

General Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Brian Atkins, WCFD 1

Gary Baar, Treasurer

Dawn Cannizzaro, WCFD 17

Rachel Carlson, WCFD 1

Steven Cohen, WCEMS

Marc Davis, Lynden

Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14

John Granger, WCFD 11

Kassie Harkness, WCFD 16

Mike Hill, WCFD 8

Robert Howery, WCFD 17

Rick Kowsky, Cascade

Steve Larsen, BFD

John Lewis, BFD

Michael Lish, WCFD 11

Erica Littlewood, Mt Baker Ski

Sam Llobet, Mt Baker Ski

Mitch Nolze, SWFA

Scott Painter, WCFD 7

Brian Prince, Airlift NW

Heather Ripke-Olson, WCFD 14

Jennifer Squire, SWFA

Jason Van Der Veen, NWFRS

Jack Warner, WCFD 8

Kristie Watson, Lynden

Dr. Marvin Wayne, MPD Emeritus

Dr. Ralph Weiche, MPD

Dwight Worden, Cascade

Guests: Jim Petrie, WCFD 17

Robin Stimas, PHSJ

Kelly O'Connor, Cascade

CALL TO ORDER: President Jerry DeBruin called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Whatcom County EMS & Trauma Care Council to order at 7:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 2025 minutes, stand as written

REPORTS:

Executive:

The Executive Board reviewed one CQI membership application, one education committee application and recommended approving both.

Discussed the proposed updated council mission statement.

Finance:

As of Sept. 30, 2025:

Checking: \$11,535 Savings: \$81,146.74 Capital Group Investment Account: \$444,542

Education:

Protocols have been approved. Protocol read receipts are due by Nov. 30th.

CQI:

CQI meeting was held on October 14th.

A case was presented, and an MCI event in D7 was discussed.

The hospital is interested in working with EMS to create a pre-hospital blood program.

Regional Council:

At today's meeting, Mike Hilley described to the N. Region Executive Board and the Executive Board of the West Region how combining the two regions would work.

MPD:

At the hospital, bicycle crashes are the second leading cause of trauma in the county, having surpassed motor vehicle collisions. They will collaborate with public outreach regarding bicycle accidents.

Pulsara is running internally, but a prehospital component is needed. The current focus is on STEMI's.

The state wants the AEMT and EMR protocols integrated into the Whatcom County Protocols. Steve and Alyssa are working on updating the protocols.

Nov 11th Awards ceremony at the hospital to hand out life-saving awards to hospital staff who volunteered at the Bellingham Bay Marathon and used CPR and AED to save a bystander.

Hoping to have a cadaver lab in the fall.

Injury Prevention:

Teen Heart Screen was held at Ferndale High School on October 2nd. The total number of patients seen that day was 188 (171 students and 17 adults). 132 were healthy, 7 had abnormal EKGs, and 29 kids received echoes. One was sent for an urgent primary care referral.

Car Seats: A child passenger safety technician training course was held at Skagit County FD 6 on October 22-24. The next class will be in February on Orcas Island.

Erica L. is seeking funding to purchase more car seats. Becky S. has indicated that PeaceHealth could contribute.

SafeKids Whatcom County needs a lead agency.

Fall Prevention: PeaceHealth is adding information about community resources for fall prevention in their discharge instructions in Care Connect and flyers in the waiting room.

Distracted Driving: Robin S. has been working to get the Teen Target Zero program into more high schools. Teen Target Zero's main focus is on new drivers, distracted driving, and seatbelt use. Carr Lanham is the regional contact.

Injury Prevention: Mitch Nolze will work on getting the injury prevention group back together. Robin would like to be a part of that.

Stop the Bleed: The 4 classes for 2025 were completed. The dates for 2026 have not been set.

TAB:

The EMS Levy budget was discussed.

Unfinished Business:

Opioid grant: waiting for update from media company.

WCEMS has applied for a grant for opioid education training.

BFD has done their first field administration of buprenorphine and their first referral.

There are multiple presentations on buprenorphine on RescueHub and WCEMS YouTube channel.

Nolze/Cannizzaro: A new mission statement, along with four essential activities of the council, was approved.

A discussion took place on the youth AED committee identifying additional fields that could use an AED. Michael Lish will be joining the committee. Robert will come back in January with some locations.

New Business:

Megan McCarthy-Williamson's applications for the CQI Committee and Education Committee were approved.

A new printer for the council office was approved.

Good of the Order:

Nolze discussed a DSHS emergency closure of an adult family home where the patients ended up being transported to the ED.

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