

Education Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14
Ben Boyko, WCFD 7
Mike Hilley, EMS Manager
Duncan McLane, WCFD 11
Scott Ryckman, BFD

Ryan Provencher, BFD
Tony Melillo, SWFA
Michael Lish, WCFD 11
Chris Carleton, WCFD 5

CALL TO ORDER: Jerry DeBruin called the regularly scheduled Education Committee meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 2020 minutes, stand as written

REPORTS:

North Region:

The North Region meeting last week had a short agenda mostly about adjusting finances. Also talked about working through Covid through an executive point of view and the number of Covid cases at each hospital were shared.

The deadline for the North Region grant application is September 25th. There will be less funds for next year due to fewer fundraisers. Ideas for grant included fall prevention equipment or education into trauma.

The question was asked whether we could use grant money for BLS evaluator courses. Council would sponsor an 8-hour BLS evaluator class, open to the region. 3 yearly courses, fall, winter and spring in order to increase the numbers of BLS evaluators.

Look into providing workshops for SEI's.

Training Officers Report:

Tony M. is making schedules for the recruit academy. Still like the idea of 2 fire based EMT classes against BTC or RMI.

TAB:

Moved items over to EOB for action:

-Community Paramedic position at Bellingham was going to be cut, so now the levy will cover all 3 community paramedic positions. Start Jan '21 for BFD and recommend WCFD 7 funded through the end of the levy period.

-ALS 360 program: tagged onto that the BLS gurney portion.
Purchase 62 power load cots for all BLS, ALS and reserve units.
Technology side will purchase Life Pak 15 and Lucas devices, stair chairs, life net and code stat systems and maintenance agreement. It will be 5-million-dollar expenditure over 10 years.

-Increase size of GRACE and Community Medics teams-talk about deploying a crisis response unit in the county which would include a police officer, social worker and a paramedic. 12 hours a day/7 day a week to work the county's SUD calls.

All of the above will be going to council on Aug. 5th.

Crisis Stabilization Center-divert as much as 75% of SUD and mental health calls over to this facility. Would perform a field medical clearance of some sort and offer alternate destination.

Looking at Pioneer Services for SUD and Detox Center and Compass for the mental health side.

Center is supposed to be open by end of September, but may will be closer to November. Working on how to get reimbursement for alternate destination.

Need nursing staff to make sure EMTs and police are not going back over there after dropping patients off.

Setting up a once a month review system.

Snohomish has protocols and training materials they have shared. Mike H. has also toured their facility. Whatcom County protocols have a higher acuity levels to them for diversion.

Hospital:

Leadership actions have not improved in regards with integrating health information systems. Proposal was pushed up to their informatics leadership team about the health information exchange program. Didn't fit their top 10 priorities for information projects so they shut it down. Back to ground zero for how to get them to integrate better.

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Old Business:

Two of the older manikins have been located by SWFA and WCFD 14. Will get those to District 7. One is still missing.

DeBruin forwarded an updated patient referral form to all the chiefs. Until we get clarification use community paramedics as your resources.

New Business:

Protocol test: 228/635 completed. Wayne agreed to extend deadline to August 31st. Will send email to each agency with provider list of incomplete tests.

Rescue Hub eventually should make changes to Whatcom EMS when agencies make changes. Recommend setting up a Q&A meeting with Jeff Wigal. Send questions prior to meeting.

EMScconnect integration is still being worked on.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm