



# Emergency Medical Services Administrative Board

2403 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Union Gap, WA 98903 • (509) 574-2145 • FAX (509) 574-2159



## EMS Administrative Board February 8, 2023

### 1. Open the meeting

**2. Approval of Agenda:** Jim Lange moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Sam Glanzer. 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
Mike Costello, Councilmember, City of Selah	Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair
Kyle Curtis, County Commissioner	Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs
Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners

#### Board Members Absent:

Open, Hospital Representative, Yakima EMS Council

#### Alternate Board Members in Attendance:

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
Open, EMS Operations Manager/Training Coordinator	

#### Guest(s):

Alan Baird, Fire Chief, YCFD#3/Naches	Joey Weedon, FD#3 & FD#5
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### 4. Open Public Input – none

### 5. Communication – none

**6. Approval of minutes:** Jim Lange made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting with the date adjusted to November 2, 2022, Jim Brost seconded. Motion approved.

### 7. Reports from committees/agencies

Tony Miller, ES Director reported:

#### a. EMT Courses:

- Fall 2022 EMT Course 7 students completed course. Five students have tested and passed. Two students have signed up but have not yet scheduled their exams.
- Winter 2023 EMT Course going well. No students drop out, average 88%. One struggling a bit and the instructors are working with that person to try and get their scores up. If that does not work, then their training officer will be contacted.

b. Alex Langbell will be here in March to film the last two OTEPs for 2023. There will be a discussion



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with Alex about him leaving filming equipment here and then we will be able to mail him the SDXC card to edit for us.

- c. Brian Ireton's last official day was January 31<sup>st</sup>. His position was posted and only 2 applicants applied, neither was qualified. The position has been reopened by DEMS request and will remain open until it is filled. If no other applications are received within the next 2 weeks, then we will go nationwide in JEMS.
- d. Instructors: Our regular instructor roster is doing well. For Senior EMT Instructors, we are down to Gary Conn currently. Scott Zachau is in the training phase, and we have 3 more that are interested. We are allotted up to 6 SEIs, per the State.

### 8. Old Business

- a. Renewal of bylaws – Dave Lynde. Every year we need to renew our bylaws and ensure our members understand responsibilities necessitated in the bylaws. We then need to attest to the County Commissioners that we aware our responsibilities as stated in our bylaws. While reviewing the bylaws, we have identified a few changes that we would like to make for clarity.
  - Article II, Section 1 – The "terms of office" were spelled out. If a person resigns, at a year and half into their term, the new appointee will complete the term of the person they are replacing. In this scenario, the new person would serve for a year and half and then would need to be reappointed.

"The YCDEMS Administrative Board shall determine the terms of office. *The YCDEMS Administrative Board has determined that each member will serve a 3 year term. For the Yakima County Fire Commissioners and Yakima County Fire Chiefs, which each hold 3 positions, it is preferred that only one member is replaced each year. If a member resigns or is removed before the end of the member's terms, a new member be recommended by the appropriate governing body to complete the term of the position that has been vacated.*"

The goal is not to have multiple positions within the same organizations expiring at the same time. For instance, one Fire Chief, one Fire Commissioner position would expire each year. This should eliminate a mass change over of the board members in a single year. Aaron Markham recommended that where it states "which each hold 3 positions", that "3" is spelled out as that is more grammatically correct.

Under Article I, we changed "develop" and "submit" to "review" and "recommend", as that is what the board actually does.

Jim Brost made a motion to accept the changes as presented, including the change recommended by Aaron Markham, the motion was seconded by Kyle Curtis seconded. Motion passed.

Jim Lange made a motion to attest to the Yakima County Board of Commissioners that we understand our roles and responsibilities as outlined in our bylaws. The motion was seconded by Aaron Markham. Motion passed.

A copy of the updated bylaws, with tracked changes and a copy of these minutes will be submitted to the Yakima County Board of Commissioners.
- b. Instructor Reclassification – Tony reported that happened without us talking to Human Resources. County did a pay raise for both the regular instructors (now at \$23.10/hour) and the SEIs (now at \$26.12 per hour). It was asked if this was adequate, as SEIs are making \$50/hour at CBC. Commissioner Curtis said that an outside firm was hired to complete the pay study and there is a chart that showed where the data was pulled from for the job classifications.



