



**Emergency Medical Services
Technical Advisory Board**
800 Chestnut Street
Online Meeting
May 4, 2022
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

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*

Mike Hilley, *WCEMS*

Susie Johnson, *PeaceHealth*

Hank Maleng, *Whatcom County Fire Chiefs
Assoc.*

Also Present:

Jeremy Morton, *WCEMS*

Steve Cohen, *WCEMS*

Ralph Weiche, *WCEMS, MPD*

Rosalee Cowan, *WCEMS*

1. Welcome & Confirmation of March 2, 2022 Minutes

DeBruin made a motion of acceptance, McDermott seconded. After corrections to dates and titles, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. BLS Allocation /Update (Hilley)

Hilley gave the group a quick update about the County Council process of presenting the Levy Plan. DeBruin asked clarifying questions about how fire chiefs and TAB/EOB members can be present at the meeting to show their support.

3. PowerLoad Update (Hilley)

Hilley reviewed the upcoming Stryker purchases. The budget has been squared away with Stryker and the County Council will be looking at this purchase for approval on May 24th, 2022. The Stryker purchase will reimburse Fire Districts and Agencies for the previously purchased Stryker gurneys and will be purchasing additional gurneys and

paying for installation for agencies that do not have Stryker Power Loads. The entirety of the WCEMS system will have universal Stryker Power Load gurneys when this purchase and installation is complete.

4. Levy Planning Report (Draft Plan Overview (Hilley)

An updated Levy Plan has been sent out for review, the levy planning group will go over it on May 5th, then it will go to the EOB if approved. McDermott asked for timeline clarifications. The levy planning committee will review it, then a copy will be sent out again for reviewing and editing, then it will go to the EOB. If approved, it will then go to the June Council meeting and to the Bellingham City Council meeting. The EOB meeting on June 25th, 2022 can potentially confirm the final draft of the Levy and DocuSign signing will happen after that.

5. Paramedic School (Quintrall/Stevenson)

Quintrall, Stevenson, Hilley, Wayne, Johnson, Ryckman, and Weiche all spoke about the 2022 Paramedic Class successes so far. Onboarding of new students has been going well. Working with St. Joseph's hospital has been helpful and going smoothly, Johnson and Weiche also spoke to this point. A MCI drill is being developed for June. Quintrall is grateful for Janice Lapsansky's continued support of the Paramedic program even though she is retiring this year. There are strong numbers interested in the next Paramedic class.

6. TAB Co-Chair Discussion

A motion for a TAB co-chair and chair discussion to take place next meeting was unanimously approved after being moved by McDermott and seconded by DeBruin.

7. Good of the Order

Cohen addressed the group with a quick update about the approval of grants for Stop the Bleed classes and airway manikins. The WCEMS Trauma Council is waiting to hear back about a grant for providing funding for specific trainings based on behavioral health and SUDs. Protocols are in their final draft, along with OTEP review being completed and confirmed. Cohen also presented the new Autism Awareness stickers program. JEMS and local news have highlighted this program. People in the County and around the Country

have requested hundreds of stickers as of now. The Paramedic and Physician Critical Care Skills Course/cadaver lab is on track and mostly full.

Hilley reviewed the CARES data of Whatcom County. He compared the 2021 data to the previous years and touched on the lower cardiac arrest survival rate of this year. Wayne brought three things to the table: one, the Prospect Dispatch Center has been doing a great job at providing operator-assisted CPR instructions, two, why is there not more AED usage when there are so many AEDs in the County, and three, why are we seeing a large number of certain rhythms. He said that it is important to figure out what the WCEMS system is not doing, and how they can get the numbers of survival up. Ryckman stated that the Education Subcommittee needs to come up with a list of priorities and put resources towards those specific priorities like public CPR education. Quintrall added that additional time taken by providers to put on COVID-19-specific PPE may have affected outcomes, in addition to people putting off calling 911 until they were much sicker due to COVID-19 as well. McDermott asked that the group look at and compare Whatcom County Dispatch to other systems' Dispatch processes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.