[WHATCOM COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL]

July 27, 2026

General Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Justina Bass, WCFD 16
Marc Davis, Lynden
Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14
Kassie Harkness, WCFD 16
Mike Hill, WCFD 8
Robert Howery, WCFD 17
Steve Larsen, BFD
John Lewis, BFD
Sam Llobet, Mt Baker Ski
Phil Magistro,
Megan McCarthy Williamson, WCFD 19
Mitch Nolze, SWRFA
Scott Painter, WCFD 7
Heather Ripke-Olson, WCFD 14
Ben Russell, WCFD 7
Jen Squire, SWRFA
Becky Stermer, SJPH
Dr. Ralph Weiche, MPD
Dr. Emily Welch, Supervising Phys
Jared Wilhite, Border Patrol
Jeremy Wilson, STS
Dwight Worden, Cascade

Guests: Sean Roberts, BFD
Robin Stimac, SJPH

CALL TO ORDER: President Scott Painter called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Whatcom County EMS & Trauma Care Council to order at 7:06 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 2026 minutes, stand as written

REPORTS:

Executive:
Nothing to report at this time.

Finance:
As of June 30, 2026
Checking: $7,040.84 Savings: $66,462.58 Capital Group Investment Account: $514,227.65

Education:
County waiting for update on protocols for AEMT. Airlift working on stroke and trauma protocols. Possible whole blood to be introduced to county EMS. Looking at the future use of Handtevy. East County September EMT class has 12-14 applications.

CQI:
Monday's meeting focused on patient refusal of care presented by Dr Welch. Standard KPI's were also discussed.

Regional Council:
Nothing to report

MPD:
Whole blood grant, coordinating with hospital and blood bank. DR Welch is working with DOH on hemorrhagic virus and EMS response. Coordinating preplanning efforts with Bellingham airport for annual exercises. Working with Bellingham Mountain Rescue to establish protocols and treatment.

Injury Prevention –

Injury Prevention Committee: Robin Stimac stated the North region is offering 50/50 grant bike safety. Nolze/DeBruin motion to match funds up to $4000.

Teen Heart Screen: Nothing planned yet.

Pulse Point: Nothing to report

Car Seats: Tech class in October in Skagit County.

Fall Prevention: Nothing to report.

Teen Target: Nothing to report

Hospital:
In the process of modifying trauma activation and updating criteria. Stroke program won gold level award. Becky Stermer is retiring end of summer. New Assistant Medical Director is Dr. Rush.

WC Administration: Nothing to report

TAB:
Nothing to report

Unfinished Business:

AED's for youth sports fields: Robert Howery asked for $3,000 from the committee to support half of the $6,000 needed. Motion made by Marc Davis and seconded by Jennifer Squire to fund the $$3,000 once the remaining $3,000 is secured.

SafeKids MOU: Nolze/DeBruin motion to evaluate SafeKids MOU for risk at e-boards discretion.

Cadaver Lab: Cadaver lab October 5th and 6th at WCFD 7 Station 46, registration going out soon.

Cadaver Program – Sean Roberts is asking for $13,000 to fund future cadaver lab programs. Motion made by Chief DeBruin and seconded by Robert Howery, motion passed.

Bylaw Revisions: Marc Davis presented Bylaw changes, amendments, and corrections for approval. Chief Nolze made a motion to approve, Chief DeBruin seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business:

MPD Status: Council sent a letter of recommendation to DOH for Dr. Welch to become MPD. Possible 9/1/26 start date.

MPD Organization: Looking to move MPD under council at beginning of the year?

Council Meeting Time: Chief/President Painter discussed moving meetings to 2pm. Motion made by Chief Debruin to move meetings to Mondays at 2pm, motion passed.

Handtevy: Survey went out to agencies to determine who was using it on a regular basis and only two agencies using handtevy at the BLS level. It was decided to eliminate it at the BLS level.

Good of the Order:

Congratulations on your retirement, Becky!

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:28 pm

Next meeting is Monday October 26th at 2pm at Station 46.