

Yakima County EMS & Trauma Care Council



FEBRUARY 2023 MINUTES



YAKIMA COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL
 2403 S. 18th Street, Suite 300, Union Gap, WA 98903
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Yakima County EMS & Trauma Care Council
Attendance Record for January– December 2023

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											
Elected Official (Fire Commissioner/Mayor/City Council Member)	<i>Ken Eakin, Fire Commissioner, WVFD, Past Chair</i>	Danny Herrera, City of Yakima Council	X											
Law Enforcement	Open	Open												
Yakima County Training Officer's Association	Jim Johnston, WVFD	Open	X											
Yakima County 9-1-1	Erica McNamara, Director, SunCom 911	Angela Brown, SunCom 911												
Yakima County Department of Emergency Medical Services	Tony Miller, ES Director	Open, EMS Ops Manager	X											
	Diane Koch, Secretary	None	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										
Hospital (Nursing Administration)	Jackie Wantland, MultiCare Memorial	Sarah Downen, MultiCare Memorial	X											
Ambulance Service (alternate each year between ambulance services)	Dave Lynde, AMR	<i>Treena Russell, ALS, Chair</i>	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										
Hospital (Nursing Administration)	Jody Shively, Astria Sunnyside Hospital	Steve Bews, Astria Toppenish Hospital	X											
Ambulance Service	Wayne Guckert, WSA	Ken Anderson, SSFD												

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

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

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 12 members present, nine representatives, three alternate and one ex-officio member. One alternate was 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 and Aaron Markham, Yakima Fire Department.

3. Approval and correction of minutes.

Ken Eakin made a motion was made to approve the minutes from December 1, 2022, and seconded by Dave Lynde. Motion passed.

4. Correspondence – Diane Koch

Tammy Pettis has left YVMH and is now working with Prosser Hospital. She has been replaced by Jackie Wantland, YVMH.

Nathan Johnson, Yakima Health District, will be leaving on February 24th. He is leaving information for the person who takes his place to contact us to be put on our board as an Ex-Officio Member.

5. Committee Reports

Medical Control: Kevin Hodges

Dr. Hodges we have had a nice roll out of the new protocols and buy in from the providers and agencies.

Regional Council: Dave Lynde

The Regional Council did not meet this past month. However, there are several items to report on from the State.

Legislation:

➤ SB 5724 (HB 1271) The bill requires the department to issue a license for organ transport vehicles and services in consultation with the Department of Licensing. The law requires vehicle and equipment standards and directs the department to collaborate with the DOL to adopt rules to implement the new standards.

The bill allows organ transport services to use lights, sirens, signal preemption devices and HOV lanes to transport time urgent organs.

The bill prescribes standards for staffing which includes the required use of a current or retired EMS provider, firefighter, or law enforcement officer.

The bill prescribes employment parameters for employees working for organ transport services including background checks, driving records, driver training, general and automobile liability insurance, defines relevant terms related to organ transport, allows organ transport vehicles to use sirens and lights, signal preemption devices, and high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

SB Link: <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billsummary/?BillNumber=5724&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

HB Link: <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/1271%20HBA%20TR%2023.pdf>

➤ SB 5122_ - Extending the expiration date of the ambulance transport fund to July 1, 2028.

Link: <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5122&Initiative=false&Year=2023>



Rulemaking:

- EMS and WEMIS nearly complete. Currently working on the CR102 package.
- Trauma rules had a workshop on January 4th which concluded their stakeholder meetings for now. Two recent stakeholder suggestions were put forward for consideration, both suggestions had to do with considerations Trauma Level I hospitals.

Regional planning

- Steering Committee recruited for volunteer regional plan reviewers. South Central Region plan is nearly complete and set for approval at March meeting.

Health Equity Education

- The department held four (4) listening sessions and four (4) rule-workshops to help develop proposed rules for minimum standards for health equity continuing education. The proposed rules require completion of two hours of health equity continuing education every four years for all health professionals which includes certified EMS providers with a continuing education requirement. The proposed rules also require that the two continuing education hours include implicit bias training to identify strategies to reduce bias during assessment and diagnosis. This is anticipated to go into effect July of 2024.

Cardiac and Stroke study update

- Current work has the University of Washington reviewing interview syntheses and dividing it into four domains. The system is underfunded, lacks oversight, needs more active leadership by DOH, and lack of data infrastructure.
Recommendation to have cardiac system align with trauma system. A second survey instrument to gather feedback from EMS and hospital stakeholders is being developed. EMS survey likely to be sent out in February.
The first round of 2023-2024 Emergency Cardiac and Stroke recategorization will begin in February 2023 with the North, Northwest, and West regions participating.
- The Emergency Medical Services for Children state partnership grant application was submitted, if awarded, the new project period would begin on April 1, 2023.

Surge capacity

- Presentation by Dr Mitchell from the Washington State Medical Coordination Center on what we are doing well and what needs improvement.

