[WHATCOM COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL]

April 27, 2026

General Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Gary Baar, Treasurer
Justina Bass, WCFD 16
Dawn Cannizzaro, WCFD 17
Rachel Carlson, WCFD 1
Steven Cohen, WCEMS
Scott Crowe, WCFD 18
Marc Davis, Lynden
Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14
Kassie Harkness, WCFD 16
Mike Hill, WCFD 8
Robert Howery, WCFD 17
Steve Larsen, BFD
John Lewis, BFD
Erica Littlewood, Mt Baker Ski
Sam Llobet, Mt Baker Ski
Kelley O'Connor, Cascade
Scott Painter, WCFD 7
Heather Ripke-Olson, WCFD 14
Ben Russell, WCFD 7
Jennifer Squire, SWFA
Becky Stermer, SJPH
Kristie Watson, Lynden
Jeremy Wilson, STS
Dwight Worden, Cascade

Guests: Robin Stimac, SJPH
Nichole Boyer, SJPH
Noa Harwick, SJPH
Sean Roberts, BFD

CALL TO ORDER: President Jerry DeBruin called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Whatcom County EMS & Trauma Care Council to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 2025 minutes, stand as written with the correction of Gary Baar's last name.

REPORTS:

Executive:
The Executive Board reviewed one council membership application and one CQI committee application and recommends approving both. Recommends approving a yearly raise of CPI-W + .5% for Andrea.

Marc Davis, 1st VP, will be reviewing the bylaws and is looking for volunteers to help him.

Finance:
As of March 31, 2026
Checking: $16,644 Savings: $56,370 Capital Group Investment Account: $434,484

Education:
The last education committee meeting was held on April 16th. A subcommittee will work on scenarios for the 2027 OTEP.
A Cadaver Lab will be held on June 1 & 2. EMTs will have a chance to sign up and observe.

Cadaver Lab Funding Proposal
Sean Roberts presented a proposal for a biannual cadaver lab in Whatcom County, seeking support from the Whatcom County EMS Trauma Care Council. The proposed lab would involve 5 donors per session, occurring twice yearly. It would be available to both BLS and ALS providers across the county, as well as registered nurses at PeaceHealth St. Joseph. Sean requested the council's help in securing grant funding, managing the grant, and understanding potential EMS levy funds that could match donor contributions. The estimated cost for the program is $80,000 per year, similar to Kitsap County's program. PeaceHealth has $10,000-$12,000 in trauma funds to contribute.

Howery/Squire: Motion to support Sean's proposal was approved.

CQI:
Held a CQI meeting last week. Discussed KPI's and reviewed a CPR call.

Injury Prevention:

Teen Heart Screen: Fall screening has not been planned.

Pulse Point: Ben R. will look into who is managing users for verified responder.

Car Seats: Two classes were held in March. 9 new techs were added to Whatcom County, bringing the total to 39 technicians in the region. There will be a class next week on Orcas.

Safety Fair: Erica requested that the council provide a one-day blanket insurance policy.

Injury prevention committee: Robin and Erica announced the formation of a new injury prevention work group that will be co-chaired by both of them. The group will report on state and regional injury prevention efforts as well as local Whatcom County initiatives, with different agencies scheduled to present at future meetings. Robin shared updates from DOH on e-bike safety regulations and pediatric window fall prevention. Erica discussed the distribution of bike helmets from a recent grant, with approximately 100 helmets still available for community distribution.

Hospital:
Becky S. reported on construction progress, increased trauma activations over the weekend, plans to add a third CT scanner, and ongoing efforts to address Teen Target Zero and elderly fall prevention.

TAB:
Ben Russell presented the metrics to be used for planning purposes.

Unfinished Business:
AED's for youth sports fields: reach out to Robert if you'd like to help.

New Business:
The council approved a recommendation for Andrea's yearly raise of CPI-W + .5% (4.3%)

The Council Membership application for Kelly O'Connor and the CQI Committee Membership application for Jonathan Oliveira were approved.

Scott Painter was elected Council President.

Justina Bass was elected 2nd Vice President.

Good of the Order:

Appreciation was expressed to Erica Littlewood for her contributions to the council over the years. Also, thank you to Jerry for his years of service as council president.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:32 pm