EMS Administrative Board
February 13, 23026

1. **Open the meeting**

2. **Approval of agenda:** February 13, 2026, Les Riel made a motion to approve the agenda, Sam Glanzer seconded by. Motion passed.

3. **Introduction of attendees:**

Board Members in Attendance:

Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners	Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair
Kyle Curtis, County Commissioner	Jim Lange, Fire Chiefs
Sarah Dowen, Hospital Representative, Yakima EMS Council	Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs
Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners

Board Members Absent:

Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs	Mike Costello, Councilmember, City of Selah
Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director	

Alternate Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Boyle, Fire Commissioners	Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs

Alternate Board Members Absent:

Cameron Haubrich, Fire Chiefs

Department of Emergency Medical Services in Attendance:

Tony Miller, ES Director Diane Koch, Office Specialist	Chase Tucker, EMS Program Representative

Department of Emergency Medical Services in Absent:

Jeremy Rodriguez, EMS Ops Manager/Training Coordinator

Guest(s): Treena Russell, ALS

4. **Open Public Input – none**

5. **Communications – none**

6. Approval of Minutes for November 12, 2025 – Les Riel made a motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2025, Jim Brost seconded by. Motion passed.

7. **Reports from committees/agencies – Tony Miller**
   a. Emergency Medical Services
      - Fall EMT 2026 course, 6 have passed National Registry. The seventh student, with the help of DOH, has been able to finally sign up with NREMT to take his exam.

- Winter EMT course is going well overall. All students have passed the Comprehensive Test 1. They are completing skills sheets sign offs quickly.

- OTEP Module 1 complete. OTEP Module 2 is almost done. We need to have the last piece filmed and to edit it.

- The County has put in a hiring freeze, and a travel freeze in place for this year due to deficits in county the budget. We need to have this board's approval to send Jeremy Rodriguez and Chase Tucker to the Texas EMS Instructor Conference in April. The topics that will presented include "Harnessing AI to Transform EMS Education" and "Lost in Translation: Generational Language Gaps in EMS Education". It will cost approximately $3000 to send both to the conference.

  The other conference we want to send Chase Tucker to is the NAEMSE conference which is in August. This will help facilitate credentialing of office.

  This travel was already approved in the budget recommended by the Administrative Board and approved by the BOCC. Les Riel stated the minutes should reflect that this travel was already agreed to and approved of in the budget. A copy of the minutes will be sent to Brian Carlson, Financial Services.

- Tony Miller presented a proposal to move the EMS staff under the OEM umbrella. This would allow for better control of personnel, including payroll, accounts payable, human resources and liability. OEM is currently a member of the Association of Washington Counties and Cities. Possible start date would be January 1, 2027.

- A proposal has been made by the Sheriff's Office to move crime lab from Zillah to this building and to also put the "real time" crime lab in this building. The EMS and OEM offices would combine, which will save both departments money. The budgets will be kept separate, and the BOCC will still have the final say on budget approval for EMS. The OEM and EMS offices would move into the WSU space, which has the advantage that we would have a back door directly into the EOC build out, if the homeland security bill passes. There is 1.9 million earmarked in that budget for the EOC build out.

b. Ambulance Response Time Committee – Aaron Markham
Since our last meeting we have had 3 committee meetings. During the November 20th meeting Zone 2 was at 88.8% compliance for October. The committee, following the contract wording, initiated a recommendation to the BOCC of liquidated damages of $5,000. AMR has requested December 18th meeting the only zone out of compliance was Zone 5 with 82.4% compliance. We are still working on changes to this Zone. No compliance decision was made for November. January 15th meeting, the December compliance rate over all was 92.5%. Zone 5 is still out of compliance, but since the work of splitting the zone into an A and a B, no recommendation for liquated damages was forwarded to the BOCC. The Zone 5 recommendation to split the zone into an A and B, is still at county legal under review. Discussion on what type of area is in on Zone 5 rural, suburban, urban. Commissioner Curtis asked which of the options is recommended and it is option A.

c. Nurse Navigation Program – Dave Lynde
Dave Lynde presented a review of program from April 2025 – December 2025, by month. A comparison with Clark County was presented, as they started their program about a year prior to our program. One of the advantages that Clark County has is they are a bigger county with more

resources. Yakima County has very few resources to navigate people too, when they call 911.

Age of Caller Comparison – Yakima County a large population of over 60 callers to the 911 system. We do not seem to have the younger patients calling as much, compared to other counties.

