



**Washington State Department of Health
EMS & Trauma Care Steering Committee
MEETING MINUTES**

November 20, 2024

Meeting held virtually by ZOOM.

ATTENDEES: Committee Members:

Cameron Buck, MD
Christine Clutter
Bryan Fuhs
Madeleine Geraghty
Beki Hammonds
Carly Bean
Lance Job
Shaun Ford

Mike Hilley
Joe Hoffman
Lance Jobe
Denise McCurdy
Pat McMahon
Pat Songer
Courtney Stewart
Dr. Sasha Kaiser

Lila O'Mahony, MD
Joey Rodrigues
Erik Roedel
Peter Rutherford
Mark Taylor
Rich Utarnachitt, MD
Ken Woffenden

DOH Staff:

Ian Corbridge
Eric Dean
Herbie Duber
Marla Emde
Nicole Fernandus
Jill Hayes
Tim Hoover

Catie Holstein
Jim Jansen
Jennifer Snook
Ihsan Mahdi
Matt Nelson
John Nokes
Tim Orcutt

Jeffry Sinanian
Adam Rovang
Erika Stufflebeem
Scott Williams
Paul Renwick
Mariah Conduff

Interested Parties

Greg Perry
Lindsey Anderson
Nadji Baker
Katherine Bendickson
Carolyn Blayney
April Borbon
Shelley Briggs
Cindy Button
Rinita Cook
Janna Finley
Dr. Paul Craven
Ben Miller Todd
Joy Bjornberg
Dr. Eileen Bulger
Dr. Sam Arbabi
Ashley Zutter
Deanna Jones
Keith Cervantes
Kellie Sheehan

Danielle Huddleston
Scott Isenman
Karen Kettner
David Lynde
Brook Moser
Jim Nania, MD
Mary Ohare
Norma Pancake
Josh Pelonio
Kelly Pearson
Jeff Bambrick
Becky Dana
Kate Scherer
Annette Davis
Celia Attwell
Emily Ogudo
Jennifer Killion
Jolie Fernandes
Dr. Lewis Neace

Wendy Rife
Paul Ross
Kim Royer
Karen Sanders
Ashley Spies
Becky Stermer
Cheryl Stromberg
Traci Stockwell
Andrea Talbot
Meeta Vardhan
Jessica Wall
Amy Johnson-Carpenter
Dr. Tom Rea
Anthony Bledsoe
Clair Johnson
James Grijalva
Jason Taylor
Jennifer Brown
Dr. Marvin Wayne

Rachanee Curry
Sarah Downen
Dr. Tom Rea
Todd Schanze

Remy Kerr
Shaina Schaetzel
Trixie Anderson
Wendy Rife

Robin Stimac
Terry Carter

Call to Order: Cameron Buck, MD, Chair

Minutes from September 18, 2024

Handout

Motion #1

Approve the September 18, 2024, EMS and Trauma Care Steering Committee meeting minutes.
Approved unanimously.

Committee Business

Renewed and New Member Appointments – Catie Holstein

Catie Holstein provided the committee an update on membership.

Dr. Shaw, the Secretary of Health has appointed the following people to the EMS & Trauma Care Steering Committee for their first term. Congratulations, welcome, and thank you for your service to the Emergency Care System.

- Dr. Yi Mao, representing ECS. Neurologist, Spokane Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane.
- Dr. Kevin Hodges, Emergency Physician, representing Physicians. Vice Chair Emergency Medicine at WSU, Attending Emergency Physician at Kadlec Medical Center. EMS MPD for Benton, Franklin, Yakima counties.
- Dr. Eduardo Smith Singares, representing. WA ACS. Medical Director of Trauma and Emergency Surgical Services, Kadlec Regional (Providence)
- Sara Downen, RN, representing trauma nurses. Yakima Memorial Hospital.
- James Young, Paramedic, representing Air Medical Services. Works for LifeFlight Network, Spokane.

An appointment request is in progress for an individual to represent the open Washington Fire Chief's Association position.

2025 Steering Committee Dates

The Committee meets on the third Wednesday of odd months

- January 15, 2025
- March 19, 2025
- May 21, 2025
- July – TBD
- September 17, 2025
- November 19, 2025

DOH OCHS Office Updates: Ian Corbridge, OCHS Office Director, DOH
PowerPoint Presentation

OCHS Policy Topics and Priorities

- State Leadership Transition
- 2025 Legislative Session
- Emergency Care System Priority Work

State Leadership Transition

- Our office is preparing for a new administration. A new Governor will be sworn into office on January 15, 2025, bringing opportunities for new priorities and perspectives to shape our state's future.
- Dr. Umair Shah, the Secretary of Health has announced his resignation, and we anticipate a new appointment to lead the Department of Health.
- During the transition, the department remains committed to its mission of protecting and improving health of all residents. Day to day operations, ongoing initiatives and critical services continue uninterrupted.
- Stakeholders play a crucial role in maintaining stability and advancing our shared goals during this period of change. We encourage open communication and collaboration to assure that priorities remain aligned.
- The governor's transition team will likely review state agencies to align them to new administrations vision and goals.
- The appointment of a new Secretary of Health will involve a period of review and adjustment as they familiarize themselves with our agency's structure, programs and ongoing initiatives.
- Leadership changes may bring renewed focus on key public health issues, policy development and resource allocation.
- We are committed to keeping stakeholders informed throughout the transition. We value your input and will continue to engage with you to support a seamless transition.
- Transitions offer opportunities to re-evaluate programs, innovate, strengthen partnerships and we remain optimistic about continuing to work together to address the health needs of our state under new leadership.

