



Emergency Medical Services  
Technical Advisory Board  
800 Chestnut Street  
Online/Virtual Meeting  
January 4, 2023  
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

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## Minutes

### Board Members:

David Pethick, BFD  
Scott Ryckman, BFD  
Jerry DeBruin, WCEMS&TC  
Marvin Wayne, WCEMS, MPD  
Mike Hilley, WCEMS  
Micah Quintrall, BFD

Dan McDermott, BFD  
Susie Johnson, PeaceHealth  
Hank Maleng, Whatcom County Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Ben Boyko, WFD7

### Board Members not Present:

Micah Quintrall, BFD

### Also Present:

Steve Cohen, WCEMS  
Rosalee Cowan, WCEMS  
Katie Poole, WCEMS

Ben Russell, WFD7

### 1. Welcome & Confirmation of the November 2, 2023 Minutes

After pointing out needed corrections to typos and a change to the board member representation, Pethick moved approval of the meeting minutes and DeBruin seconded.

### 2. First Response Contract (Hilley)

#### - Committee Members/Meeting Schedules

Hilley briefed the group on scheduling meetings to discuss a new First Responder Contract for 2024-2030. Five members were volunteered for this group based on the decision from the previous Fire Chiefs Association meeting. Scheduling meetings is the next step for this group.

### 3. ALS Provider Contracts (Hilley)

#### - EOB Recommendations/Update

Hilley presented the plan for the next six-year ALS Provider Contracts. Then next contracts will need to be vetted by the TAB and EOB, and receive input from the finance committee. These contracts will likely be lengthier and will contain more details than the First Responder contracts. This new ALS contract will incorporate more of the programs and positions funded currently through various County/ALS provider contracts and will simplify the invoice process.

#### - Committee Members/Meeting Schedules

Committee members were confirmed for the ALS Provider Contracts negotiations during the TAB meeting, meeting dates are to be scheduled. Representation from each agency, representation from each agency's finance departments, and agency operations representation will be needed on the ALS Provider Contract negotiations. The Fire Chief Association will be contacted to see if they will sit in on the committee as well.

#### **4. BLS Allocation Updates (Hilley)**

##### **- Payment Updates**

Hilley updated the group that the BLS Allocation contract is being completed during the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>. All BLS Allocations have been entered into the County financial system and will be ready for processing as soon as the contract is completed.

Hilley also briefed the group on PowerLoad delivery and installation in relation to the Equipment Allocation portion of the BLS Allocation. A tentative timeline was given for when PowerLoads will be delivered and when Metro West will be available for installation.

#### **5. Medic 75 Update (Pethick)**

Hilley explained the Medic 75 Contract Amendment the County created to increase per-unit costs for BFD to include one more medic unit. This amendment also extended the ALS agreements terms to the end of 2023. Pethick continued the report on Medic 75. Pethick stated that one of the largest hold-ups currently is contract routing, reviewing, and signing. In the meantime, Medic 75 scheduling, location, and all other operational details have been solidified and confirmed. The TAB group also discussed additional details about the generalized map that is currently in the document. The document included a map to give the County Council and outside readers context and a visual for where the medic units will be. DeBruin expressed that the operations subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) should provide input for something like a service map in order to avoid confusion from County Council/the public when units deviate from what the contract map shows. Boyko seconded that thought because units do not have strict areas of operation due to the variable nature of calls, how the service area will change as time goes on, and how it will potentially affect smaller districts and need to change. Hilley then asked Pethick if the map is needed in the amendment and if it can be removed due to inaccuracies. Pethick stated that he intended to bring this map topic to the table at the first ALS Contract Subcommittee meeting to inquire about removing it in the next six-year contract due to its inaccuracy and lack of necessity. Boyko recommended that there be a statement in that section instead, that if someone wishes to see the operation area of ALS units, they can reference the County operations manual. Hilley will bring this recommendation to the County Attorney to confirm if the map can be removed.

#### **6. Paramedic School Report (Quintrall/Ryckman)**

Ryckman had recently visited the new 2023 Paramedic class and updated the group that the class now consists of 6 people instead of the original 7 as planned. Wayne gave his input on the 2023 class as well, stating that he got to exchange introductions and give the students a brief history of Whatcom County EMS. Both Wayne and Ryckman are confident in the next group of students and feel that they are promising. Meanwhile, Ryckman stated that the recently graduated 2022 class finished taking their National Registry Exams and were beginning to start working for the County as Paramedics.

#### **7. Good of the Order**

Pethick asked about the status of vacuum splint replacements. Hilley stated that Billmire of Lynden Fire Department provided WCEMS with quotes already and that WCEMS will begin the ordering process. Wayne and Cohen updated the group that their collaboration with Handtevy to integrate the Pediatric Care App into the Whatcom County EMS system is going well and that the 2023 protocols should be released soon. Hilley shared the number amount of all 2022 EMS calls: 31,009.00 versus 29,897.00 in 2021. Hilley then updated the group on the potential new WCEMS data analyst and a new relationship between the fire agencies and the data analyst. Hilley would like to see this new data analyst roll provide more support and communication to fire agencies than before. McDermott made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Hilley seconded.