

Education Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Brian Atkins, WCFD 1
Dawn Cannizzaro, WCFD 17
Steve Cohen, WCEMS
Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14
Jody Engels, WCFD 7
Mike Hilley, WCEMS

Michael Lish, WCFD 11
Heather Ripke-Olson, WCFD 14
Becky Stermer, PH
Dr. Marv Wayne, WCEMS
Dwight Worden, Cascade
Guest Kilmeny Miller

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 2025 minutes, stand as written

Kilmeny Miller is the new Overdose Prevention Specialist with the Response Systems Division of the Whatcom County Health Department. When the ImageTrend button is used, referrals go directly to Kilmeny, and she will contact the person within 72 hours.

Be generous with referrals.

REPORTS:

North Region:

The last meeting was on July 10th.

Approved a credential change and update for the Hamilton Fire Dept.

The Opioid grant funds were sent out.

Catie Holstein gave an update on the DOH budget. All regions will see 40 to 50% in funding reductions. There will be a pause on all grants throughout 2025.

The North Region council has achieved a balanced budget with \$31,000 in its account.

N. Region is looking to either hire an executive director part-time or contract with another region, most likely the western region.

The executive board will meet on August 7th and will decide which option to recommend to the regional membership in September.

Training officers:

The BLS Evaluator class held last Saturday had 6 students.

3rd quarter OTEP is on RescueHub.

Meeting with DOH on July 29th to review the protocols.

There has been a lot of Handtevy use. If your department wants your staff to have it or wants it on your iPads, contact Steve C.

Reminder: System training videos are on RescueHub and also on Whatcom County's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@wcems800>

Multiple recommendations were made to encourage agencies to invite Dr. Welch, Dr. Weiche, and Dr. McNeilly to your agency for free CPR training.

CQI:

No meeting next week. Will meet again in October.

TAB:

The last TAB meeting was held on July 2nd.

The finance committee, along with Jim Hallett, the Citizen Rep, gave a presentation to the tab.

Chief Pethick presented a proposal to expand the paramedic school. Would like to increase the student number to 20. A proposal was made to increase the tuition rate from \$30,000 to \$50,000 for outside county students. BFD would need \$200,000 more to run the school with 20 students. Will move on to EOB.

EMS Foundation is sponsoring a free event on Sept 25th at Bellingham High School.

This is a community presentation called PSD 9-1-1

The producer, Conroy Weaver, will be in attendance, with outreach tables for mental health for first responders, as well as food trucks in the parking lot.

A panel discussion will be held following the video presentation.

Spouses/partners are encouraged to attend.

Ben Russell reported on metrics for determining when a new paramedic unit might be needed.

Made a motion to include a rule to have a fire department chief be part of the conversation.

Chief Maleng was volunteered for the position.

Hospital:

Starting on July 29th, the west entrance will be closed. The ED entrance won't be affected.

The Trauma Quality meeting was held this week, and kudos go out for the great pre-hospital care.

July 24th will have a Trauma Simulation drill reviewing hypothermia-drowning patients.

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Need to resurrect the radio system. Will be checking into the situation.

More Vital signs being done prehospital have been going well, and PH appreciates it.

Communicate clinical observations well to NTLs.

Unfinished Business:

Steve C. is working on the opioid response video. They still need an EMS crew to film a simulated overdose and a community paramedic interview. If anyone is interested in helping with B-roll, such as crews checking their vehicles, contact Steve Cohen.

New Business:

Credentialing: removing barriers for out-of-state reciprocity by not requiring the NREMT test.

BTC will be offering Fall, Winter, and Spring EMT classes.

RMI has a shorter EMT class, and WCFD 11 is willing to do an abridged, shorter class.

Good of the Order:

Whatcom County EMS Council and the EMS Foundation are supporting the PTSD 9-1-1 event on September 25th.

Pat Ellis will be present.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm