



Emergency Medical Services  
Technical Advisory Board  
July 11, 2018  
Minutes

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**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Asst. Chief Bill Hewett, *City of Bellingham Admin.*  
Therese Williams, *BTC*  
Chief McLane, *WCETCC*  
Dr. Marvin Wayne, *Medical Program Director* phone  
Division Chief Rob Wilson, *What-Comm Dispatch*  
Mike Hilley, *EMS Manager*

Tyler Schroeder, *County Administration*  
Chief Larry Hoffman, *WCFD #7*  
Chief DeBruin, *WC Fire Chiefs Assoc.*  
Mannix McDonnell, *MSO, Bellingham Fire Dept.*  
Brian Wilson, *Manager Emergency Services*  
=not present

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Rob Stevenson, *Captain, BFD*  
Ben Boyko, *Fire District 7*

**WELCOME:**

M. Hilley welcomed everyone and introduced new EMS Data Analyst, Jeremy Morton. Jeremy brings experience and some expertise with data integration and healthcare reporting implementation. His knowledge and experience have already provided the necessary tools to afford a successful implementation of the new EPCR system.

**REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION OF 05.02.18 MINUTES**

The Board reviewed and approved the 05.02.18 draft minutes. The minutes were accepted as written and submitted into the record.

**EPCR IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

M. Hilley reported on the progress of the Image Trend software integration. There have been a couple delays due in large to the necessary “rebranding” of the system. Essentially, Image Trend is rebranding the system utilizing the data already entered for Bellingham. Without the rebranding effort there would have been two separate EPCR systems. Utilizing the data already entered by Bellingham Fire Department (Chris Hughes) has proven to be enormously helpful. Other than a few technical snags and road blocks which J. Morton has successfully worked through, the implementation has been going fairly smoothly. Agency specific data is being loaded by the fire agencies and they are also making good progress.

The hospital integration has not yet been determined as it requires system wide decision making. It’s possible this can occur with the full integration of the EPCR system. B. Wilson reported that the physician scribe now has access to Image Trend and reiterated that full integration can only be approved at the system level not the hospital level.

B. Boyko reported that Fire District 7 is using more Image Trend data sets for training, fleet management, etc. Utilizing the data sets will allow you to run reports on specific searches; names, licensing, dates, etc. useful information that once entered, can be retrieved later. It was suggested that credentials and licenses should be minimally required. This led to discussion regarding system wide

standards. With the development of the EPCR committee it was suggested that the committee would be responsible for developing the data standards compliant with the state. The committee would also address potential downstream issues.

***ACTION ITEM: M. Hilley and B. Wilson to check back regarding hospital integration. Approval is required at the system level which goes beyond the hospital.***

#### **PROPOSED PARAMEDIC TRAINING PLAN/BUDGET**

M. Hilley reviewed the proposed paramedic training budget. Using the \$1,225M paramedic training budget listed in the levy plan M. Hilley detailed a funding proposal as follows:

Prepare a budget supplemental that will provide spending authority for 2018 and 2019 in the amount of \$835k for the first paramedic training class. Paramedic class of 9 students would graduate in summer 2019. This would prepare for the 5<sup>th</sup> medic unit implementation as well as address attrition issues. The remaining \$390k would be allocated for 2020 implementation of the 5<sup>th</sup> unit, which would then likely occur in 2021.

If AFG grant funding comes through it would offset the cost for the Bellingham Fire Paramedics. On the subject of funding it was suggested that the Medicare reimbursement monies could also go towards training or other needs. Discussion ensued about how to utilize the funds which could be somewhat substantial. Generally speaking, increased revenue will help to offset expenses. B. Hewett inquired about the tuition based paramedic program and the EMS fund paying for all Whatcom County medics. Yes.

#### **COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC and GRACE PROGRAM**

M. Hilley reported that a contract with SeaMar acting as the GRACE administrator (hub) is in the works. It is expected to be operational by October 1. There is potential for the GRACE system to utilize the Image Trend Community Paramedic module. M. Hilley had the opportunity to present Image Trend's community paramedic module to the GRACE committee. He believes it was well received and it's quite possible that Image Trend will be the software platform used for their patient records data system. B. Hewett reminded the Board that the GRACE program is not the same as the community paramedic program.

#### **OTHER**

Dr. Wayne shared the good fortune that the EMS Administration will soon have a new home. He and M. Hilley have been working with the Hospital to enter into a lease agreement for office space located in the downtown corridor. For a nominal monthly fee, the EMS administration will soon be housed at their facility located on Chestnut Street. The goal is to be relocated by October.

#### **WRAP UP**

- Begin discussion and planning for 5<sup>th</sup> medic site and location

**Next Meeting: September 5, 2018 (2:00 – 3:00) in the Garden Level Conference Room**

#### **Standing Agenda Items:**

- EPCR update
- Community Paramedic Update