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- c. EMT Program reimbursement policy approval – Dave Lynde this policy was put back on the agenda as it stated that only departments could be reimbursed. It was found out that we have associations paying fees in some areas. The policy was changed policy to allow for reimbursement to associations. The policy was discussed and an additional term of “the person will be a responder in Yakima County” was added. Jim Lange moved to approve the policy as amended, Kyle Curtis seconded. Motion passed.
- d. The EMS Office supply cache. Dave Lynde stated that this was discussed during our November meeting and Tony agreed to do this, but there was never any action taken by this board to approve this. Diane reported about the difficulty she was running into getting letters from agencies and equipment lists. Life Assist wanted letters of intent before giving us the best pricing, agencies want a guaranteed pricing before sending in letters. Yakima County Fire District #5 stated that they are currently getting 20% and unless it is a drastic savings with the volume Fire District #5 goes through, it would be inconvenient and not cost effective for them to come to Union Gap to pick up equipment. At this time Fire District #5 does not plan to participate. Selah Fire Department said they have sent a letter, but the letter said their participation would not come until they know what type of discount they would receive. In addition, Selah sent a short list of equipment that they are particular about. A letter has been received from Naches Heights Fire Department, along with a completed equipment list. *(Since this meeting letters of participation and equipment lists have been received from the Nile Fire Department, West Valley Fire Department and East Valley Fire Department)*. Discussion followed. The following points were discussed:
  - The departments send in a letter saying that they would be willing to participate depending on the amount of discount.
  - The equipment list should follow at least the minimum of what is required by WAC.
  - Life Assist or any other company should be willing to ship to each location.
  - Get lists of all equipment from agencies.
  - Agencies would prefer that each department be billed separately, as it would take time away from office staff to send out bills to each department.
  - Would this be a duplication of efforts.
  - Get bids from other companies – asked for other vendors that the agencies are already using.
  - Suggestion of just stocking the basic items for the agencies.

### 9. New Business

- a. Officer Election – Dave Lynde opened to nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Joel Byam made a motion to keep Dave Lynde as the Chair and Les Riel as Vice-Chair, seconded by Dan Boyle. Any other nominations were called for three time. Hearing none, the motion was voted on and passed.
- b. Open Hospital Position – This position is recommended from the Yakima County EMS & Trauma Care Council. Dave Lynde will reach out to new representative from MultiCare Memorial to the local council. If anyone knows anyone who would be interested in being on the board to reach out to the EMS Council.
- c. Out of area funding – Naches Fire Department (Yakima County Fire District #3), starting on April 1, 2023, will no longer be responding outside of their Fire District. Chief Baird is in attendance at our invitation to go over this change.  
Chief Baird - historical look back – Naches FD has responded up White Pass because we were the closest. Our boundaries are just past the “Y”. When we started it was only a handful of responses per year. Over the years the number of calls has increased and so has the complexity of the calls.



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With the addition of cabins, Rimrock Retreat, etcetera, Naches quit responding to fires unless there was a contract with the fire district. All of the cabins are on forest service land. It took a while, but a new fire district was formed. It is not a continuous district. It just covers what actually has value (cabins, Rimrock, Clear Lake).

There has never been an agreement between Yakima County and the Fire District to provide services. Chief Baird started trying to resolve this over the past several years. Over the last 3 years during the pandemic, there was an explosion of reactional users. Service population is around 40,000 on a holiday weekend. We are a volunteer department with one station. Discussions have been held with Commissioner McKinney explaining the need to have an agreement to between Yakima County and Fire District.

Ten percent of EMS calls are out of district. Average call length on the pass is 2 to 3 hours. We are committing our resources out of district when we respond to these calls. Chief Baird informed Commissioner McKinney that the status quo was no longer sustainable and has received no response and that Board of County Commissioners has completely failed the fire district and citizens in this area.

The primary apparatus for responding up the pass is 21 years old. It was not an EMS truck. The Fire District built a new fire station because the old one, was actually a 70-year-old converted grocery store. The fire district applied for a Yakima County grant for a type 3 truck, which could handle structure fire as well as EMS calls. The escalating cost of replacement for a vehicle has gone out of site. The ARPA grant the quote we got has gone from \$250,000 in 2019 and is now over \$600,000. We retooled what we are looking at because if we waited we would get less for more money. We have managed to purchase a Type 2 vehicle. We now have to prioritize our citizens and not someone from out of county.

White Pass now has three different response zones. What we will go to and what we will not go too. A letter sent to Commissioner McKinney. Will be beta testing the runs and will send an official letter on March 1 of termination of service on White Pass starting on April 1. It is not an easy decision for us to make, as we would have preferred to continue to respond. Once we no longer respond, there will be only ambulance services, YSO and WSP responding. None of these agencies are able to do extrication. The county commissioners have ignored this issue. They will still respond to fires, as there are agreements with forest service.

Discussion on the fact that we are not spending the whole out of district fund and the only district the money has been going to is Naches FD (Fire District #3). The funds they are receiving does not cover cost of vehicle replacement, training costs for special responses high angle/low angle rescue. There are legal implications to responding outside of your fire district, even if your EMS response area is larger.

There are huge implications to not having extrication on White Pass.

There needs to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Yakima County and the fire districts to respond to EMS calls outside of their fire district.

The description that Naches FD (Fire District #3) used for their trauma designation with the State Department of Health will need to be reviewed.

Chief Baird said if they have received the ARPA grant, they would have gladly continued to respond up the pass for the life of the apparatus.