GMR does call the patients who used the Nurse Navigation system to see how satisfied they were with the help received. We are currently at a 4.6 out 5. This data includes information on why the person called 911, including "Didn't know how else to get help" at 27.12%, "Transportation issues" at 22.03%, "Difficulty finding an appointment" at 3.39% and "Perceived it as a life threat" at 44.07%.

Telephony data was reviewed from December 2025:
102 calls
11 seconds average time to answer.
8 minutes on average time by the nurse on the call.
2 people abandoned the process and would not answer when calling back. Abandonment Rate started at 6.25% and is now down to 1.85%.

Some challenges using Uber Lift for transportation are that in Yakima County they are not always available and the patient must be able to take care of themselves and be ambulatory. MedStar could provide service, but it is not a fiscally feasible. People for People and Dial a Ride.

8. Old Business

a. Pulse Point – Tony Miller reported that it is moving forward. The county hired a new IT tech that works with Spillman. Testing is being conducted and it is working. We are hoping it will be up and running in the next 30 to 45 days.

b. Zone 5 Change – done above.

c. Review of Bylaws – Nathan Craig made a motion that the members reviewed the bylaws and reaffirmed that there have been no changes to the bylaws for 2026 and that the bylaws are understood. Seconded by Les Riel. Motion approved.
Nathan Craig, no changes to the bylaws, seconded Les Riel. Motion approved.

9. New Business

a. Officer elections – Nathan Craig made a motion to reelect Dave Lynde as Chair and Les Riel as the Vice Chair, seconded by Jim Lange. Motion approved.

b. BH Core Grant – Chase Tucker reported for Jeremy Rodriguez.
The grant contract must be signed by the BOCC. It is at county legal currently. It is scheduled to go before the BOCC on February 23rd for review.
We are currently working on a ¾ time position to help with the grant administration, tracking and teaching fire departments about the new program and what their role in the program will be. Jeremy is currently attending a meeting at a Triumph Treatment on drafting and formalizing a plan for contact afterwards or even during the call for patient follow up. Discussion followed on what services will be offered by EMS and what services will be offered by Triumph Treatment.

Whole Blood in the Field – a major difficulty for this program was finding a whole blood supplier. GMR/AMR has helped our county find a supplier. Once we have a supplier confirmed work, we will begin working with Dr. Hodges on the protocols for whole blood and a plan for training the paramedics.

c. August Zone 9 (White Swan) penalty appeal from AMR – Tony Miller
An appeal was received by AMR and all appeals must come to the Administrative Board for review. If AMR is not happy with this board's recommendation, then they can appeal to BOCC.

The appeal from AMR is based on the fact that had 1 more call been received in this area, then there would have been no penalty for Zone 9 in August. Some of the difficulties in this area have been worked through with better mapping and installation of tablets in all the ambulances. Based on the number of calls it fell into the highest penalty category of $5000. The request is to either move the penalty to the lowest level of $1000 or to dismiss it entirely. Since the contract started there have been 100 calls to the area, and less than half were transported. Jim Lange reported that the Ambulance Committee went strictly by the word of the contract and as stated by AMR one call would have tipped this the other direction. Nathan Craig made a motion to dismiss the penalty, seconded by Les Riel. Motion passed.

d. Response recommendations – Dave Lynde
We need to put together a comprehensive group, with as many as players from as many resources as possible to discuss calls we all respond on in the county. For example, sending an ALS ambulance to calls such as lift assists, police unavailable, DCR incidents, unknown injury accidents, iPhone alerts (some departments will not respond to iPhone alerts). We need better options, other than the default of "just send EMS", which is a limited resource, especially our ALS ambulances and fire department EMS.

We will ultimately need to write a comprehensive response plan/county operating procedure for our PSAP (public safety answering point). We will need input from as many different groups as possible, so we do not miss a piece.

There is no ask now, other than to start thinking about this. We will be working through this process through the County.

e. The November Board meeting falls on Veterans Day. It was requested to move to the meeting to November 4th. Nathan Craig made a motion to move to November meeting to the 4th, seconded by Les Riel. Motion passed.

10. For the Good of the Order – Chase Tucker

a. We are looking at a different company to edit and work on our videos. We are looking at a company that makes interactive videos. It should work with Ninth Brain. We are getting a free demonstration.

b. There is a new ordering system for YCDEMS, through the provider app. Chase showed new process and recommended that you order using a desktop, as it is easier than using your phone.

11. Meeting adjournment – Jim Lange made a motion to adjourn, Nathan Craig seconded by. Motion passed.

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