EMS Administrative Board
May 8, 2024

1. **Open the meeting**

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Les Riel moved to approve the agenda, Jim Brost seconded by. Motion passed.

3. **Introduction of attendees:**

Board Members in Attendance:

Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners	Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director
Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs	Jim Lange, Fire Chiefs
Kyle Curtis, County Commissioner	Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair
Sarah Dowen, Hospital Representative, Yakima EMS Council	Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs
Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners

Board Members Absent:

Mike Costello, Councilmember, City of Selah

Alternate Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Boyle, Fire Commissioners	Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs

Alternate Board Members Absent:

Tim Smith, Fire Chiefs

Department of Emergency Medical Services in Attendance:

Tony Miller, ES Director	Diane Koch, Office Specialist
Jeremy Rodriguez, EMS Operations Manager/Training Coordinator	

Guest(s): None

4. **Open Public Input – none**

5. **Communication – none**

6. **Approval of minutes:** Les Riel made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024, meeting, Kyle Curtis seconded. Motion approved.

7. **Reports from committees/agencies**

Jeremy Rodriguez, ES Director reported:

a. EMT Courses:

- Winter 2024 EMT Course finished in April. Eight students have taken the NREMT and 7 passed on the first try. We have a few students that are struggling to pass the course finals and we are working with their departments and the individuals to get them through the process, so they can take the NREMT exam. It is unclear what is holding up the rest of the students from taking the NREMT exam. Those students will be contacted over the next day or two and they will be encouraged to sign up for the NREMT exam. Two students are already Washington State certified. Five students dropped out of the course. Two of those who dropped out did so before class even started and the other 3 did so for family reasons. We hope to see those students again in the future.

- EMT Class for fall is open and we are accepting applications. If any department has someone who is interested, please get the applications as soon as possible.

8. Old Business

a. Pro QA contract has been signed. Training starts next week. At least 3 months before it goes into effect.

b. Contract between AMR and Yakima County – Kyle Curtis reported that there is a Study/Work Session meeting this month. Hoping that is positive news. Attorney Stefanie Weigand has been providing Commissioner Curtis with an update every two weeks.

Final changes that county was proposing, sent back to AMR representative to see if they would accept them. Final draft received by AMR yesterday. One final internal review left for AMR. We will likely be able to respond back by next Tuesday.

Verbal agreement that this would be completed and signed by July 1, 2024, would be start of implementation.

Kyle Curtis time is of the essence and this needs to be completed.

9. New Business

a. EMR-Code nature code – Aaron Markham, YFD Implemented EMR code for Code 99s, because that is how we dispatch recommendations for apparatus and personnel. However, when it comes to the EMS calls, when it pertains to the EMS levy, that specific code is not one of the nine that are recognized for call types. Previously this would have been an EMR Medic and would have been counted towards the EMS levy calls. Because this code is not currently recognized, we cannot count these calls towards the EMS levy calls. We are requesting that this code be added to the list of accepted calls to be covered.
Nathan Craig stated that the Fire Chiefs recommended that this code be added.
Les Riel made a motion, seconded Jim Brost, motion passed.

10. For the Good of the Order

a. Aaron Markham, YFD reported that yesterday a group met with Comprehensive Mental Health, law enforcement agencies, dispatch agencies to discuss the county-wide Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) program. It started with:
   - How do we get the information from the caller if comes through 911 and
   - How do we dispatch the DCRs throughout the county.

   The DCRs are being used with certain agencies currently. Yakima County Sheriff Office and Yakima Police Department both have some DCRs. There will be units in the County that are staffed with DCRs only.
   - We have to create a mechanism on how we prioritize the calls
   - Which dispatch center will be dispatching the DCRs
   - Call type or nature codes will be used. It has been suggested to have:
     - DCR & LE
     - DCR & EMS/Fire
     - DCR only

- We will need to have a chart, to figure out what questions and answers that we get will be that "type" call.

We need to be very cautious don't send mental health professionals to an incident that may not be safe. We will err on the side for sending the DCR with law enforcement if there are weapons involved or threats at that address in the past.
A lot of work to be done. This was our first meeting. Hopefully there will be calls that neither LE nor Fire will need to go to.
DCRs want to be able to do more follow-up, so there are not repeated calls. This has not been as successful when LE is involved. The DCRs want to be able to do more follow-up.

Concern that ProQA will not be able meet this need. Will be looking into it. There are programs in Spokane, Portland, OR and Denver, CO. We will be looking into their programs to see how it works for them and what they use.

A True Blood Grant, which is what funded DCRs to be with Law Enforcement this program is running out. So, the ability to capture these employees before the grant is finished and have them move into the new program is limited. Commission Curtis reported that the DCR program is one of the last ones that the County is looking to utilize our mental health tax dollars. Where we are at as the county, we are leery of the administrative costs that Comprehensive Mental Health had in the proposed budget, as it is at 30%. The other thing that is holding up the project was the vehicle asset. What we ended up doing is that we will fund CMH to purchase their own vehicles and CMH will owe and maintain them.

Discussion followed on having a DCR 24/7 in the dispatch center. Moving away from having all DCRs be Masters level certified individuals. Instead, it will include master level, counselors, and peer level counselors. Having DCRs available at peek times between 7 am – 11 pm, before it moves into 24/7.

Commissioner Curtis asked what fire/EMS is role is in this? Jim Lange, a lot of times there is nothing we can do. They stand there and wait for the ambulance and all the ambulance can do is transport them to the hospital. Some folks with mental issues will call multiple times and then refuse treatment. You can't force someone to go even if they have called 4 times. Dave Lynde stated if someone is sleeping on the sidewalk, there can be multiple calls, and someone must go each time. 911 is being called and they must dispatch someone, that is their job. Dr. Hodges stated that part of the problem is that the hospital is not what these people need either. Need access to resources that are not law enforcement, fire, ambulance, or hospital.

11. Next regularly scheduled meeting is 09:00 on August 14, 2024. In person is at the EMS Office in the classrooms. Zoom information will be forthcoming.

12. Jim Lange made a motion to adjourn, Kyle Curtis seconded by. Motion passed.