



Emergency Medical Services
Technical Advisory Board
May 5, 2019
Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Hilley, *EMS Manager*
Vacant, *Paramedic Training Provider*
Chief McLane, *WCETCC*
Dr. Marvin Wayne, *Medical Program Director*
Division Chief Rob Wilson, *What-Comm Dispatch*
=not present

Asst. Chief Jay Comfort, *City of Bellingham*
Asst. Chief Dean Crosswhite, *Fire District 7*
Chief DeBruin, *WC Fire Chiefs Assoc.*
Scott Ryckman, *MSO, Bellingham Fire Dept.*
Susie Johnson, *RN, BSN, Hospital – Med. Rep.*

STAFF PRESENT:

Tawni Helms, *WC Administration*
Jeremy Morton, *EMS Data Analyst*

GUESTS:

Chief DeBruin, *WCFD 14*
Ben Boyko, *MSO, FD7*

WELCOME:

M. Hilley welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He also expressed his appreciation to Susie Johnson, RN - BSN for filling the Hospital Representative position on the Board. Her broad background and experience in the field will be a tremendous addition to the Board and she was warmly welcomed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 6, 2019 minutes were accepted as submitted.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC/GRACE

Board Chair, M. Hilley reported on the progress of both the EMS Community Paramedic program and GRACE.

The Accountable Communities Health Program (ACH) funding will boost the program tremendously. Draft Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) are being developed between Whatcom County and Bellingham Fire Department as well as Whatcom County and Fire District 7. We are currently working on the language regarding the acquisition of a vehicle to be used for the community paramedic. Issues regarding insurance and vehicle ownership are being discussed. Reliability of the funding source is also guiding the development of the ILA's. It's anticipated that it will require \$125k/year to fund each position. With the help of administration, legal and finance we are hopeful to have completed agreements before the community paramedics are in place. It was also suggested that the community paramedics be able to provide surge capacity when needed. We are set to have 3 community paramedics working 40 hours per week. The hours should be spread out so there is opportunity to cover all days of the week. It was also suggested that criteria should be developed to respond to crisis and de-escalation, etc.

EMS LEVY PLANNING GROUP

Chairman Hilley reported that he has been reaching out to stakeholders and previous EMS Levy Planning group members. He plans to form an EMS Finance Committee comprised of BFD, FD7 and WC financial

representatives. The committee will meet quarterly to review financial reports and report to the TAB via the EMS Manager to make recommendations on financial trends and budgeting issues.

He is also reforming an EMS Levy Planning Committee to begin planning for the next levy. This will also include all stakeholders as well as previous Levy Committee members.

PARAMEDIC TRAINING

M. Hilley reported that the first paramedic training class is set to graduate this next fall. A second class is anticipated for January 2020. Ms. Julie Samms, Dean of Health Programs has determined that there is a potential conflict of interest for her to serve on the Technical Advisory Board. As the Dean of the Health programs she believes she should maintain an autonomous collaboration with the EMS system management. Discussion ensued about the benefits of filling the Paramedic Training vacancy with the person coordinating and instructing the class. Currently, that position is held by Captain, Rob Stevenson. It was agreed that Captain Stevenson should be appointed (position is jointly appointed by the Mayor and Executive) to fill the vacancy so that current reports and updates can be provided to the TAB.

M. Hilley also reminded the Board the Accreditation Committee previously formed and led by Therese Williams, should remain a separate group facilitated by BTC. Members should also include EMS stakeholders, i.e. Medical Program Director and ALS agency representatives.

Question was raised regarding the paramedic training growing into a bigger program and possibly moving away from just serving Whatcom County. M. Hilley assured the board that although other communities may be able to participate in the tuition based program to fill seats, Whatcom County will remain the priority group. Students must be referred into the program, already employed and must have fire based indemnification. We will help our neighbors, but we will not give up control of our program.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE/TRAINING COORDINATOR

M. Hilley reported that he is working on establishing the needs for the Education Committee. He believes there is a need to support and coordinate all the training that is required throughout the system to ensure compliance as well as provide consistent and timely training throughout the county. He is working to assess the need and the value so that they can determine if a part-time position, contracted work, or technology driven answer is warranted. He emphasized the value in improving training throughout the organization.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Systems Administrator, Jeremy Morton reported that he met the timelines for the ImageTrend implementation. R. Wilson reported that they could not continue to support the Point Roberts system on their old system because Point Roberts did not transfer to Image Trend. Dr. Wayne reported that the Whatcom County resuscitation rates are at 19.1% as compared to National Average of 9% as reported through CARES.

Next Meeting: July 1, 2019 (2:00 – 3:00) TBD

Standing Agenda Items:

- EPCR update
- Community Paramedic Update