

General Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Brian Atkins, WCFD 1

Gary Baar, Treasurer

Justina Bass, WCFD 16

Rachel Carlson, WCFD 1

Steven Cohen, WCEMS

Marc Davis, Lynden

Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14

John Granger, WCFD 11

Kassie Harkness, WCFD 16

Robert Howery, WCFD 17

Steve Larsen, BFD

John Lewis, BFD

Michael Lish, WCFD 11

Erica Littlewood, Mt Baker Ski

Sam Llobet, Mt Baker Ski

Megan McCarthy Williamson, WCFD 19

Heather Ripke-Olson, WCFD 14

Ben Russell, WCFD 7

Jennifer Squire, SWFA

Becky Stermer, SJPH

Dr. Marvin Wayne, MPD Emeritus

Dr. Ralph Weiche, MPD

Dwight Worden, Cascade

Guests: Susie Johnson, SJPH

Jim Petrie, WCFD 17

CALL TO ORDER: President Jerry DeBruin called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Whatcom County EMS & Trauma Care Council to order at 7:04 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 2025 minutes, stand as written

REPORTS:

Executive:

The Executive Board reviewed two council membership applications, three education committee applications, and recommends approving all.

The Executive Board recommends donating \$2500 to the EMS Foundation in support of the September 25th PTSD presentation.

Discussed updating the council's mission statement. A committee to work on the statement will consist of Marc Davis, Robert Howery, Megan McCarthy Williamson, and John Granger. Contact Marc if you would like to join the committee.

Finance:

As of June 30, 2025:

Checking: \$10,969 Savings: \$81,024 Capital Group Investment Account: \$421,678

Education:

Meeting on July 29th with DOH to get an update on the Protocols.

CQI:

No meeting was held in July; the next meeting will be in October.

Regional Council:

Funding will be reduced.

MPD:

Dr. Weiche, Dr. Welch, and Dr. McNeilly are arranging quarterly meetings with representatives from the Chiefs Council.

Working on material for public dissemination about the buprenorphine projects going on around the county, for EMS distribution, and for the clinics around town.

Dr. Weiche will meet with Dr. Lorna Gober, CMO for St. Joseph's, to discuss improving relationships with the hospital.

PTSD Conference on September 25th at Bellingham High School for all providers and spouses/partners in Whatcom County. Registration will open on August 1st.

Dr. Wayne, Dr. Weiche, and John Taussig have put together a 4-part Wilderness Medicine Course. The first class will be on November 4th and will be open to all healthcare providers.

Injury Prevention:

Teen Heart Screen: The next Teen Heart Screen will take place at Ferndale High School on October 2nd.

Car Seats: A child passenger safety technician training course will take place at Skagit County FD 6 on October 22-24. Erica L. is seeking funding to purchase more car seats. Becky S. has indicated that PeaceHealth could contribute.

Fall Prevention: PeaceHealth is adding information about community resources for fall prevention in their discharge instructions in Care Connect. PH will be focusing on fall prevention at the Lummi Safety Fair.

Distracted Driving: SJPH will attend the teen target zero event at the police department and will plan an event based on the training.

Stop the Bleed: The next class will be in October.

TAB:

The EMS Levy budget was discussed.

A proposal was made to increase the number of paramedic students from 10 to 15-25 students.

Opioid Response: Have implemented a referral process to Kilmeny Miller, an Opioid Response Specialist. Check the box on ImageTrend to refer.

Hospital:

The West entrance to the hospital is closed. This should not affect access to the emergency department.

Tabletop wildfire code triage drill will be Oct. 9th

WC:

Mike Hilley retires on October 1st. The new EMS Manager has not been announced yet.

Unfinished Business:

Opioid Grant: Filming starts tomorrow.

New Business:

A committee to work on the statement will consist of Marc Davis, Robert Howery, Megan McCarthy Williamson, and John Granger. Contact Marc if you would like to join the committee.

The Council Membership applications for Scott Painter and Jason Van der Veen were approved.

Education Committee Membership applications for Jeff Sluys, Dwight Worden, and Tony Melillo were approved.

Motion was approved to fund \$2500.00 for the PTSD presentation taking place on Sept 25th

Good of the Order:

Gurneys should be arriving on August 11th

WCFD 14 is hosting an annual open house on August 17th

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:01 pm