



Mike Hilley, EMS Manager
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Emergency Medical Services
Executive Oversight Board
June 12, 2019
Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Executive Louws, *Chair*

Barry Buchanan, *Whatcom County Council*

Scott Korthuis, *Small Cities Mayor*

~~Rick Kowsky, *Citizen at Large (Cascade Ambulance)*~~

~~David Lynch, MD, *Medical Community Representative*~~

~~Kelli Linville, *Bellingham Mayor*~~

Terry Bornemann, *Bellingham City Council*

RobRoy Graham, *Fire Commissioners*

Hall Walker, *Citizen Budget/Finance*

~~=not present~~

Also Present:

Mike Hilley, *WC EMS Manager*

Jeremy Morton, *WC EMS*

Asst. Chief Comfort, *COB/BFD*

Chief McLane, *WCFD 11*

Tawni Helms, *Whatcom County Administration*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Louws welcomed everyone and roundtable introductions took place. The meeting agenda was reviewed. No changes to the agenda were requested.

MINUTES APPROVED:

After Board review of the March 13, 2019 meeting minutes, Chairman Louws asked if there were any modifications, hearing none, the minutes were accepted into the record as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT – PROPOSED 2019-2020 BUDGET

M. Hilley gave a brief overview of the EMS Fund stating that there are no major expenditures and the budget is stable. During the EMS Levy Plan development it was projected that there would be an \$8.5M fund balance at the end of the levy in 2022. Due to revenue increases resulting from the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Medicare reimbursement, it appears the Fund Balance will be closer to \$11M by the end of the Levy. The ALS agencies are maintaining efficiencies as there have been no overages submitted. Mr. Walker asked if there were any budget assumptions the Board should be aware of. M. Hilley responded that all major adjustments related to expenditures and revenues will always come forward to the EOB for review and recommendation to the County Council.

The Community Paramedic program expansion is being funded through Accountable Communities in Health (ACH) performance “grant”. M. Hilley voiced his confidence that the funding would continue through the levy period.

TAB REPORT

GRACE is managed by SeaMar and is now up and running. Monies from ACH have allowed for a 3rd paramedic in the Community Paramedic program. Interlocal Agreements are being developed to cover the equipment purchase. There is great interest from the paramedics and it is expected that new paramedics will be on line in August. EMTs are volunteering as well. This program will serve many of the frequent users of the system that impact EMS, Law Enforcement and the Emergency Rooms.

M. Hilley reported that he has begun developing metrics for following/tracking the impact of the program which is designed to reduce the impact on the system.

PARAMEDIC TRAINING

The first paramedic training (post EMS Levy) will graduate in August. The Districts and BTC have established a great partnership and it should be noted that BTC is the only school in the state where the paramedics will graduate with an Associate's degree in paramedicine. There will be a graduation party in November to celebrate the success of this first class. The next class will begin January 2020. There are expected to be 4 Bellingham paramedics, 2 Fire District 7 paramedics and others referred from outside agencies. The paramedic training program is a 9-month class

Can students come from any district? The general concept is that anyone can test into the program. Discussion ensued regarding who the paramedic work for and how the employer/employee relationships would work. There is no particular bias as options that will work for the system are being explored.

TAB Subcommittees

- ***Medical Program Director/Doctor Group***

This group will help to ensure that all of the MPD & Supervisor Docs are on the same page. They have good interaction and much of the discussion is being facilitated by the MPD which can then be reported to the TAB for ongoing dialogue.

- ***EMS Levy Planning Group***

This is a critical group that will represent all agencies and help to predict budget stresses, work on reserves, review budget and capital equipment. Additionally, it will be important to develop a policy regarding the appropriate amount of reserves (1-year). Group members have been identified.

Chairman Louws emphasized the importance of not letting the levy planning committee get too far ahead of the EOB. Key decisions need to be made by the EOB. The EOB should be responding to data and information provided to the Board in order to make data driven decisions. M. Hilley assured the Board that the all decisions will be processed through the EOB. Some of that data analysis will be used to predict timing and placement of the 5th Medic Unit.

OTHER

Commissioner Graham spoke of the strain BLS has put on the EMS system and asked if there was a way to support the high BLS call volume. His District is having difficulty procuring recruits and the service demand is high. Chairman Louws said that everything is on the table. We have to look at the big picture

to ensure equity throughout. It's a discussion that should be had at the TAB level. He encouraged a white board exercise and continued dialogue with the TAB to determine a solution. M. Hilley suggested the districts look at ways they can share resources and feed those solutions in to the committee and boards.

M. Hilley reported that Whatcom County's EMS cardiac survival rate is 37.5% which is the percentage of citizens who survived a primary ventricular fibrillation (VF) cardiac arrest... 75% of the cases received a citizen CPR intervention. Survival from all types of cardiac death is 19% which is near the U.S. average.

QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD: None

FINAL COMMENTS: With no other items to report the meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

NEXT QUARTERLY MTG: **Wednesday, September 11, 2019 2:00 – 3:00**
 Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514