



# Council Meeting

**September 6, 2023 - Zoom Meeting Minutes** (recorded)

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**Attendees:** Aaron Karejwa, Anne Nesbit, Ben Miller Todd, Brad Flexhaug, Brian Ritter, Chris Clem, Clark Waffle, Deborah Woolard, Frank Kirkbride, Jacob Woolman, Karmela Palmer, Kevin Heindel, Lila O'Mahony, Louisa Schreier, Marty Cozart, Mike Dumas, Norma Pancake, Peter McCahill, Russ Wilhite, Shelley Kelly, Steven Slater, Todd Carson, Tom Carroll, Wendy Hill, Wendy Rife, Yvonne Sparacio. **Stakeholders/Guests:** Adam Rovang, Carmen Lewis, Claire Johnson, Gena Kriener, Hailey Thacker, Joey Rodrigues, Kele Murdin, Kristopher Basil, Lora York Mariah Pedde, Mark Blaney, Peter Corier, Scott Williams, Shelley Briggs. **WREMS STAFF:** Greg Perry

**Call to Order:** Dr. Lila O'Mahony, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.  
**A quorum is present for this meeting (50% of members).**

## WREMS COUNCIL BUSINESS

**Approve 9/6/23 Agenda:** Today's Draft agenda was approved unanimously without corrections or objections. Motion to approve was made by Chris Clem and seconded by Clark Waffle.

**Approve 6/7/23 Council Meeting Minutes:** The 6/7/23 Draft Council meeting minutes were unanimously approved without corrections or objections. Motion to approve was made by Kevin Heindel and seconded by Clark Waffle.

**Update: WREMS Report to DOH (Exhibit B):** Greg Perry, Executive Director of WREMS presented Strategic Plan updates from the FY23 Period 1 (exhibit B). This report is the first deliverables report for the fiscal year and therefore there is not much to report on. He displayed the spreadsheet and reviewed the information and then stated that we will see more activity as the year progresses.

**Update: FY 23 Prevention Grants** – Greg Perry provided an on-screen chart showing the FY24 approved Grant recipients. A total of 13 applications were received and the review committee discussed all applications and then made decisions to fund all or part of 10 that are listed on this matrix. All have been notified and contracts have been sent out for signature. It was also stated that this year, we were able to provide funding to all 5 counties in the West Region.

**Update: FY23 County Contracts** – Greg Perry provided an on-screen matrix showing the current progress of all county contracts/service agreements. First deliverables reports are due November 15, 2023.

**Financial Report:** Chris Clem (secretary/treasurer) presented current financial information which includes:

<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$69,182.53</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$8,216.56</b>
<b>Prime Share</b>	<b>\$127.77</b>
<b>CD'S</b>	<b>\$102,359.52</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$179,886.38</b>

Chris then presented the information on the Certificates of Deposit. Previously, we placed \$100,00.00 into a 7-month CD at 4%. This CD expired and the Board moved to rollover the entire amount into a new 9-month CD at 4.5%. The new CD should mature in April 2024. The below chart shows the expected return.

### WREMS - 9 MONTH CD - TWIN STAR CREDIT UNION

#### ESTIMATIONS AT 4.5%

	<b>ROLLOVER</b>	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>9-MTH TERM</b>
<b>#</b>	<b>INVESTMENT</b>	<b>RATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	
145567-47	\$ 20,469.37	4.50%	\$921.12	\$76.76	<b>\$690.84</b>
145567-48	\$ 20,469.37	4.50%	\$921.12	\$76.76	<b>\$690.84</b>
145567-49	\$ 20,469.37	4.50%	\$921.12	\$76.76	<b>\$690.84</b>
145567-50	\$ 20,469.37	4.50%	\$921.12	\$76.76	<b>\$690.84</b>
145567-51	\$ 10,234.69	4.50%	\$460.56	\$38.38	<b>\$345.42</b>
145567-52	\$ 10,234.69	4.50%	\$460.56	\$38.38	<b>\$345.42</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$102,346.86</b>	4.50%	\$4,605.61	\$383.80	<b>\$3,454.21</b>
					<b>\$105,801.07</b>

Chris then reviewed the current YTD budget noting that the final financial report for FY23 will be delivered at the next Council meeting as it is still being reviewed by the accountant. Chris also mentioned that we are starting to spend funds on the EMS Conference which is scheduled for May 2024.

#### **Council Committee Reports:**

- 1. WREMS Executive Board** – Lila O'Mahony reported that the Board continues to meet monthly to review financial information. The Prevention Grant Application information and the County Contracts were also discussed. She also mentioned that Greg has secured a credit card system that will be used for the EMS conference. Another topic is that volunteers are needed for the Conference. Attendance at the Cardiac and Stroke meetings was also discussed as membership and attendance very weak at the last several meetings.

2. **TED – Kevin Heindel:** Kevin reported that the TED committee continues the work on plans for the EMS Conference which is scheduled for May 17-19, 2024. The committee continues to meet twice a month to stay current and on top of the many details.
3. **MPD – Dr. Waffle:** Dr. Waffle reports the MPD's are still discussing cross-county communications and will continue that discussion at their meeting later today. They are also looking at code-stroke and how/when those patients are transferred in and around the West Region.
4. **IVP – Marty Cozart:** Marty reports that the committee requested DOH to present at the last meeting on West Region injury and violence data. Two DOH representatives provided detailed information for the group. He also stated that Russ Wilhite was elected as the new Chair for the committee. Dr. O'Mahony asked if they could share the DOH data with Council members. (Greg has been asked to send this information to the Council members.) Norma Pancake asked if the committee will continue to provide presentations on IVP at the EMS conference (Friday morning). Kevin Heindel added that he will touch base with Norma off-line.
5. **REHAB – Jacob Wollman:** Jacob report that they continue to work with Rehab without Walls, and they are eager to work with the West Region. Home based therapy programs are available for adults and pediatrics. There is also a newer agency in the Region – Luna PT. They currently only offer PT but plan on adding OT in 2024. There are also a number of home health agencies in the Region that are struggling. National Rehab Week is Sept 18-24, 2023.
6. **Trauma QIF – Wendy Rife** reports that at the last meeting, Airlift NW presented on Tourniquet use in the field. Lessons Learned include; 1) its hard to second guess why decisions are made in the field, 2) placement can improve mortality and 3) patients don't always fit into a box. Therefore, we should always use our clinical judgment. Dr. Paul Inouye was voted as the new Chair and Wendy Rife and Dr. Tony Escobar were voted as Vice Chairs.
7. **Cardiac QIF – Ben Miller-Todd** reports that at the last meeting, Jeff Bambrick was voted in as the new Chair. The next meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup>. During the last meeting Jenny Shin presented CARES data for the West Region. The region is (Ustein criteria) at 42.5% compared to the national average of 33% for 2022. (Ustein criteria looks at non-traumatic arrests where resuscitation was attempted and were witnessed and shockable.)
8. **Stroke QIF – Gena Kriener** reports that the last meeting was on June 12<sup>th</sup> where DOH reported on current data for our KPI's. Most are at or above the state average. LAMS data was very high (55%) but she mentioned that there was no LAMS reporting prior to this. The committee continues to struggle with attendance and has not had a quorum at the past 2 meetings. The committee continues to make contact with regional hospitals and EMS agencies, in an effort to influence higher attendance at future meetings. EMS attendance has improved. At the next meeting, Lifeflight will be presenting a case study dealing with transportation of a patient with LVO.
9. **Healthcare Preparedness – Mariah Pede (NWHRN)** reported that they continue to monitor the stressors in health care and that WA state situational awareness brief (state-wide) is sent out every Thursday. This is an extensive report and if interested, please

contact Mariah ([mariah.pede@nwhrn.org](mailto:mariah.pede@nwhrn.org)). They are also looking at a coordination meeting restructure process. A survey was sent out to help gather information. Pacific County is hosting an active shooter MCI exercise later this month. The DMCC is also involved with this event and will test patient transportation across state lines. A communications exercise is being planned for the end of October.

**Old Business:** None

**Presentation: Otago in the home – Kele Murdin:** Kele presented updated information about the Otago program she has been involved with for years. This is a return/follow-up presentation that the Council requested the last time she presented information. Murdin Therapy has also just been awarded a partially funded Prevention Grant from the West Region. Otago is a set of 17 exercises. Over time, by participating in this program, they have seen a reduction of fall by about 47%. People interested in this program can contact Kele at: [murdintherapy@gmail.com](mailto:murdintherapy@gmail.com).

**County Reports:**

**Grays Harbor:** Louisa Schreier reports that they still have staffing issues with paramedics and EMT's. Two districts are joining together (district 7 will be taking over district 16). Protocols are scheduled to be delivered to the state by the end of year. Funding allows them to host EMT, IV tech and EMR classes.

**Lewis County:** Dr. McCahill reported that there is a lot of education going on. Centralia College will have an EMT class this Fall and a second course in the spring. This Fall, there will also be an Advanced EMT class. He also reported that Lewis County is one of the only counties in the state with 100% reporting to WEMSYS.

**Thurston County:** Ben Miller-Todd stated that Dr. Conway has been added as the MPD delegate and will assist Dr. Fontanilla. Staffing for Paramedics is at capacity for the first time in the past several years. Significant staffing shortages still exist at the EMT level throughout the county, especially in the more rural areas. Protocols have been updated to include POCUS (point of care ultrasound). Use of POCUS is for:

1. Respiratory evaluation with B line identification
2. RUSH exam – shock/hypotension
3. E-Fast – trauma
4. Central Venous Access – Intrajugular and Femoral guidance
5. Peripheral Venous Access
6. Pericardiocentesis and Cardiac Exams (Pulse Checks).

This can be used for pediatric and adult patients. Training is currently underway. Emergency management is now fully staffed. EMT class recently started with 21 students. The current County Manager has resigned his position as of October 4, 2023 and is taking a position in another county. Rob Gelder has been added as an assistant County Manager. They are also adding 2 more commissioners to the Thurston County Board of Commissioners.

**Pierce County:** Dr. Waffle stated they are still working on the whole blood transfusion protocols as they try to get this implemented. They are also working on several programs on patient transporting.

**North Pacific:** Louisa reports that the county still need paramedics and they looking forward to the new protocols.

**Technical Advisory Committee Reports:** Dr. Woolard mentioned that Pediatrics did not meet in July but will meet after the next steering committee meeting.

**DOH Report:** Hailey Thacker provided this report:

### **EMS and Trauma Rulemaking**

- **EMS Rulemaking** – *We have completed and submitted the CR102 package which includes the significant analysis and draft proposed rule language for internal review on May 25, 2023. DOH internal review is almost complete, and we have been advised that it is likely our CR102 will be filed September 15, 2023, with the Code Revisor’s office. This means the draft proposed rule language will then be available to stakeholders. Stakeholders will be able to comment on rules by email and a public hearing will be scheduled. We’ll keep you informed about this work.*
  - EMS rules were opened in November 2017. 33 sections in WAC 246-976 were opened to consider updates to align with current national standards, make regulations clearer and concise, respond to statutory requirements, streamline initial and renewal application processes for pre-hospital agency license and EMS provider certification. EMS held 40 stakeholder meetings between December 2017 and August 2022 which included review of the 33 sections, two new sections, and seven pieces of legislation that impacted rules. The EMS team updated the CR101 in May of 2022 to reflect the scope of new work due to legislation that had passed and revised the timeline for completion. Primary delay to rulemaking was the COVID-19 pandemic in which the EMS team was activated to the agency IMT and prioritized COVID work between March 2020 and March 2022.
  - **WEMSIS Rules:** Stakeholder meetings for EMS data system rulemaking concluded in March. The rules are in response to the amendment made to RCW 70.168.90 which requires licensed ambulance and aid services to report to the statewide data system. We are working on the draft for public comment then we’ll move to CR-102 process. WEMSIS rulemaking timeline is aligned with the EMS rulemaking process timeline.
- **Trauma Triage Workgroup:** Earlier this year, the American College of Surgeons released updated recommendations on field triage of injured patients. Here in Washington, we have similar recommendations in the Prehospital Trauma Destination Procedure Tool which was based on these same ACS recommendations from 2012. The DOH Trauma Triage Tool workgroup is updating the *Prehospital Guideline for Field Triage of Injured Patients*. We are currently socializing the draft changes with the technical advisory committees. Our goal is to socialize the final draft with the EMS & Trauma Care Steering Committee in September or November 2023. Then we will host a few webinars to inform interested parties about the new tool. The updated tool is anticipated to be implemented on January 1, 2024 with full compliance expected by January 1, 2025.
- **OIC – Balanced Billing Workgroup** – Catie Holstein and Jason Norris are participating on the Balanced Billing Workgroup lead by the Office of Insurance Commissioner (OIC) in



response to recent legislation that tasked the OIC with determining if ambulance services should be subject to balanced billing laws and provide the Legislature with some policy recommendations. The final report is due to the Legislature by October 1, 2023.

- **DOH published guidance for EMS and Naloxone** – DOH EMS section published guidance for EMS administration and participation in leave behind programs for Naloxone. Many EMS services are asking if they can initiate and participate in Naloxone leave behind programs. This guidance provides clarity and guidance for EMS on this topic. The guidance will be found on our website at [EMS and Trauma Publications | Washington State Department of Health](#) once our web team updates the website.
- **DOH guidance for Hospital Pharmacy Provision of Drugs to Ambulances, Use of Expired Medications and Alternatives for Medication Shortages, and EMS Use of Controlled Substances** – We are working with DOH Pharmacy Commission staff to draft /update guidance for these topics. We have developed and socialized a final draft version of the Hospital Pharmacy Provision of Drugs to Ambulances with PHTAC and MPDs and are waiting for final recommendation for approval from the Pharmacy Commission to publish the document. Next, we will be working on guidance for the use of expired medications and alternatives for medication shortages. We are staging work to begin drafting guidance for EMS Use of Controlled Substances. One delay for this work is that the federal government has not yet completed their rulemaking for the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017.

### **New Business**

**WEMSYS Data Opportunities – Adam Rovang (DOH)** - Adam presented information on WEMSYS report that can be made available to the West Region. He also provided the following links:

- WEMSYS Data & Reports Webpage: <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/emergency-medical-services-ems-systems/wemsys-ems-data-registry/data-and-reports>
- DOH Opioid & Drug Overdose Dashboard: <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/opioids/overdose-dashboard>

**Strategic Plan item: G505 - Strategy 4. (discussion) Lila O'Mahony, MD**

*The discussion was introduced (Patient Care Issues) and the request for participation and input was put forth to the attendees. No comments were voiced.*

### **Announcements/Assignments/Adjournment:**

Next meeting will be held December 6, 2023, 10:00am. Likely to be a Zoom meeting.

NW Infant Survival & SIDS Alliance will present their Prevention Grant work.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.