DOH update

- Ian Corbridge gave a snap shot on hospital occupancy reporting that COVID 19 admissions were down, and flu admissions are continuing to decline including pediatric admissions.
- Anthony Partridge is has joined for the Trauma Designation position.



Provisional Certifications

- Draft rules were socialized with EMS stakeholders in July and August of 2022. The DOH EMS team worked with OCS and AAG (State Attorney General) to identify if EMS providers who satisfy all other licensing requirements and qualifications may receive a temporary practice permit (which is different than a provisional certification) while the national background check is completed - as authorized in 2013 for other professions under WAC 246-12-050 (RCW 43.70.040, 18.130.064 and 18.130.075). The decision came back that "yes" EMS can be included. Our credentialing team built the new credentials in ILRS for temporary practice permit and Dawn Felt worked with our credentialing team to develop the process for how a temporary practice permit can be requested and approved and this option was implemented in October of 2022. The anticipated date for provisional certification is March/April 2023 when updated rules are made effective.

RAC

- List of programs SEI and instructors is now available to Regional Councils.
- Course and program applications can be submitted via email with electronic signatures.
- Statewide instructor methodology course being developed with a goal of completion in April/May. It will be once a week for six weeks to obtain. They are developing a canvas website that all can use as a low cost equal access site through the state.
- National registry has increased its fee. The State still has some old vouchers available at the old rate, but they are working.
- New AEMT minimum competencies being developed for clinical and field requirements
- There are 5 new KPIs for Motor Vehicle Crashes.

SunCom: no report

Department of EMS: Tony Miller

- The Fall EMT course is completed. The course finished with seven students, and five of the students have passed NREMT. Four of the students have turned in their State paperwork. One student is fully certified, and the applications were mailed to the State for three students on January 30th.
We have reached out to the other 2 students to find out why they have not taken the test yet.
- The 2023 Winter EMT Course has 20 students. Two of the students are roll over from the last class. Tony has been coming in on Saturdays. The first comprehensive test was last Saturday. Out of the of the 20 student 16 passed the first time. The other 4 students have retaken the exam and have passed. The class is well engaged, and the class is doing well. This class will be done at the end of March. Scott Zachau is the SEI in training and Gary Conn is the SEI.



- Nile Fire Department sent some people through the Boise Idaho EMT program. Four people from Nile Fire Department, who took the have taken the NREMT and passed. One person has his Washington State certification. The applications were mailed to the State for two others. We are waiting on the State application from the last person. There are still one more that needs to complete the program and pass National Registry.

We also have 2 people from the Nile in our current EMT course.

- Two Advanced First Aid courses are being taught. One at West Valley with 10 students and one at Selah and East Valley FD combined with 23 students.
- We are planning another Advanced First Aid course for May for all of the other departments, and we already have a list of 15 people.
- We had an EMS Evaluator Refresher Course we had to cancel in December due to the weather. This has been rescheduled for April 1, 2023. Dave Lynde made motion to approve the course, it was seconded by Treena Russell. Motion passed.
- For 2023 OTEP Module 1 has been released in Ninth Brain.

Module 2 is in process of being completed.

Modules 3 & 4 will be filmed by Alex Langbell in March. When Alex is here in March, he is going to leave equipment with us, so we will be able to film everything ourselves, and then we will send him the SD card and he will edit the videos for us. Since Alex understand EMS and what we need, we do not want to lose him. He would be very difficult to replace.

- Brian Ireton's last day was officially January 31, 2023. His job has been posted and so far we have received 4 applicants and per Human Resources, none were qualified. Tony will be talking with HR and find out why they were not qualified. Also, HR closed the position and asked if we really wanted to fill. They have been told to reopen it and keep it open until the job is filled.
- RFP – we are not currently sure where it is at. I know that the Commissioners made a decision and there was a protest. It is now with County legal, and no information has been released as of yet.

Dr. Hodges – asked how much input or influence that this council has on the process and was told that the council does not have any. The process done by the County was to send out the RFP, get the proposals back and then send those to an outside consulting firm to do the scoring and make a recommendation to the County Commissioners. The contract was awarded and then there was a protest, which is allowable. Chief Lange was delegated by the Yakima County Fire Chief's Association to work with the County and the prosecutor's office on the RFP. Chief Lange has been assured by the county and the prosecuting attorney's office they are working on this, but it will not move forward to negotiations until the protest is resolved.



- Lucas Devices ARPA funds – As of last Tuesday, 2 of the 3 commissioners are in favor of this purchase. Commissioner Curtis was the only one not in favor. Tony has met with him explained what is needed within Yakima County for EMS. He now understands and this should hopefully move forward. He is also now on our Administrative Board.

