final version & approve - Randi shared the timeline and work that went into the Strategic Plan. The group discussed updating Training Programs to remove Green River Community College whose license expired recently and had not conducted a class since 2019. With that one change a motion was made by Matt to approve, second by Barb, no objections. Motion passed.*
7. *EMS applications process, new & renewal - Reviewed with the larger group how the Board and Council processes these. If no change in service and only a renewal the Board discusses and approves, the Board meets monthly also in an open public meeting all are welcome to attend. For new and amended applications these are brought to full council for review and vote. Will call a special meeting as needed due to the required turnaround time.*
 - a. *Review EMS Application: Olympic Ambulance - Joey Rodrigues presented the application on behalf of Olympic Ambulance. They are currently engaged with Kaiser and VMFH for BLS interfacility transports. They now have secured a physical location within the region, beginning with a large wheelchair van fleet. They have experience staffing a lot of ED breezeway programs, they use a cohort of nurses for ALS and CCT, main dispatch is out of Bremerton with secondary backup in Lacey. For charting they use the ESO suite. Medical Direction done by Dr. Beecroft. Clarifying questions about interfacility vs. community response. Answered that they would be option to options to fit the needs of the community and the system.*
Motion to approve this new application by Dr. Rea, Second by Barb, one abstain, all in favor.

8. High Patient Census

- a. Wall Times monthly reports - *We continue the measurement and surveillance of wall times. Continue information gathering, report & information distribution on how to automate a real time display, dashboard, of wall times. Kara reports that through ImageTrend this is not an easy option. There are over 125 different CAD vendors in WA state. Question about the next meeting of the subgroup, will plan a meeting to take place soon.*
9. Psych Patient Task Force - *Deferred to September, per the Chair.*
10. Small grant opportunities for FY24 - *Look for email late summer around opportunities. To be reviewed at the September Council meeting.*
11. Good of the Order
12. Adjourn 3:53

Next meeting scheduled for **September 13, 2023** at 2:30 pm