

# **Yakima County EMS & Trauma Care Council**



## **DECEMBER 2022 MINUTES**



**YAKIMA COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL**  
 2403 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Union Gap, WA 98903  
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**Yakima County EMS & Trauma Care Council**  
**Attendance Record for January– December 2022**

Agency/Department	Representative	Alternate	Feb		April		June		Aug		Oct		Dec	
			R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A
Consumer	Open	Open												
Medical Control	Kevin Hodges MPD	Designee					X				X		X	
Elected Official (Fire Commissioner/Mayor/City Council Member)	<i>Ken Eakin, Fire Commissioner, WVFD, Chair</i>	Danny Herrera, City of Yakima Council	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X
Law Enforcement	Open	Open												
Yakima County Training Officer's Association	Jim Johnston, WVFD	Open	X				X						X	
Yakima County 9-1-1	Erica McNamara, Director, SunCom 911	Angela Brown, SunCom 911	X		X		X		X			X		
Yakima County Department of Emergency Medical Services	Tony Miller, ES Director	Brian Ireton, EMS Ops Manager		X		X		X		X		X	X	
	Diane Koch, Secretary	None	X		X		X		X		X		X	

**UPPER VALLEY REPRESENTATIVES**

Agency/Department	Representative	Alternate	Feb		April		June		Aug		Oct		Dec	
			R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A
Fire Service	Ken Frazier, Glead FD	Jim Lange, Selah FD	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Hospital (Nursing Administration)	Tammy Pettis, YVMH	Jackie Wantland, YVMH	X		X		X				X		X	
Ambulance Service (alternate each year between ambulance services)	Dave Lynde, AMR	<i>Treena Russell, ALS, Chair-Elect</i>	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	

**LOWER VALLEY REPRESENTATIVES**

Agency/Department	Representative	Alternate	Feb		April		June		Aug		Oct		Dec	
			R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A
Fire Service	Tim Smith, Toppenish FD	Joel Byam, FD #5		X	X					X	X	X	X	
Hospital (Nursing Administration)	Jody Shively, Astria Sunnyside Hospital	Steve Bews, Astria Toppenish Hospital										X		
Ambulance Service	<i>Wayne Guckert, WSA, Past-Chair</i>	Ken Anderson, SSFD			X		X		X	X	X	X	X	

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Agency/Department	Representative	Feb	April	June	Aug	Oct	Dec
South Central Region EMS & Trauma Care Council	Zita Wiltgen	X	X			X	X
Yakima Health District – Emergency Response Coordinator	Nathan Johnson	X	X		X		

**It is the responsibility of the representative to contact his/her alternate when he/she is unable to attend the meeting.**

By-Law, Article III

- 1.1 Each seat will select one representative and one alternate to the Board of Directors. Each seat will be permitted one representative with one vote. Alternates vote in the absence of the regular representative. All members of the Board of Directors shall be selected prior to the annual meeting for the coming year.



**1. Roll call** with 11 members present, 10 representatives, 1 alternate and 1 ex-officio member. No alternates were voting at this meeting (Per By-laws Article V, Officers/Committee 5.0 Chairperson "The council Chairperson shall vote only in the case of a tie vote." Therefore, his/her alternate would be the voting member).

**2. Guests:** Kate Knutson, ALNW.

**3. Approval and correction of minutes.**

Dave Lynde made a motion was made to approve the minutes from October 6, 2022, and Jim Johnston seconded. Motion passed.

**4. Correspondence – Dave Lynde**

Jennifer Fox with EMS Connect sent an email to Dave Lynde and would like to present to this group. Tony stated it would need to go before the Admin Board and need MPD approval. Tony is not in favor it as it is canned training. Ken Eakin, Chair asked if anyone was in favor with no response. Dr. Hodges stated that they could either present to the OTEP committee or they could talk to Dr. Hodges.

