

**General Committee Meeting**

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Committee Members in Attendance:

Chad Baar, Lynden  
Gary Baar, Consumer  
Mel Blankers, WCFD 1  
Dawn Cannizzaro, WCFD 17  
Denise Christensen, WCFD 14  
Matt Cook, WCFD 16  
Marc Davis, Lynden  
Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14  
John Granger, WCFD 11  
Michael Hilley, EMS Manager  
Susie Johnson, PeaceHealth, guest  
Kris Jorgensen, NWFRS  
Emily Junck, BFD

Rick Kowsky, Cascade  
Janice Lapsansky, WCFD 7  
Erica Littlewood, Mt Baker  
Sam Llobet, Mt Baker  
Greg Macy, WCFD 1  
Duncan McLane, WCFD 11  
Omar Mejia, WCFD 18  
Jim Petrie, WCFD 17  
Scott Ryckman, BFD  
Becky Stermer, PeaceHealth  
Rod Topel, SWFA  
Dr. Marv Wayne, MPD

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**CALL TO ORDER:** President Duncan McLane called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Whatcom County EMS & Trauma Care Council, held at station 31, to order at 7:02 pm.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 2019 minutes, stand as written

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**REPORTS:**

***Executive:***

The executive committee has not met since the last council meeting.

***Finance:***

\$457,836 in cash and investments

***Education:***

Platforms to replace EMS online are being looked at.

Tyler Nielson, from RMI (Remote Medical International), gave an impressive presentation.

Evaluator classes were discussed.

### **CQI:**

Dr. Gary Goldfogel was a guest at the meeting and had several points he wanted shared.

1. categories of **non-natural death** that need ME investigation (15% of deaths in Whatcom Co); another 15% NJA (non-jurisdictional authority)
  - Suicide
  - Homicide
  - Undetermined
  - Therapeutic/medical “misadventure”
  - Accident
    - Exceptions are GLF >70 (most die within 12 mo)
2. Autopsy begins as soon as EMS pronounces the patient dead; do nothing as soon as patient is declared dead; ask ME if unsure
  - Lines, bags, devices, tubes, etc. are left in place; identify (e.g. circle) marks made by EMS to distinguish b/w marks made by patient or others
  - Similarly, EMS should report any injuries caused by interventions
3. Discussed damage done by LUCAS device (time dependent); **remove ASAP** after ceased efforts; placement **too high or too low** on sternum increases chances of sternal/rib fractures
4. Let ME's office know when new devices are introduced into the system, e.g. i-gel
5. Dr. Goldfogel invites any and all interested EMS to observe autopsies.

Logistics of releasing EMS from death investigation scene are being discussed. Make sure ME is notified immediately to hasten the release.

An additional CQI planning meeting was held where it was agreed that the current CQI Plan needs to be updated. The current plan is from 2010 and was revised in 2015.

### **Regional Council:**

The patient care procedure for alternate destination was approved.

Puget Sound Trauma and Emergency Medicine Conference will be held in Everett on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **MPD:**

There have been 11 uses of Nitrous Oxide in the county since the pilot program started. Results will be presented at the state MPD meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The new national guidelines are out. It reinforces that CPAP is a BLS skill.

***Injury Prevention:***

There will be a DUI Drill at Mount Baker HS on May 15<sup>th</sup> alongside SCFD 14 and WCFD 1.

May is Trauma Awareness Month

Blaine HS held a Teen Heart Screen. They had 130 students registered and screened 232 teens.

There was one heart valve defect and one WPW.

One young person confided they were not safe at home so they were able to get protection for them.

There will be a Safety Fair on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

***TAB:***

Sending a recommendation to the EOB for a budget amendment.

Plan to solicit the working group members for levy.

The Paramedic school is going well. Looking to fill next one soon.

***Hospital:***

Trauma designation survey was held on March 6<sup>th</sup>

They were impressed with EMS engagement.

The official results will be available on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Updated modified trauma criteria to include patients on anticoagulants with head injuries.

Trauma activation drills are being held once a month. The next one is on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.

Let Becky Stermer know if you are interested in participating.

Susie Johnson is creating an EMS equipment closet.

***EMS Admin:***

EOB approved the budget and it will be taken to the council next.

They have been taking the Grace team around the districts and introducing to chiefs.

GRACE has been starting to work cases out in the county. GRACE will reach out to those in need even if only had one 911 call, whereas in the city they are focusing on those who have had 8-10 calls.

***ImageTrend:***

There is a comment section in Nitrous report for responders or patients to add additional information.

**Unfinished Business:**

Injury prevention grant: M. Hilley has a list of fall prevention equipment to purchase.

PulsePoint/Stop the Bleed grant: The Hospital needs stop the bleed instructors.

Will be doing that in the next 4 weeks.

Hoping to offer classes to the public this summer.

There will be a teacher conference at Semiahmoo in October to teach Stop the Bleed.

PulsePoint Rollout: Starting to spend money and have advertising to put up.

Agencies: Please gather names of people that want to participate.

**New Business**

The Travis Alert Act that passed last year requires all responders to have training.

The training is on the council website ([www.whatcomcountyems.com](http://www.whatcomcountyems.com)) under *News/ Training*.

**Elections:**

Erica Littlewood will serve another term as Secretary and Denise Christensen will serve another term as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

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**Good of the order:**

Glacier now has a LUCAS device.

The Chief's association bought a trailer. It is stored at station 41 and Chief Hofman will schedule reservations.

FARS is paying for CAD- I AM RESPONDING. It is similar to PulsePoint but is agency specific.

It can be used for messaging, to see who is responding, has a mapping program, etc.

It will be a supplement to pagers. FARS is paying the onetime fee of \$ 10,000. Prospect is putting the annual maintenance fee in their budget for the CAD interface. Agencies with above 100 calls/yr will pay \$600/yr to subscribe; fewer than 100 will pay \$300.

With no further business the meeting is adjourned at 8:03pm