Yakima County EMS & Trauma Care Council

FEBRUARY 2026

M I N U T E S

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 2026

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)	Ken Eakin, Fire Commissioner, WVFD	Open	X											
Law Enforcement	Jim Moore, YPD	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	X	X										
Yakima County Department of Emergency Medical Services	Tony Miller, ES Director	Jeremy Rodriguez, EMS Ops Manager	X	X										
	Diane Koch, *Secretary*	Chase Tucker, EMS Program Representative	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	Jim Beattie, Gleed FD	Jim Lange, Selah FD	X											
Hospital (Nursing Administration)	*Sarah Downen, MultiCare Memorial, Past-Chair*	Dede Feddema, MultiCare Memorial	X	X										
Ambulance Service (alternate each year between ambulance services)	*Dave Lynde, AMR Chair*	Treena Russell, ALS	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	Joel Byam, FD #5	*Cameron Haubrich, SSFD, Chair-Elect*	X	X										
Hospital (Nursing Administration)	Jody Shively, Astria Toppenish Hospital	Brian Patrick, Astria Sunnyside Hospital	X	X										
Ambulance Service	Wayne Guckert, WSA	*Cameron Haubrich, SSFD, Chair-Elect*	X	X										
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS														
Agency/Department	**Representative**		**Feb**		**April**		**June**		**Aug**		**Oct**		**Dec**	
South Central Region EMS & Trauma Care Council	April Borbon		X											
Yakima Health District – Emergency Response Coordinator	Andy Wilson		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 22 members present, 12 representatives, 8 alternates and 2 ex-officio members. 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**: Aaron Markham, Yakima Fire Department.

3. **Approval and correction of minutes**.
   Ken Eakin made a motion to approve the minutes from December, Wayne Guckert seconded. Motion passed.

4. **Correspondence – None**

5. **Committee Reports**
   Medical Control: Kevin Hodges
   The final barriers for blood products and buprenorphine projects are being worked through. We are working on timely implementation of these. We plan on starting the training for the paramedics.

   Thank you to Jeremy Rodriguez for helping secure funding and training for the projects.

   The MPD contract is currently at the County BOCC and we are waiting for signatures.

   Regional Council: Dave Lynde
   - **Steering Committee**
     - **DOH Legislation:** The legislative session will end on March 12th. There have been many changes at the federal level and a significant fiscal shortfall at the state level which has created a "challenging fiscal environment." The governor's budget has focused on cuts while maintaining priorities. There is no new revenue for OCHS/ECS.
       Other bills include:
       HB2326 EMS levies: https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2326&Year=2025
       SB6037/HB2224 Fire Protection Districts:
       https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6037&Initiative=false&Year=2025 and
       https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2224&Initiative=false&Year=2025
       HB2383 Involuntary Treatment Act:
       https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2383&Year=2025
     - The office's priority work includes finishing the TSA, the Rural Health Transformation Plan, ECS fiscal stability for the 2027 legislative session, the Trauma Trust Account, HELMS, WISPP, the EMS workforce assessment, and Trauma Registry support.
     - **DOH Rulemaking:** Dawn Felt, reported that they are working on rulemaking for the 16-year-olds receiving EMS training; they will move to the CR102 phase on this work next month.

- **DOH Trauma Service Assessment:** Jim reported that they are working on next steps with the governor's office for the Trauma Service Assessment; there is no date for publication of the TSA yet. They are preparing for the education part of this project. The TSA will be updated every two years so they will begin planning for the next update soon; the next update will include EMS.
- **DOH Trauma Registry:** There was no funding approved for the trauma registry, so they are looking at other funding options "plan c". ESO will sunset soon, but they have not received notification of this yet. They will be given 18 months' notice when the sunsetting of the program will occur and it will take a year to transition over to another system.
- **Hospital TAC Annual Report:** The Hospital TAC gave their annual report. Ihsan Mahdi gave a presentation on hospital performance measures including outcomes for adult risk-adjusted mortality, and KPIs for level III hospitals including transfer times and length of stay times. He noted that some of the KPIs had data problems.
- **Rural Health Transformational Plan Grant:** At the end of December the Governor announced that the state received $181 million from the federal Rural Health Transformation Program for FY2026. Twenty-two of Washington's counties are considered fully rural and the rest of the counties have parts that are rural. According to the website, Washington will use the funds to:
  - ✓ Develop community-based health care options to help rural residents access the right level of care at the right time.
  - ✓ Invest in the health of Native families.
  - ✓ Invest in technology that increases efficiency, access and quality in Washington's rural health care system.
  - ✓ Help rural Washingtonians get specialty care and monitor chronic conditions.
  - ✓ Investment in long-term solutions will give rural Washingtonians better access to high-quality specialty and emergency medical care.
  - ✓ Grow, train and maintain the health care workforce in rural Washington.
  - ✓ Expand and sustain Washington's rural behavioral health system, to decrease the strain on rural hospitals and school-based behavioral health care services.

➢ **RAC**

- **Region Roundtable:** Each region talked about the work they are doing—grants, min/max numbers, TSA, pre work for the next trauma plan, etc.
- **DOH Updates:** The legislative session will end on March 12th; this is a budget reconciliation session. The bills they are watching include:
  - ✓ HB2232 creating a single data repository for cardiac, stroke, and trauma data
  - ✓ HB2382 tobacco excise tax bill; taxes on vapes and other tobacco products would fund a time-sensitive emergency account and also fund cardiac/stroke work
  - ✓ HB2110 specialty care transport bill would allow nurses to do interfacility transports on an ambulance without being certified as an EMS provider
  - ✓ HB2261/SB6166 healthcare provider ID (badges on uniforms, etc)
  - ✓ HB2383 would allow EMS providers to transport involuntary patients to behavioral health facilities
  - ✓ HB2540 EMS provider certification would be on a three-year schedule; after 10 years of certification they would need to recertify every six years
  - ✓ HB2351 protecting EMS providers

- ✓ SB6102 QA fee for private ambulances

- **OD2A:** Jill reported they are working on the OD2A grant. They used data to choose areas in each region with the most opioid overdoses to target with this grant project. They contracted with 16 agencies around the state and provided $500,000 to fund these projects. She read the list of agencies/projects for this grant.
  The DOH will be offering an intro to motivational interviewing course; this will be a 10-hour, 4-module course.

➢ **South Central Regional Report**
- Adopted a reserve policy to support funding our EMS grants and administrative costs.
- Reviewed behavioral health PCP. Will look to approve next meeting.
- Reviewed Trauma Triage PCP and was approved with edits requested by the State.
- Officer elections were help No changes to current executive board.

SunComm: Erica McNarama

- Nurse Navigation – it is trending better and fewer calls going back into the 911 system. We are still a little higher than the national average. Most of the people using the Nurse Navigation are in the 60 – 70 year old range, which is different than what is found nationally.

- PulsePoint – Now that the county has a new CAD administrator we are working on system integration.

Department of EMS: Tony Miller/Jeremy Rodriguez/Chase Tucker

➢ Fall EMT Course – 7 out of 6 have passed. The one who has not passed had to work through issues with his National Registry account.

➢ Winter EMT Course – There are thirteen students in the class. On the first comprehensive test 11 students passed on the first try. The students are actively engaged in class. The class average is 94%.

➢ Grant – Triumph Treatment working out details on how to make the buprenorphine program work. EMS will administer the initial dose at the scene and then Triumph will come afterwards and offer further treatment to patients. We plan to start the program in June. All the medics in Yakima County will need to be trained and we need to inform all the fire departments of the new program and what role they will be filling.

➢ OTEP – 2026 OTEP has been rolled out. We are working on the rest of the modules for this year.

➢ Chief Haubrich asked about the IM protocol for Narcan. He was assured that he can implement the IM Narcan with memo from MPD office, as long as training is completed.

➢ Protocol review starts again in June 2026.

Yakima Health District: Andy Wilson
No update currently.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business: None

8. For the Good of the Order: None

9. NEXT MEETING – April 2, 2026, at 14:30

Yakima County Department of Emergency Medical Services is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Yakima County EMS & Trauma Care Council 2026
Time: April 2, 2026 02:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Every 2 months on the First Thu, 6 occurrence(s)
June 4, 2026 02:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
August 6, 2026 02:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
October 1, 2026 02:30 Pacific Time (US and Canada)
December 3, 2026 02:30 Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Monthly: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEtdOCoqTIrGtypidzWT7yzhvGHa8kp8DDh/ics?icsToken=DDEag6e8U-DePscQ4AAALAAAAL_20gnXvx9dd0EwR9r2lBW-WcUysScY97nhUzzyWTALIZt7v3w3J9DzEXpWvF4QZWO7O508fvHDzZvdSzAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=RrALjatvQ_yipkfpc6zCYQ
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85039079108?pwd=c3YV3TZ7tAWwzbPRub9rpzNwiuEC2S.1

Meeting ID: 850 3907 9108
Passcode: 159561

One tap mobile
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+12532158782,,85039079108#,,,,*159561# US (Tacoma)

Join instructions
https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/85039079108/invitations?signature=2blLMtE8u6JVyNqhvCJOJzz3jBOzog5YwwJknVJE6kI

10. Adjournment –Wayne Guckert made a motion to adjourn, Ken Eakin seconded. Motion approved.