**5. Committee Reports**

**Medical Control: Kevin Hodges**

The update ALS protocol quiz has been completed by the majority of paramedics in Yakima County. The few that have not yet completed the quiz are part-time/per diem providers and they know they have to successfully complete the quiz to operate as paramedics in Yakima County.

IFT Protocol revisions are being led by Scott Zachau and has representatives from all of the transporting agencies. Look for those to be coming out soon for those transporting agencies. These will be expanded protocols.

Dr. Hodges apologized for not giving the Council a heads up on the memo recently sent out. Over the last 3 years there have been an increasing number of issues integrating paramedics that have completed out of state programs and/or coming to us from other areas of the Country. The agencies have reported problems and a number of the paramedics have failed their probationary periods at several of the agencies. Trying not to add to the burden of the agencies, but additional on-boarding restrictions and requirements have been added including the Advanced Airway Class and some of the requirements of the Resuscitation Academy. Paramedics are coming in with no RSI training and you cannot learn this skill in the typical time period it takes to complete the current probationary period. This can be revisited as things change. Please let Dr. Hodges know if your agency needs something to mitigate the impact of the additional requirements.

Tony Miller notified Dr. Hodges that Astria Toppenish and Sunnyside, as of a week ago, notified everyone that as of December 16<sup>th</sup>, they will no longer be doing cardiac cases and are closing the cath labs. Discussion where the cut off will be for sending patients to either Yakima or to Prosser. Will need more air transport for patients. Tony will get further clarification and discuss with Dr. Hodges and Zita Wiltgen.



## Regional Council: Dave Lynde

- **Capacity Discussion-** Discussion on hospitals being at capacity, Most we are not at registered capacity but rather staffing capacity. Nursing shortage and floors being closed.
- **EMS Rulemaking** – EMS rules were opened November 2017. Thirty-three (33) sections in WAC 246-976 were opened to consider updates to align with current national standards, make regulations clearer and concise, respond to statutory requirements, streamline initial and renewal application processes for pre-hospital agency license and EMS provider certification. EMS held 40 stakeholder meetings between December 2017 and August 2022 which included review of the 33 sections, two new sections, and seven pieces of legislation that impacted rules. The EMS team updated the CR101 in May of 2022 to reflect the scope of new work due to legislation that had passed and revised the timeline for completion. Primary delay to rulemaking was the COVID-19 pandemic in which the EMS team was activated to the agency IMT and prioritized COVID work between March 2020 and March 2022. Final draft version rules will be available for you by end of this year. Anticipated date of updated effective rules is February / March 2023.
- **WEMSYS Rules:** Stakeholder meetings for EMS data system rulemaking concluded in March. The rules are in response to the amendment made to RCW 70.168.90 which requires licensed ambulance and aid services to report to the statewide data system. We are working on the draft for public comment then we'll move to CR-102 process. WEMSYS rulemaking timeline is aligned with the EMS rulemaking process timeline.
- **Trauma Rules:** In Fall 2021, the Department opened WAC 246-976-580 (trauma designation process). The intent of the revision is to set in rule clear requirements and criteria for assessing access to level I and II trauma services and to define criteria to determine which facilities can apply as a new level I or II trauma service. Six rule revision workshops have been conducted with broad stakeholder input. In addition, recommendations from the Min/Max workgroup were incorporated. The proposed draft rule was mailed out in August and again on November 2, 2022. It is also posted on the DOH Trauma Designation Rules [webpage](#).
  - A second updated rule draft will be distributed in November 2022.
  - The next Trauma Designation Rules Workshop will be on January 4, 2023 (10am-12pm).
  - Rule related comments can be sent to the DOH Trauma Designation Rules Public Comments email address at [traumadesignation@doh.wa.gov](mailto:traumadesignation@doh.wa.gov) or to [Tim Orcutt](#) and [Dolly Fernandes](#).
- **Cardiac and Stroke** The first round of 2023-2024 ECS recategorization will begin in February of 2023 with the North, North West, and West regions participating. The EMSC state partnership grant application was submitted, if awarded, the new project period would begin on 4/1/23.
- **Yakima MIN/MAX-** Prehospital min/max changes were approved by Regional Council. We will most likely be on the January Steering Committee Agenda.
- **Strategic plan-** Regional Council sent out the plan for review and comment. Comments need to be back by January 15 as approval will need to be done at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.



- **REDi (Regional Emergency and Disaster) Coalition-** Changes are coming. Nate Weed hosted a listening call to get feedback on REDi and things participants felt needed to be addressed moving forward.

**SunCom: none**

**Department of EMS: Tony Miller/Brian Ireton**

- The Fall EMT course has 8 students currently. The final written is on December 15th and the final practical are December 10<sup>th</sup>. The class started with 14 students, but several were not meeting the academic standards. Three of those students will be in the Winter course that is just starting.

Tony and Brian met with training officers Jim Johnston and Chris Munson, and we are looking at how we are doing our performance improvement program. If a student close, but not quite meeting the standards, then they will not take the final written exam, but will attend a refresher. Once the students have been through the refresher, then they will be allowed to take the final written exam.

- The 2023 Winter EMT Course has 22 students. Scott Zachau is the SEI in training and Brian Ireton is the main SEI. (This has since been changed to Gary Conn, as Brian is leaving.)
- The 2023 Fall EMT Course will have Cameron Haubrich as the SEI in training. Chris Munson will be the next instructor to become an SEI.
- OTEP finishing up the last few makeups. We are working on 2023 OTEP. Alex Langbell has filmed the first 2 modules (4 subjects) for 2023. He will be back in March to film the rest of 2023.
- One person from Nile Fire Department has taken the NREMT, but the results are not known at this time.
- We have hired 5 new instructors.

**Yakima Health District: none**

## 6. Old Business:

- A. Nominations Committee – Dave Lynde reported that the following are the nominations for Chair-Elect and Secretary: Ken Frazier is Chair Elect 2023 (Chair 2024) and Diane Koch will be the Secretary for 2023. Treena Russell as Chair for 2023.

Dave Lynde asked for any other nominations twice and hearing none, requested a motion to be made to accept the nominations as presented. Tony Miller made a motion to approve the nominations as submitted, seconded by Wayne Guckert. Motion passed.



- B. WEMISIS Data – Dave Lynde stated we are all putting data into WEMISIS but not getting anything out of it. The only thing we get out is cardiac save rates. Dave suggested that maybe this should be taken to the QI committee and see what issues are coming up repeatedly and then pull data from those areas to address training. Tony stated he watches the Narcan Data. Dr. Hodges, quarterly info WEMISIS, CARES, MPD office is looking at several factors. Compliance is variable. When the council has specific questions, Dr. Hodges can mine the WEMISIS data.

At the outcome TAC, the SC Region was low compared to the rest of the State (set KPIs).

## 7. New Business

- A. Reappointment of Tamara Pettis to YCDEMS Administrative Board as the Hospital Representative. Dave Lynde made a motion to reappointment Tamara Pettis to the YCDEMS Administrative Board as the Hospital Representative, seconded by Ken Frazier. Motion passed.
- B. Approval of Request for Reimbursement of Grant Funds from the Regional Council for OTEP from July 1 – December 31, 2022. These funds are paid directly to the Yakima County Department of Emergency Medical Services to help offset the expenses associated with OTEP program. Ken Frazier made a motion to approve the reimbursement, seconded by Tammy Pettis. Motion passed.
- C. Approval of Supraglottic Airway Course January 21, 2023. Dave motioned, seconded Tammy. Need names and email addresses.

8. **Good of the Order** – Tony Miller requested that we move the meeting time to 14:30 permanently, as he has another meeting that interferes with this meeting. Ken Frazier made a motion to move the meeting permanently to 14:30, seconded by Tammy Pettis. Motion carried.

## 9. NEXT MEETING – February 2, 2023, at 14:30

**In Person Location: 2403 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Classroom B, Union Gap, WA**

10. **Adjournment** – Dave Lynde made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Wayne Guckert. Motion passed.