Yakima Health District: none

6. Old Business:

- A. County Operating Procedures – Dave Lynde – the questions and changes that were sent back to us from the State were sent out to everyone for comment. No comments were received. The State wants us to spell out a hospital name, which ironically has just changed, so when this goes back in, the name will be changed. There were general questions on the vernacular that is common to our area such as Upper and Lower Valley and EMS Level II Transport. They asked who our Emergency Management was, and it was noted by Tony that the office name is Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management. We were directed to add a few specifics to infectious disease; specific guidance from the CDC and DOH. Including adding a question regarding travel question and to spell out ICO – Infection Control Officer. MCF – they were wondering why we abbreviated this and would it be confused with MPD. This will now be spelled out as Medical Control Facility. Dave would like to move these procedures forward if no one has any objections. Ken Eakin made motion to move forward with resubmitting the County Operating Procedures as amended by the State and Dave Lynde. The motion was seconded by Ken Frazier. Motion passed.

Dave Lynde reported that we are having conversations with regards to dispatch. There are calls being dispatched to EMS agencies that do not need to go to EMS agencies. For instance, they will go through their algorithm, and it will say to send law enforcement. But if law enforcement is busy or does not want to go, officers are telling the dispatcher to go ahead and roll EMS for something that is a police response and not an EMS response. They are sending EMS, when EMS has no business being there. The dispatch centers feel they an obligation to send somebody when someone calls and have made it clear they are going to send a resource.

Can we write a County Operating Procedure or County Operating Guideline identifying that dispatch does not have an obligation to send an inappropriate resource when someone calls 911. This is especially important if it is a law enforcement call and has clearly been identified by their algorithm as a law enforcement call. Basically, the dispatch centers feel they are liable, and they are wanting to pass that liability off on to EMS. If we do not provide direction from the County dispatch will continue with this process. This has also been discussed at the Fire Chief's meeting.



EMS has become the catch all for 911 calls. People believe that if they call 911, someone has to respond. While we all want to take care of our responsibilities, we do not put on comprehension socks or stretchy pants, nor do we trespass someone. EMS should not be sent on a domestic violence call when there are no injuries reported, particularly without law enforcement. This has gotten out of control with the recent changes with the law enforcement. We need to come together as a county and give dispatch guidance. They need to know that if it is clearly a law enforcement call and law enforcement is not available at that time, they need to tell the caller that their next officer will be available in 2 hours (this is an example). All welfare checks have now become the responsibility of EMS, even when there is nothing reported or suspected as wrong.

Discussion on finding other resources to assist callers who do not have a medical emergency and we can give dispatch more direction on what we how we want them to handle calls when resources are unavailable or limited. There are other areas in the State that have "black listed" people and they will no longer respond to them. This is not something we want to do.

Chief Jim Lange stated that there is a 911 Admin Board and Ops Board will be meeting a week from today and this will be brought up at this meeting. 911 Ops Board would be a better leader for this as far as the triaging, but we will still need a COP/COG for the dispatch side.

This will be left on the agenda for an update and further discussion.

B. Min/Max Number – Dave Lynde

The numbers that we submitted were reviewed today and there were some questions:
Questions:

BLS Ambulances – We had a minimum 2 and a maximum of 9, and we had zero BLS ambulance services. We believe these numbers were established when the system first started in 1991. We wanted to update these numbers and change it to zero minimum zero maximum BLS ambulances. The state wanted to verify that everyone understands that if someone decides that they want a BLS ambulance service, then it will take a plan change to change the numbers.

For our trauma verified BLS services, we took all of our minimum numbers down to 1 which is the minimum and the maximum of 16. If we have a minimum of 18 and only have 17, then someone applies it is an automatic approval by the State. If we have a minimum number of 1 and maximum of 16, and we only currently have 15, then we can review and decide whether we want to approve a new agency or not.

The state recommended we change from 0/0 to 0/1 so we could have growth if need it. We changed the term "research" to reviewing local historical knowledge of system in county.

The State would like an answer today, so this can be placed on the agenda for the March Steering Committee. Ken Eakin made motion to change our recommendation for BLS ambulance services to minimum of 0 and maximum of 1 per state recommendation, seconded by Treena Russell. Motion passed.



7. New Business

- A. White Pass Inc (Ski Patrol) has applied to reobtain their non-trauma verified ALS aid service. Their license expired in 2020. One side of the road is Yakima County, and the other side of the road (the lodge and ski slopes) are Lewis County.
- B. Fire District #3, Naches is having difficulty covering pass, units, and personnel. Approached County for a MAOU to cover the pass that is not in their district, which is 98% of the pass. The county has not gotten back with them. Starting 4/1/2023 FD#3 will not be responding to Highway 12.

8. Good of the Order – none

9. NEXT MEETING – April 6, 2023, at 14:30

In Person Location: 2403 S. 18th Street, Classroom B, Union Gap, WA
Zoom details will be published as soon as possible.

10. **Adjournment** – Ken Eakin made a motion to adjourn. Tony Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed.