



**EMS Administrative Board**

**May 8, 2019**

**1. Open the meeting**

**2. Approval of agenda**

**3. Introduction of attendees:**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Gary Hanna, Fire Chiefs	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners
Dave Lynde, Ambulance Representative	Julie Schilling, Mayors
Phil Nelson, Fire Commissioners	Tom Sevigny, Fire Commissioners
Tammy Pettis, Hospital Representative	

**Board Members Absent:**

Norm Childress, County Commissioners	Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs
Ben Maltz, MD, Medical Program Director	Tim Smith, Fire Chiefs

**Alternate Board Members in Attendance:**

Joel Byam Fire Chiefs	Nathan Craig Fire Chiefs
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**Department of Emergency Medical Services**

Tony Miller, ES Director	Diane Koch, Office Specialist
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**Department of Emergency Medical Services Absent**

Wendy Moudy, EMS Operations Manager
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**Guest(s)**

Nathan Craig, West Valley FD
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**4. Open Public Input.**

**None**

**5. Communication**

**None**

**6. Approval of Previous Minutes**

It was moved by Les Riel and seconded by Phil Nelson to approve previous minutes from November 2018 as sent. Motion carried.

**7. Reports from Committees and/or Agencies**

a. YCDEMS – EMT Course

The EMT course was completed on April 27, 2019. As of today, 19 students have taken the NREMT cognitive exam and 18 have passed. All but one student passed final EMT written. That student was given an opportunity to take an EMR final, which he passed. He will be eligible to take the NREMT EMR cognitive exam. This class started off with 35 students. It was difficult to get enough instructors on Saturdays. We will be keeping the class size to 25 from now on. If there is a need we will we will have a second class.



- b. RN to EMT Bridge Course – we are currently running an RN to EMT Bridge course for Airlift Northwest. The State requires that the RNs also be certified as EMTs, since they respond directly to a scene.
- c. Wendy has been out since the first part of March. She will probably be returning mid-July to August. Cancer came back with a vengeance. Surgery went well with cadaver bone (humorous and shoulder replacement).
- d. Extra position – this person has not been hired yet as they will be working for Wendy. We are waiting for her to come back before hiring. We are currently keeping up with the work demands.
- e. We are filming the last OTEP modules for this year tonight. Will start filming for next year within the next few weeks.

## **8. Financial Review**

The budget was not added to the County financial system at the beginning of the year, despite the budget being sent in and approved on time. The issue is being resolved.

## **9. Old Business**

- a. Letter to Commissioners only one credit per call for the EMS Levy: A brief discussion was held on whether this had been done (no) and whether it needed to be done.
- b. 2020 Levy distribution: it was clarified that no agency may receive more than 100% of their assessed value.
- c. Discussion on allowing BLS ambulances: Due to the nationwide shortage of available paramedics, allowing for BLS ambulances in Yakima County was discussed. It is estimated that 70% of all EMS calls are BLS. By law the ambulance services only have to put one ambulance on the road a day. AMR has been paying for people to move to Yakima and paying for EMTs to attend Central Washington University to become paramedics.

Currently AMR is having BLS ambulances do interfacility calls (as appropriate). The AMR representative is confident that ALS is also doing this. There have been a lot of transfers out of Yakima to the larger hospitals on the west side (for example Virginia Mason, Harborview). On one night Virginia Mason Memorial transferred 5 patients out. This past Friday, there were 8 out of transfers to Seattle. Recently, there has been a decrease in orthopedic patients being transferred to Seattle.

With current system (two providers competing), adding BLS ambulances is not a maintainable business model. There are 13 ambulances in City of Yakima and one in Toppenish competing for the same calls. By switching to a single provider, who would then get all of the calls, we could better staff for the whole county. The current collection rate is about 20%. Medicaid pays \$135 per call, Medicare pays \$220 with a co-pay of \$200 for 80% of the patients, 10% of the patients have no insurance and 10% have private insurance.

Discussion on the system issues we are currently facing from police, fire, BLS and ALS providers. Other resources that may be available such as People for People, who may have a response time of up to 4 hours or more. Currently the 911 system cannot differentiate between BLS and ALS ambulances. There has been previous discussion on housing ambulances at fire stations.



It was decided that the City of Yakima and the Yakima Fire Department need to be asked why they do not want to allow BLS ambulances.

**10. New Business**

a. Elections

Nathan Craig nominated Dave Lynde to be the chair, Les Riel to be the vice chair. No other nominations were forthcoming. A motion was made and passed for Dave Lynde to be the chair and Les Riel to be the vice chair.

b. Strategic Planning

Last time we did anything was in 2016. SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) plan needs to be updated. We need to decide where the system is going, where we want it to go.

Nathan Craig stated that the critical issues needing to be worked on are instructors and ambulances.

We will meet on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to discuss SWOT and strategic planning. The SWOT form and 2016 Strategic Plan will be sent out ahead of time.

**10. For the Good of the Order – none.**

**11. Next Meeting: August 14, 2019, 9 am at the EMS Office.** Budget meeting to review the preliminary budget.

**12. Adjourned.**