



# 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

May 11, 2022

### 1. Open the meeting

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

### 3. Introduction of attendees:

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners	Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs
Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners	Amanda McKinney, County Commissioner
Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair	Tammy Pettis, Yakima EMS Council
Jim Lange, Fire Chiefs	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners

#### Board Members Absent:

Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director	Open, Mayors Association
Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs	

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

Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs
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#### Alternate Board Members Absent:

Dan Boyle, Fire Commissioners	Tim Smith, Fire Chiefs
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#### Department of Emergency Medical Services in Attendance:

Tony Miller, ES Director	Diane Koch, Office Specialist
Brian Ireton, EMS Operations Manager/Training Coordinator	

#### Guest(s)

NONE
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### 4. Open Public Input - none

**5. Communication** – will be done under old business

**6. Approval of minutes:** Les Riel made a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting and the Special Meeting held in March, seconded by Jim Brost . Motion approved.

### 7. Reports from committees/agencies

Tony Miller, ES Director reported:

- The Winter 2022 EMT – we finished in April. Eleven students have applied to take the NREMT exam, 9 have taken the exam and 7 of those have passed.
- Fall 2022 EMT Course – is open and we are taking applications. If you did not receive the announcement and application, send an email to Diane at [diane.koch@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:diane.koch@co.yakima.wa.us) and she will forward it to you.
- Review of draft policy EMT Initial Reimbursement – this will be for those students who are unable to attend the EMT course offered by YCDEMS. At this time, we have not heard how the Nile FD students have done in the Idaho course. Some of those students are still in the process of taking the course.



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Draft policy was reviewed, and the following suggestions were made:

- Set a cap on how much is available as otherwise this could affect the budget in a negatively. Discussion on how much this could possibly cost and what we would pay Nile FD, today, if all of their students passed. Currently with 7 students, it would cost \$3150 for the Nile FD. If all of the students we have been teaching a year, which is 25 to 30 students, it would cost between \$11,250 and \$13,500. Suggest that we have it say, "subject to funds available", rather than a set amount. That way we are not setting a number in a policy, but rather we can set number according to what is available when the budget is done each year.
- Suggest that it say, "Reimbursement **may** be approved by the EMS Administrative Board."
- The agency would need to attest that the person is unable to attend the Yakima County EMT course before they start any program. This could be done by email. Then the student would have to pass the course and NREMT before eligibility for reimbursement would be considered.

- d. Discussion on what should be done with the extra funds that YCDEMS found out about recently. We have held off on using these funds as we have talked about updating the priority dispatch from what is currently used, which is an old flip chart from the King County system which is no longer accredited. Erica McNamara, Director, SunComm, got a quote from Pro QA. The initial set up fee (it does integrate into Spillman) is \$156,177. After that year 2 and 3, is \$16,850 annual fee. Discussion followed on whether this is something we want to pursue while there are currently talks of a centralized dispatch. This is actually a "Call Taker" function, and it would go where we want it to go. The cost includes 12 different licenses, so this would be on 12 different computers. The licenses would be on the 911 computers, not on SunComm's computers.

There is a demo tomorrow for 911 Ops Board. Chief Craig, said that 911 does have some funds, but since this is for EMS, it would be an appropriate use of EMS funds. Commissioner McKinney this program would be coming out of the 911 reserves.

This group needs to agree that we have some stake in how 911 calls are prioritized. The current process, which is the King County flip charts has been identified as a problem and it slows our call taking down, which in turn slows the whole process down. As a board we should be looking at improving the way 911 calls for EMS are handled. Pro QA is currently used throughout the nation and is one of the top programs in the country.

Discussion followed on how the program works. It was decided to let the demos go through, have 911 determine if they are interested, and then have 911 make a request to the EMS Admin Board. 911 will be notified that there is potential funding available to help. There are currently no State grants available, but there are some Federal grants.

- e. Currently the EMS office has two grants, one has already been applied for and the second will be applied for soon. Firehouse Subs grant has been applied for, in the amount of \$41,325 for iSimulate equipment for training. We have not heard back yet. ARPA grant is being worked on and applied for 30 Lucas Devices, with an estimated cost of \$476,000. Discussion on whether to keep the grant, as is, and not have matching funds or to revise it to include matching funds. Discussion on why the Lucas Devices are needed and whether it should be the responsibility of the ambulances to carry the Lucas device and not the fire departments. Director Miller reminded everyone, that if you are doing CPR on a patient, the patient will not be placed in the ambulance nor transported until ROSC is achieved.



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Les Riel asked if Yakima County has any covid money left? Commissioner McKinney stated that there is no set amount, but the main point is that we are weighting the applications based on the overall percentage of the cost that the County is being asked for fund. For instance, an application that requests 100% is at the bottom and an application asking for 5% would be at the top. This doesn't mean that the application asking for 100% won't get some funds, but it would probably not be the whole ask, but rather just a portion. This is a 3 year process, so we are not going to allocate all of the funds this year. Discussion followed on what other factors are involved including weighing the good that it will do and who it serves – such as public health or public safety and/or infrastructure (water, roads as an example). Also, should also look for other funding sources, but if there is none, that should be included in the application.

Nathan Craig made a motion to amend the ARPA grant to include a 5% match to make it lucrative. Seconded by Les Riel. Motion passed, with Commissioner McKinney abstaining.

Also, we received our 2021 save rate for cardiac arrests this morning and it is currently at 46%. It was suggested to reach out to Physio Control for literature.

- f. We have been using the CARES program for compiling our data since 2012. AJ Fandrich, who has been working for us inputting the data and returning complied data and save numbers to us. In the Tri-Cities the agencies are inputting their own data and Mr. Fandrich is overseeing the program. Mr. Fandrich has approached us about having a contract to oversee our program, and having the agencies here input their own data. We are currently paying Mr. Fandrich about \$13,000 per year as an employee and he suggested a contact amount for \$12,000 per year. That would be approximately 30 hours' worth of work per month. It was also noted that Dr. Hodges is a great fan of cardiac arrest data and likes the work that Mr. Fandrich has been doing in the Tri-Cities, as well as in Yakima County.

Discussion around the expense vs what is the value of the data we are getting back. It was also noted that the State will be taking a look at the Cardiac/Stroke system at the State level, just like was done with the Trauma System. Further discussion followed on the fact that we still have agencies in Yakima County that are doing paper reports, because they either do not have access or can afford computers and access to the internet. This is why we are still lacking in data collection. Les Riel recommended that the board take no action at this time.

### **8. Old business – Dave Lynde reported:**

- a. Draft policy on how departments can be reimbursed for outside EMT courses for those students who are not able to attend the DEMS course – Tony Miller (see above, #7.c)
- b. Soursley Sound and Communications Update – Tony Miller we have not yet heard back from them. They are the only game in town, but we will try contacting them again. We may have to look at contractors outside of Yakima County.
- c. Estimated cost of running the levy and what the deadlines are for getting the levy information into the voters' pamphlet and on the ballot – Dave Lynde  
The County EMS levy follows the district standards and the deadline to have this on the ballot is August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Auditor's Office is unable to provide specific pricing, but they did indicate that the ballot in November, will be the cheapest option for quite some time as there is so much on the ballot this year.

We do have get approval from the City of Yakima Council to put our levy on the ballot, as they are



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the only city over 50,000 population in Yakima County. Commissioner McKinney stated she was available for any clarifications needed for getting the levy on the ballot.

We have recently discovered that passing a permanent levy would have the same limitations as every other levy. That would mean that the EMS levy is subject to the same limitation of 1% per year. We were originally under the impression that a permanent levy was not subject to the 1% limitation.

The options are:

- ✓ A permanent levy at 0.25/\$1000, which requires a super majority of 60%. This would mean the value would still decrease like it currently does. In order to go back to the full amount, you would have to do a referendum for a levy lid lift and the public would need to vote on it and it takes a 60% super majority to pass. There are some benefits of going with a permanent levy, mainly that you will always have your base pot of money and if you do go for a levy lid lift, if the voters say no, you will still have your base amount. Also, you can run a levy lid lift at any time that you wish, as there would be no sunset on the levy.
- ✓ Keep the levy at 0.25/\$1000 for 10 years this time, which requires a simple majority of 50% plus 1. Then in 9 years, decide how the economy looks and if we want to change the levy at that time, whether it be length or amount.
- ✓ Change the levy to 0.25/\$1000 for 6 years this time, which will require a super majority of 60%. Then in 5 years, decide how the economy looks and if we want to change the levy at that time, whether it be length or amount.

Discussion on the advantages of each option followed. Part of the discussion included taking this information back to the Yakima County Fire Chiefs Association and the Yakima County Fire Commissioners Association, as they had input in the original decision with the faulty information and if we take it back to both groups do we need to have a Special Meeting of the EMS Administrative Board. Both fire groups meet next week on Thursday.

Les Riel, made the following recommendation that this information and the board's recommendation in lieu of this new information and be taken back to both the Yakima County Fire Chiefs and Yakima County Fire Commissioners, "The EMS levy should be run at 0.25/\$1000 for a six year term. If both the Yakima County Fire Chiefs Association and the Yakima County Fire Commissioners Association agree with the board's recommendation, then the board will move forward with an EMS levy at 0.25/\$1000 for a six year term." Seconded by Aaron Markham. Motion passed (note Commissioner McKinney had left the meeting prior to vote)

### 9. New Business

- a. Nathan Craig reported that the EMS Levy Committee has the following officers:

Nathan Craig, Chair

James Lange, Vice Chair

Randy Raschko, Treasurer the account should be opened by Friday.

Nicole Parpart, Secretary

Chris Munson, PIO/PR

A calendar of tasks to be done monthly has been developed. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

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

11. Next regularly scheduled meeting is 09:00 on August 10, 2022. In person is at the EMS Office in the classrooms. Zoom information is:

Topic: Yakima County EMS Administrative Board



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Time: Aug 10, 2022 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3286626793?pwd=RTVSRDN2dkV1SDJjQ3A3b2dNdXFzZz09>

Meeting ID: 328 662 6793

Passcode: 655140

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**12.** Les Riel made a motion to adjourn, Jim Brost seconded by. Motion passed.