



Emergency Medical Services
Technical **Advisory Board**
January 16, 2019
Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Hilley, *EMS Manager*

Vacant, *Paramedic Training Provider*

Chief McLane, *WCETCC*

~~Dr. Marvin Wayne, *Medical Program Director*~~

Division Chief Rob Wilson, *What-Comm Dispatch*

=not present

Asst. Chief Bill Hewett, *City of Bellingham*

Asst. Chief Dean Crosswhite, *Fire District 7*

Chief DeBruin, *WC Fire Chiefs Assoc.*

Scott Ryckman, *MSO, Bellingham Fire Dept.*

Vacant, *Hospital – Medical Representative*

STAFF PRESENT:

Tawni Helms, *WC Administration*

GUESTS:

MSO, Ben Byoko, *WCFD #7*

Chief Duncan McLane, *Fire District 11*

WELCOME:

M. Hilley welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 7, 2018 minutes were accepted as submitted.

2019 TAB Work Plan

Board Chair, M. Hilley reported on prioritization for the TAB in 2019 through subcommittee work.

Several priorities will require more aggressive work to accomplish and would benefit from the efforts of a subcommittee or working group to focus energy towards the desired goal.

Subcommittees were identified.

EMS Levy Planning Work Group

M. Hilley prioritized this subcommittee by stating the work necessary to plan for the next levy must begin now. He would like to re-energize the previous EMS Levy Planning work group to build off their success. He's hoping there is continued interest from the members that participated before.

Work will include staging for the next ballot. Develop a web presence so information can be tracked. We need to begin telling our story now and engage the public.

The Community Paramedic Subcommittee

This subcommittee began meeting fairly regularly last year, but meetings subsided with staffing paramedic staffing challenges. M. Hilley stated that he would like to prioritize this work and resume the meetings soon. During the break, a number of positive steps had been accomplished with the start of the GRACE program, the award of performance based funding through the Accountable Community Health (ACH). Funding between \$50-70k will help fund the GRACE program while allowing for expanded opportunities to build on the Community Paramedic program. M. Hilley made a recommendation for the Community Paramedic program to begin meeting weekly or bi-weekly to accomplish the work.

Staffing limitations were identified. Bellingham Fire voiced the reality of staffing roadblocks. They are currently short paramedics and are in the midst of filling vacancies. The additional need for a community paramedic can only be addressed when funding has been ensured through contract. Timing is also a critical component, as B. Hewett reported on the short window they have for hiring. Once that window is closed Bellingham Fire Department's next hiring opportunity won't be until Fall 2019 or Spring 2020.

Discussion ensued regarding the length and time involved with processing contracts between the City and County. With limited time frames for hiring there may not be enough time to meet respective council timelines. This was a critical point as it relates to the hiring window for Bellingham. More importantly, the scope and deliverables must be developed to amend the contract. The subcommittee would help to shape that. M. Hilley would like to take an aggressive approach to ramping up the community paramedic committee meeting schedule. The development of an amendment to the current ALS Service Agreement to include an expanded scope and deliverables for the Community Paramedic Program is critical. The amendment would also address the Equipment Exchange deliverables.

Questions were raised about the budget and available funding. There is 2019 – 2020 budget authority for the community paramedic program.

Medic Unit Placement

There is opportunity to use newly available data, a 5 year CAD lookback as well as scenario software to determine system needs. Both Whatcom County and Bellingham's EMS data analysts believe they have the capacity to generate and analyze enough data to assist the subcommittee in developing recommendations for medic unit placement. It would be a valuable step forward to making these data driven decisions. Data and analysis will take into account access and location to the freeway, trains and barriers, economic forecasts, construction rates to name a few.

Dispatch Billing Group

As announced at the last Board meeting, the What-Comm group has received the consultant reports for and has recommended the creation of a steering committee to evaluate and assess the report. Additionally, they are working on the revising the current Interlocal agreement to ensure equity for both Fire and Police. Division Chief Wilson also reported that the dispatchers are looking at the Quality Assurance part of the process to become accredited through ACE. They are currently in the process of accreditation through the International Academy of Dispatch which should be completed by year end.

This work group will work with the What-Comm Steering committee and report back to the TAB.

MPD and MSO Group

M. Hilley expressed the unique opportunities to be gained by bringing these professionals together. There are 6 Medical Directors currently involved in our EMS system. He recommended quarterly meetings where information and processes can be communicated. M. Hilley will initiate this subcommittee with the Doctors and the MSOs.

Paramedic Advisory

This subcommittee will continue the work necessary to ensure and fulfill accreditation of the program.

BUDGET FINANCE UPDATE

M. Hilley provided a brief update on the yearend financials stating they were good and on track. A full, comprehensive report will be provided to the TAB and EOB at the March meetings.

EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE

As per reported above this component will be clarified in the pending ALS contract amendment.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC / GRACE

As reported above M. Hilley has prioritized this effort. With the startup of the GRACE program, and many agencies now working in collaboration, there is energy and momentum to bring another community paramedic into the EMS System.

IMAGE TREND UPDATE

After some considerable haggling with ImageTrend, the CrewSense feature has been made accessible. The contract will be increased to reflect this additional cost.

WHAT-COMM BOARD UPDATE

M. Hilley reported that the 2019 What-Comm budget has increased by \$250k due to a 17% increase in call volumes. This will result in a \$1M dollar expenditure increase through the life of the levy. A Medical Incident Report (MIR) must now be completed for all dispatch calls. Clarification was requested whether or not this financial increase was in addition to the 2018 increase absorbed resulting from two new FTEs. Yes, this is an additional increase. M. Hilley said the landscape has changed since the development of the budget for the EMS Levy. However, when expenditures increase reductions will have to be considered and made elsewhere in the budget. Training grants should be pursued through AFG and Workforce development. Other efficiencies should also be researched.

Chief Wilson reported that WHAT-COMM is putting together a financial workgroup for the What-Comm Prospect project

TAB VACANCIES AND MEETING SCHEDULE

There are two current vacancies on the TAB with the departure of Therese Williams who served in the Paramedic Training position and the Brian Wilson who served as the hospital representative. Names were suggested and it was agreed that applications for applying would be distributed.

The 2019 meeting scheduled was confirmed for the first Wednesday of every other month beginning in January. Outlook meeting notices will be forthcoming.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2019 (2:00 – 3:00) TBD

Standing Agenda Items:

- EPCR update
- Community Paramedic Update