



Emergency Medical Services Technical Advisory Board

800 Chestnut Street
Online/Virtual Meeting
January 10, 2024
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Minutes

Board Members:

David Pethick, *BFD Asst. Fire Chief,
City of Bellingham*
Marvin Wayne, *WCEMS Medical
Program Director*
Mike Hilley, *WCEMS Administrator*
Hank Maleng, *Whatcom County Fire
Chiefs Assoc.*
Captain Rob Stevenson, *Paramedic
Training Coordinator*

Jerry DeBruin, *WCEMS&TC*
Dan McDermott, *BFD Division Chief of
Prospect Dispatch Center*
Scott Ryckman, *BFD MSO*
Susie Johnson, *PeaceHealth Medical
Rep.*
Ben Boyko, *Asst. Fire Chief, Dist. #7*

Board Members not Present:

Marvin Wayne, *WCEMS Medical
Program Director*

Also Present:

Diana Clinch, *WCEMS*
Ben Russell, *WCFD7*
Larry Hoffman, *WCFD7*

1. Welcome & Confirmation of the November 8, 2023 Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes by McDermott approved and seconded by DeBruin no objections, minutes approved unanimously.
2. 2024 TAB Work Plan Hilley
Hilley opened up dialog to talk about what TAB should work on in 2024 and where we would like to go with some of this work. Hilley mentioned the list that the TAB work group put out for 2024 EMS levy priorities and work plan. DeBruin thinks we should continue to keep talking about the ALS recommendations. Hilley asked what the team thinks our EMS office should prioritize or work on in 2024. DeBruin thinks we should come back in March with ideas and just work on the ideas we currently have for our office. McDermott would like Hilley to email the 2023-2028 EMS levy priorities and work plan so everyone can look it over and come back with some good feedback in our next meeting. Hilley asked the

group if there was anything else anyone wanted the EMS office to put on their radar or work on for the new year. No feedback was given from the group at this time. Hilley mentioned the conflicts with TAB and EOB meeting dates and wants to know if we should change the meeting dates due to the conflicts. Maleng would like the meetings moved due to the conflict dates. Hilley's recommendation is the first Wednesday of every other month. DeBruin in agreement with changing the dates and Hilley will send out the new meeting dates to the group.

3. Medic Unit Deployment Criteria Comm. Russell
McDermott stated that on the minutes from the last TAB meeting Russell stated that they will not have any information until about February by then they will have twelve months of data.
4. BLS Contract Update Hilley / Maleng
-BLS Allocation Preparation
Hilley said this is sitting with attorney's office due to language he hopes to have this back for the February council meeting to get this moved forward.
5. Paramedic School Report Ryckman
New class just started, Ryckman said not a lot of feedback as this just started but looking forward to a new year.
6. Medic Unit Housing Hilley
Hilley has no updates as of today but will work on getting updates soon.
7. Good of the Order
Susie Johnson said there is lots going on in the emergency room. Covid numbers not high just the normal patients coming in. Hilley said the opioid epidemic is getting worse and council is sending a letter to the governor to have a state of emergency hoping to open up some funding. The letters should be going out to the governor this week. If anyone has recommendations or ideas send them Mike's way and he will bring them up to the MAC group. Ryckman asked what are the politicians looking for EMS to do. Hilley mentioned what Seattle is doing to help and the facilities they are offering. 9 million dollars received to Whatcom county to help with services for mental health and opioid but will take 3-5 years to open. They are hoping they can do something before that opens maybe some sort of program where we can take patient's somewhere after they get out of the hospital like a warm hand place to help with services. Also, a medical navigator at the hospital to help with overdoses. Not sure what they are wanting from EMS at the moment right now maybe some ideas. Boyko spoke about how can we get our patients to go to the facilities they can go and get help how we can change our approach or protocols. DeBruin says patient refusal has gone up dramatically since Narcan he thinks it has saved a lot of lives

but he doesn't think that patients will say yes to any sort of services. Boyko doesn't think EMS will be able to transport these opioid patients he feels like it would be law enforcement that would have to be doing that transport.

Meeting Adjourned