

# Skagit County EMS & Trauma Care Council Advisory Board Meeting

November 18, 2020, 9am-11am

Teleconference

## Present:

Bryan Brice – Mount Vernon Chief  
Tyler Dalton – Skagit Regional Health RN  
Lisa Edwards – Island Hospital RN  
Sandra Jensen – County Meadow Village Dir.  
Josh Pelonio – EMS Director  
Amie Tidrington – Skagit County Public Health  
Nick Walsh – Anacortes Assistant Chief  
Wood Weiss – District 13 Chief

## Ex Officio:

Opens at 9am.

## Absent:

Jared Couch – Upper Skagit Sergeant  
Chet Griffith – Fire District 8 Commissioner  
Matthew Russell – EMS Medical Program Dir.  
Steve Sexton – Burlington Mayor

Lisa Janicki – Skagit County Commissioner  
Julia Johnson – Sedro Woolley Mayor

## Non-Voting:

Mike Kirkman – Skagit EMS Training & QA Specialist  
Freya Peebles – Skagit EMS Admin. Coordinator

## **Welcome:** N. Walsh

- Walsh calls meeting to order.
- Group introduces themselves.
- Meeting Minutes
  - Questions or Concern: None
  - A. Tidrington Moved to approve. None opposed.

## **EMS Department Updates**

### **COVID-19 Response:** J Pelonio

- Continued to monitor EMS call volumes
- Approximately 2% or less are related to Covid 19

### **Call Volume Trend:** J. Pelonio

- County wide call volumes are being monitored and are comparable to last year.

L. Edwards – Do you anticipate the November number spiking?

J. Pelonio – It's hard to say. Anecdotally he'd say no, but with flue season and those symptoms being similar he believes that we probably will see an increase, but doesn't know what that will look like.

### **ProQA Implementation:** J Pelonio

- Dispatch and EMD training just about complete
- Law Enforcement training in progress
  - Card that will give them direction to help dispatcher send the EMS response
- Working on final medical director approval
- Most of the technical bugs have been worked out
- On track for Go-Live – December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Patient Care Reporting/WEMISIS Rulemaking: J Pelonio**

- There have been updates at State level.
  - Our fire districts have a timeline to get on board with the reporting system
  - Legislation passed requiring electronic patient care reporting to the States system (WEIMISIS) - Washington EMS Information System
  - Data has to be keyed in to be valuable
  - State beginning to put out quality reports regarding compliance
  - Very close to having all the agencies on electronic patient care reporting
  - With the agencies being on ESO they will be able to mobile to mobile transfer data for smooth transfer and clear record from start to finish

W. Weiss: Who will submit the data?

J. Pelonio: If you're already up and running you don't need to do anything additional. It's automatic. We work with the State to ensure that the Data is coming across correctly.

F. Wagner: Last meeting Tyler reported patient care outcomes were being worked on. Was wondering if there has been any work for Island and Peace health joining in as well? Is there anything they can do from their end to help facilitate that?

J. Pelonio: Tyler will be talking about this later on in the meeting. Can state that the state is moving toward interoperability between EMS and the Hospital. It's dependent on vender and connections. Skagit County will most likely be paying for the subscription to allow the Skagit Valley to allow for patient outcomes to get back to the agencies.

B. Brice: What is the state going to do if the agencies do not use Electronic Patient are Reports?

J. Pelonio: They're in the process of revising the rules at the State. There will be a stakeholder meeting. They want to make sure that they get good data to begin with. Knows that it will be tied to the License. Not sure what that will look like. Doesn't believe that there will be any major issues in Skagit, but we'll see. From his understanding, each hospital has to pay for their connection to get data in, but doesn't know about those specifics.

W. Weiss: Expected Date for required reporting?

J. Pelonio: Open rule making has to finish, then it'll be available for public comment. The process should be completed around July. Then there's generally a delay for implantation. Realistically it'll be a year before it's a requirement.

