



**Emergency Medical Services
EMS Oversight Board**

800 Chestnut Street

Virtual Meeting

March 8, 2023

2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Minutes

EOB Members:

Executive Satpal Sidhu, *EOB Chair*
Rick Kowsky, *Cascade Amb. Citizen at Large*
Carol Frazey, *WC County Council*
Seth Fleetwood, *City of Bellingham Mayor*
Hall Walker, *Finance/Budget Citizen Rep.*
Robert Rush Jr. MD, *Medical Community Rep.*

RobRoy Graham, *Fire Commissioners Assoc.*
Michael Lilliquist, *Bellingham City Council*
Scott Korthuis, *City of Lynden Mayor*
Ben Elenbaas, *WC Council EOB Alternate*

Also in Attendance:

Rosalee Cowan, *WCEMS*
Steven Cohen, *WCEMS*
Ben Boyko, *WCFD7*
Hank Maleng, *WCFD16*
Jerry DeBruin, *WCFD14*

Marvin Wayne, *WCEMS MPD*
Bill Hewett, *BFD*
Mike Hilley, *WCEMS*

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Sidhu

- New TAB Co-Chair Asst Chief Pethick
 - o The EOB was notified of the new nomination of the TAB Co-chair, Assistant Chief Pethick.
- New EOB WC Council Rep Carol Frazey
 - o The group welcomed new WC Council representative Carol Frazey and representative alternate, Ben Elenbaas to the EOB.
- New WC EMS Data Analyst Diana Clinch
 - o The Whatcom County EMS office recently hired a new Data Analyst, Diana Clinch.

2. Confirmation December 14, 2022 Minutes

Chair Sidhu

- Korthuis moved approval of the December 14th, 2022 minutes, Kowsky seconded, the minutes were unanimously passed. Frazey abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

3. Finance Review (2023 Overview)

Korthuis (Finance Chair)

- Korthuis presented the latest Standard Cost Model and reviewed the 2023 projected and budgeted amounts, touching on the current income compared to the projected income and the budgeted price per unit amounts. Lilliquist asked clarifying questions about the current levy rate.

4. DEI Amendment/Additional EOB members (Action Item)

Frazey

- Frazey expressed her excitement about being on the EOB and briefed the group on the EMS Levy Plan DEI action items and goals. Frazey reviewed who the representatives on the EOB could be chosen from – DEI-oriented organizations and an individual with lived experience in EMS. Sidhu expressed his support of this plan. Elenbaas asked for clarification on who could represent DEI and who should be the judge of that. Executive Sidhu proposed that those with lived experience and expertise should be the ones who represent DEI on the board, and Lilliquist added that the EOB board are those who will judge who is a suitable fit for the EOB DEI representation. The group discussed the process of selection and determined that selection language will be created by Hilley and Frazey. Hilley and Frazey will bring a list of potential people to be discussed at the next EOB meeting.

- Frazey made a motion to add two positions to the EOB, these positions will be committed to supporting Diversity Equity, and Inclusion in EMS. One person should be appointed from an organization (a tribal organization, the North Sound ACH, Chuckanut Health Foundation, etc.) and one individual representative with lived experience (a former Paramedic, firefighter, or healthcare worker). Walker seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. ALS 2023/2028 Contract Update Hilley/Pethick
 - The ALS 2023-2029 contract committee has met three times. The group has been updating language, incorporating of some additional budget items that are currently being billed on in separate contracts, and are working on simplifying the invoicing process. The contract is being separated into two contracts, one for FD7 and one for BFD.
 6. TAB Recommendation for Criteria to determine future Medic Unit deployment. Hilley/Hewett
 - This topic will be discussed at the next EOB meeting.
 7. ALS Lateral Medic Budget & Contract (Action Item) Hewett/Pethick
 - Hilley briefed the group on the status of the Lateral Paramedic program in the County. The 2022 Lateral Paramedics did not finish training in 2022 because of hiring delays. Lateral Paramedics are pre-certified national registry Paramedics that can be hired by BFD, onboarded, trained, and oriented to the Whatcom County EMS System.
 - An EOB recommendation/motion was made in support of a budget supplemental request to provide continued funding to shore up the two Lateral Paramedics that are currently in training. Then it would be able to fund two more Lateral Paramedics who will likely come on board in late 2023 and will carry over into 2024. Kowsky made a motion of approval, Korthuis seconded. The motion was opposed by 1, the rest of the committee approved.
 - Frazey expressed her lack of support of Lateral Paramedic onboarding due to the lack of diversity to be found in the pools of already trained and certified Paramedics in the Country. Lilliquist supported Frazey's statement and asked for clarification about the reduction of training time and costs associated with the training and onboarding of Lateral Paramedics. Hewett explained the Lateral Paramedic selection and onboarding process. This contract will pay for the evaluation, hiring, and backfill of shifts while the Lateral Paramedics complete their training in a much faster and cheaper process than the annual Paramedic School. Sidhu asked that the agencies keep DEI in mind during hiring processes. This budget supplemental requesting a EOB recommendation/motion will provide continued funding going into 2023 to shore up the two Lateral Paramedics that are currently in training, and then it would offer funding for two more Lateral Paramedics who likely come on board in late 2023 and will carry over into 2024.
 8. BLS/First Response Contract Update Hilley
 - The BLS/First Responder contract group has yet to meet, but one change that will be added to the contract includes the yearly \$1.5 million BLS Allocation. Sidhu gave his support of distributing the \$1.5 million sooner rather than later and asked the group to keep in mind the overall health of the EMS system and how the system can better support the BLS system. Sidhu asked the group to bring forward their ideas for how the system

can better be supported and how that \$1.5 million could be allocated to be support the BLS system's needs. This topic will be brought to the finance committee.

9. New Medic Unit 75 In-Service Update Hewett
 - This topic will be discussed at the next EOB meeting.
10. Round Table/Good of the Order Chair Sidhu
11. Public Comment Chair Sidhu

EOB Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dfN2N8SJsQ>