



**Emergency Medical Services Administrative Board**

2403 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C, Union Gap, WA 98903 • (509) 574-2145 • FAX (509) 574-2159



**EMS Administrative Board**

**August 11, 2021**

**1. Open the meeting**

**2. Approval of Agenda** Joel Byam moved to approve the agenda as submitted, Tammy Pettis seconded. Motion passed.

**3. Introduction of attendees:**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Ron Anderson, County Commissioners	Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair
Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners	Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs
Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs	Tammy Pettis, Yakima EMS Council
Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners

**Board Members Absent:**

Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners	Julie Schilling, Mayors Association
Jim Lange, Fire Chiefs	

**Alternate Board Members in Attendance (both voting at this meeting):**

Dan Boyle, Fire Commissioners	Tim Smith, Fire Chiefs
Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs	

**Alternate Board Members Absent:**

None

**Department of Emergency Medical Services in Attendance:**

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

Brian Ireton, EMS Operations Manager/Training Coordinator

**Guest(s)**

None

**4. Communication** - None

**5. Approval of minutes:** Les Riel made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021 meeting; seconded by Tammy Pettis. Motion approved.

**6. Reports from committees/agencies**

Tony Miller, ES Director reported:

a. OTEP:

All of the 2021 OTEP has been filmed and we are in the process of completing the final touches on Modules 5 & 6 and Workshop C to be ready for distribution in September.

We will be filming all of the 2022 OTEP in September. Alex Langbell who has been doing our filming



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for the last 4 years has recently retired and moved to Montana, but he is willing to come to Yakima for a week at a time to film our OTEP.

- b. We will be sending out the EMT course information in September for the 2022 course.
- c. Washington DOH Rural EMS for EMTs  
The State of Washington has been working on getting more EMTs in the rural outlying areas of the State. The challenges faced have been only having one or two people and those individuals living in remote areas, such as in Okanogan County, Jefferson County, Ferry County or on Vashon Island. The State would like to do a pilot program and they came to Yakima County DEMS, because of our recent success with our EMT program. The program will be mainly online and then each department will have their own local EMS evaluators to work on the skills piece with the student(s). This will be a team effort between the State and YCDEMS. John Nokes and other instructors from around the State will assist in the process to complete the final practicals, along with Brian Ireton and Tony Miller. The State has given grant money to each of the departments participating and they will be paying DEMS for all costs we incur. The State has stated that they will reimburse our department for any additional costs not covered. The program will start in September and run through December, so it will not interfere with our EMT program. Dr. Hodges is aware of the program and there will be a mutual understanding between MPDs for the program. The students will have to enroll through the State.

### 7. Financial Review

- a. 2022 DEMS Budget – Tony Miller reported that we are currently waiting on the indirect costs from the county. The budgeting process has expanded, as there are more line items and categories.

### 8. Old business

- a. Update on why EMR (BLS) Ambulances are not being used – Aaron Markham  
The City of Yakima currently has an ordinance in place, and it would require changing the city's municipal code for BLS ambulances to be able to respond within the city limits of Yakima. This is a possibility.

Concerns were raised about BLS ambulance response possibly going against protocol. Dr. Hodges stated that the protocols include language that states "written protocol cannot cover every situation that will be encountered in the field, and that clinical judgment should be used to tailor treatment to the patient and the particular circumstances of illness or injury.

1. Be in the patient's best interest.
  2. Be within the EMS provider's training and level of certification.
  3. Be appropriately documented including procedure and rationale."
- (This text is part of G2 Introduction)

Even though the city does not allow a BLS ambulance response, this does not prevent BLS ambulances from responding in the rest of the County. Each agency/department/district can request that BLS ambulances respond to their area via SunComm and Stacey Garcia. It will take some work at SunComm, but it is doable.

Identifying and sending the most appropriate resources to calls, including BLS Ambulance was discussed. The new protocols have addressed some of these concerns and issues.

Nathan Craig requested that a committee be formed consisting representatives from both private ambulance services, the hospital, Fire Chief's Association, SunComm 911, Lower Valley Dispatch, ES



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Director Tony Miller, and Dr. Hodges, MPD to set up parameters.

This would include checks and balances, including chart review for calls that should have been ALS and were sent BLS.

- b. New Member packet has been completed and is being sent out to the new members.

### 9. New Business

- a. Pulse Point – Nathan Craig

Pulse Point is a system for Public CPR-Needed Activations for Community Responders (an app is downloaded to their smart phone) and can also track AED locations. It is currently being used in the Tri-Cities and other locations. It would help improve save rates, if CPR was started earlier.

It costs, approximately \$10,000 to set up and then \$10,000 per year. The yearly fee is based on the number of calls. Funding would need to be obtained. It was asked if the County would have the funds to start the program. Commissioner Anderson stated he could look into funding options from the County, but he will need more information, including looking at areas where the system is already operating.

Discussion followed on how the Pulse Point system works and how phones will alert, where AEDs located.

Dave Lynde will assist in setting up a formal presentation and will send Commissioner Anderson information on other locations that are using this system.

Les Riel requested that Director Miller run two budgets, one that includes Pulse Point funding and one that does not.

- b. Term expirations – these were reviewed and for those expiring, it was requested that they obtain letters recommending their membership on the board by the next meeting.

Chief Aaron Markham

Fire Commissioner Jim Borst

Julie Schilling, Elected Official

### 10. Strategic Planning

- a. Levy discussion and planning:

It is planned to run the EMS levy in November 2022. Decisions need to be made regarding the rate per thousand and the term (6 years, 10 years or permanent) of the levy. If changes are made to either the rate and/or term, then the levy must be passed by a super majority.

Discussion on followed on what would be the best rate per thousand and term to put on the ballot. The group felt that if we asked for 0.35 per 1000 of property value and to make the levy permanent, this could be presented as a conservative increase and would not be increased in the future.

It was requested that confirmation from Charles Ross, Auditor be obtained that if the levy is permanent that it would be reset every year and not be limited to the 1% increase as it is currently.

Discussion on the changes to formula and whether this needed to be included in the ballot information. The information last released included that the formula used had three parts. It could



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simply be changed to state the money is distributed by formula to all of the fire departments and to fund the EMS office.

This information will be taken by the representatives on the board, back to their respective groups for approval. It was requested the Dave Lynde, Chair, attend the next Fire Commissioners meeting.

The Administrative Board will plan to have another meeting in September to review the budget for the EMS office and the levy decision from the groups could be presented at that time. The basic timeline for the levy is as follows:

Administrative Board to appoint a Levy Committee in September 2021

By February 2022 an action plan should be done

Start levy campaign in September 2022

Nathan Craig will contact Bruce Smith, as he has helped on the levy campaigns before. Julie Schilling has requested to be a part of the Levy Committee.

**11.**For the Good of the Order - none

**12.**Next regularly scheduled meeting is 09:00 at the EMS office on November 10, 2021

**13.**Joel Byam made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tim Smith. Motion approved.