**Education/Training Updates:** M. Kirkman

- All provider skill sessions remain on hold due to pandemic.
- Working on alternatives
- BLS virtual skills conducted in a virtual meeting environment
  - Doesn't believe it will be practical
  - Will be reaching out to training hubs to see if there is an alternative
- Doesn't believe it's safe to start skill sessions due to the progression of Covid
- NW will be working on ACLS & PALS Cert courses for 2021
  - Online didactics and virtual evaluation by offsite evaluator
  - Will be working with training hubs to see about setting up a schedule for the providers in their agencies
- EMT Course
  - Thus far, instructors have been successful in preventing the spread of Covid within the course
- Josh has been working on Protocols
  - Will be coming in a new format that combines information and standards of care from BLS to ALS
  - Includes additional topics
  - Will update the group when he has more information

**North Region Updates:** M. Nicholas

- Not on the line

**Ongoing/Old Business**

**Trans-West Ambulance Service Application Status:** N. Walsh

- They've been certified for a Non trauma (interfacility)
- Meeting has been set up to establish how they will move forward regarding training and certification within the County

J. Pelonio: This is the first time we have had a private ambulance service affiliated with our County through licensure. We want to make sure that whoever is operating in our County has the same training, as well as participation in sentential event report and Quality Assurance.

Want to understand their capabilities and ensure that we can pass down how they can integrate into our system and be successful.

**North Region Grant Award: N. Walsh**

- We were awarded the \$12,000 for the SimMan use
- Josh is working on delivery and plan for how it will be used

**ESO Healthcare Data Exchange: T. Dalton**

- It's up and running
- Have not gotten hand scanners that will be made available for the EMS agencies when they come in just yet
  - Allow for scanning patients bracelet
  - Directs information into Hospitals electronic system
  - Allows for feedback to transport agency
- Began training for staff in the Hospital. Previously they scanned ESO reports into medical records. This will hopefully bypass that process.
  - Working on the process
- Hoping to have scanners available next week. Will be a USB connection
- Regarding payment question.
  - There are two sets of payment to ESO. One from the Hospital side and one from the EMS side.
  - Dependent on Hospital size
- Believed that Sedro-Woolley was receiving patient outcomes

J. Pelonio: Walks through the process on the screen.

T. Dalton: Outcomes will include basic diagnosis on patients

J. Pelonio: Wants to be able to follow patients from start to finish and compare for Quality Assurance.

T. Dalton: Will help with the QA process on their end as well

N. Walsh: Would like to see that across the county and appreciates the work he's done to get work through the process.

T. Dalton: Took 5 years to get us to where we are

**New Business**

**Transition at Skagit Valley Hospital: T. Dalton**

- Will be retiring soon (1-1-2021)
- Told boss he would stay on 2-3 months to help transition replacement
- Not sure on the actual timeline

N. Walsh: We will need to discuss this in future. Refers to a letter from Mayor Julia Johnson recommending that assistant Fire Chief Frank Wagner take over her position. Will need to look at bylaws to see how this will be handled. Expresses appreciation for Tyler and all the work he's done within the county.

T. Dalton: Important for a representative be apart of this process. Hopes that the candidate will have a good understanding of EMS because of it's importance.

B. Brice: Expresses concerns that that's was not the intent within bylaws.

N. Walsh: We'll have to look at the situation and see how we will proceed.

J. Pelonio: With respects to Tyler we could vote to replace. With respects to Mayor Johnson's position is the 911 Board Chair Representative. Believes that Chief Brice is correct in that was not the intent. We're not taking action on this at this time, but wanted to ensure everyone was aware.

N. Walsh: Saw the letter for the first time a few moments ago. Believes this is a good opportunity to enact our bylaws and feel out how we operate.

W. Weiss: Spoke to Josh because one of his Fire Fighters wanted to get tested and they'd heard that Asymptomatic persons could not be tested. DOH stated that they could be tested.

J. Pelonio: From what he understands that due to the load they wanted to keep Asymptomatic persons from being tested just during their moving transition.

A. Tidrington: Correct. The site is up and running and asymptomatic persons can be tested.

**Votes:**

- 08-19-2020 Meeting Minutes. **All for, none opposed.**

**947 Adjourned.**

**Next meeting:** 9a-10a February 17, 2021, Location: Teleconference