Commissioner Curtis asked is this a concern for all fire districts? Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may have some limitations depending on area such as DNR land or the closed area of the reservation. The MOU would give the districts legal protection to respond outside of their fire districts.

SAR or Mountain Rescue – all volunteer agencies take about 1 ½ to 2 hours to be assembled and respond.

### 10. For the Good of the Order



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- a. Tony Miller - AJ Fandrich, who does our data entry and reports for cardiac arrests through CARES, has requested to become a contractor for the county. As part of this contract, he would:
- Oversee the CARES program (the transport agencies would need to enter their own data)
  - Provide monthly feedback to the Medical Program Director and EMS Director
  - 100% review of all cardiac arrests
  - Continue to serve on the Yakima County CQI committee (he has already been doing this)
  - Be available for providers with questions
  - Continue to assist with protocol review
  - Assist the MPD with tasks deemed necessary relating to CARES
  - Continue to participate in MPD quarterly meetings
  - Attend Cardiac Arrest conferences to bring more training and information back to our county.

He has requested a \$1000 per month and we have been paying him hourly and it has been about \$16,000 per year, including benefits.

Dr. Hodges has strongly encouraged the board to accept this contract.

Dave does not know where the process is at with AMR entering all of their data. ALS is currently entering all of their data into CARES.

Paramedics and EMTs are already participating in protocol committees and CQI.

It was noted that he has contracts with Benton and Franklin counties, and he is not charging them as much as he is requesting from Yakima County.

CARES data is important, but we can truly make a difference and it is data that we can hang our hat on. It helped us to get the levy passed and it helps get the public excited and involved.

Discussion on whether this is a requirement or something extra and the importance of this to our MPD.

- b. Nathan Craig – The board has discussed in the past what the potential was for funding towards an Emergency Medical Dispatch system for 911. The 911 system does not have the \$100,000 needed for a new EMD system. The EMS Administrative Board and the levy have a responsibility to make sure 911 calls are triaged correctly. The 911 board will probably be back to request funding. There is a Zoom meeting today for a company to demonstrate their system and then an in person 911 board meeting tomorrow.
- Per Dave Lynde the EMS Administrative Board has not had any requests for the money that we had identified as being over funded. Per Tony Miller the only money we have set aside from those funds was for the match for the AARAP grant for the LUCAS devices. Discussion followed on the cost of a new EMD system, the yearly maintenance fee which is estimated at \$20,000. The importance of triaging calls in the 911 center, so that the appropriate vehicles/responders are sent.
- c. Joel Byam reported that the Yakima County Fire Chiefs Association has identified some priorities:
- Reducing the minor as EMS calls outs. The aim is to reduce the yellows and some reds.
    - ✓ For instance, identify alternatives to lift assist.
  - The EMS Administrative Board overseeing the ambulance contract. Currently we have no idea where we are at with this contract. The Fire Chiefs Association believes that part of the contract is having a board that oversee the contract and that the EMS Administrative Board is the right board to do this.
  - Conversations about the budget for the EMS office which has been discussed for multiple years. The levy speaks to the 11.5% that goes to the EMS office, and we just make the budget fit the 11.5%. The Chiefs want more discussion earlier on, on how the budget could be built better and identifying some needs. This is especially important since there is a reset of .25 cents per \$1000 and the 11.5% will be larger this year vs other years.
  - Identify somehow to get more Designated Crisis Responders (DCR) in the county. A lot of the calls we are going to are dependent on DCR interaction. This is not just an Administrative Board



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issue, but an issue overall. This is an issue throughout the county. There are some programs that have been identified in the lower valley going through the tribe.

- ✓ Jim Lange added a group needs to get together to decide what type of calls will no longer be responded too. Guidance is needed from the fire chiefs and this board to dispatch. Aaron Markham stated that currently SunComm does not have a policy that allows a call-taker/dispatcher to tell the reporting party "no", as far as a type of call. They currently go down their triage list trying to get a response and when no one will go, they send the ambulance.

The ambulance is a limited resource and cannot always be the answer. If an ambulance is sent on a well-fare check, and there is a cardiac arrest happening and the ambulance is going by it, they cannot stop. They are assigned to the other call and must continue to that call. Now we are waiting on another ambulance to be dispatched.

Another issue is the cell phone callers who do not stop and check, but call in and resources are now being sent. As an example, there was a gentleman last summer that there were 8 calls on in a single day, because he was simply moving with the shade.

Discussion followed on what type of policy and the power to make an informed decision.

- ✓ More DCRs to pair EMTs and DCRs. Difficult to find qualified staff. Comprehensive Mental Health worked with a plan for 2 years with EMS, but the program died due to lack of funding etcetera. Tony Miller added that this could fall under human services for Yakima County.

**11.** Next regularly scheduled meeting is 09:00 on May 10, 2023. In person is at the EMS Office in the classrooms. Zoom information will be forthcoming.

**12.** Aaron Markham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joel Byam. Motion passed.