Preparation for 2025 legislative session

We are preparing for the 2025 legislative session. The legislative session will begin on January 13, 2025, and end on April 27, 2025. It is a long session (105 days). The last day the governor has to take action on a bill is May 20, 2025.

Recall that our office has submitted a funding proposal for replacing the state trauma registry and add additional staff to support our office.

Although we know that our state is headed into a dire fiscal environment which will make it more difficult to advance and support policy efforts, we remain optimistic that our funding request will be included in the Governor's proposed budget which will be released on December 14th.

Emergency Care Systems Priority Work

Our current priorities include:

- Implementation of a major legacy rules revision for EMS rules
- Implementation of WEMSIS/EMS Data Registry Rules
- Implementation of Organ transport services – new program our office has been directed to stand up
- Staff have been holding webinars, providing technical assistance to external partners, updating applications, processes, and guidance.
- Our staff continues to work to develop a statewide trauma services assessment – you'll learn more about that in Jim's report
- The department allowed MPDs to implement pilot projects using EMTs and Paramedics to administer Buprenorphine in the field to persons experiencing opioid overdose. We are looking forward to learning more about the outcomes of these pilot projects and are pleased to be working to improve access to medications for opioid use disorder to the public.
- Our office was recently awarded a five-year grant from federal partners to conduct a rural EMS workforce study and identify and implement strategies to improve workforce. Dawn's section is leading that work. The outcome of the work should provide us with information to support targeted solutions and resources to improve recruitment and retention of workforce in EMS, particularly in rural communities historically dependent on volunteers.
- Our staff continue to be busy working to build, test, and implement our new Health Enforcement Licensing Management System (HELMS). The platform will be implemented in phases over the next few years and will reduce the need for paper applications and create other efficiencies using electronic platform.

Trauma Service Assessment (TSA) Update: Jim Jansen, DOH

Jim informed the committee that we are now in phase two of this project. We released a draft of the TSA which is posted to the DOH website at [EMS and Trauma Care System Assessment | Washington State Department of Health](#) on September 5th. It's available for stakeholders to review in preparation for our meeting with external partners on September 24th.

To learn more about this project, sign up to receive updates, or learn how to contact the department about this project visit our website at [Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) and Trauma Care System | Washington State Department of Health](#).

Jim's team is focused now on obtaining and updating trauma registry data and working on additional elements of the assessment including a cost projection and analysis which is being led by the Office of Financial Management (OFM). This work will be conducted in 2025.

Economists with OFM will convene a small focus group and conduct key informant interviews held on December 4th and 11th. Time commitment for each is about 2 hours. OFM is seeking seven representatives from a variety of perspectives from the Emergency Care System who can speak to investments in trauma services, how patient mix and geographical cost drivers impact investments, EMS patient volume, mix, trauma service delivery and cost drivers for EMS, and people who can speak about provider cost controls, cost drivers associated with trauma care and anyone who can provide insight into cost and payment into trauma services.

Call to Action: We are asking today for Committee members to consider volunteering or connecting us with others in their networks who may meet the intent of the input to participate in these opportunities. Please email the names of interested participants to traumadesignation@doh.wa.gov by November 25, 2024 and we'll pass those names along to OFM.

Trauma Registry Updates: Jim Jansen, DOH

Jim informed the Committee that DOH has had a significant increase in the backlog of submissions to the trauma registry. Currently 68 hospitals show complete records for 2020-2023, about 13 are in progress for one of these years.

We'd like to thank the hospital staff for their work in getting these records updated.

DOH staff are providing hospitals support through:

- Routine technical assistance
- Liaison for vendor support
- Routine submission tracking and count confirmations
- Hosting trauma registrar workgroup meetings
- Hosted three vendor led registry trainings
- Ongoing issue and support discussions with vendor

DOH will share information about hospitals with a backlog of records with Regional EMS & Trauma Care Councils so they can work to identify and convene support for hospitals with their backlog of records.

Jim noted that his team has also recently resolved several technical barriers on the DOH end for accessing data through an analytic environment that was preventing us from doing real time validation. We'll begin validating submitted records to identify any errors or revisions that might be needed and then reaching out to hospital staff to make those corrections before we finalize the data.

We are hoping to have updated data in early 2025. Because of the variety of issues at play and hospital support still needed for registrars it's hard to pinpoint an exact date on when we would expect to have that data available, but we are aiming for early 2025.

Cost TAC Annual Report: Eric Dean, DOH
PowerPoint Presentation

Eric Dean provided the committee with a background and summary of Trauma Care Fund, historical revenue and current revenue forecast, flow of Trauma Care Fund, and how and when funds are disbursed.

Eric advised the committee that:

- DOH is required to keep spending within appropriation and revenue received
- Every 2 years DOH, Cost TAC, and Steering Committee review fund and develop a biennial spending plan
- Spending plans to date have been guided by cost studies
- Work on the 2025-2027 spending plan will begin in 2025.

Looking ahead:

- More comprehensive review is needed to ensure needs of a mature system are addressed.
- Planning for 2027-2029 biennium spending plan will start in 2025.

Trauma Rehabilitation TAC (Rehab TAC) Annual Report: Tim Orcutt, DOH
PowerPoint Presentation

Tim Orcutt provided an update on the strategic plan work for the Rehab TAC.

The Rehab TAC works to improve long term outcomes of patients through statewide collaboration, education, and research.

The TAC successes include:

- Continual Improvement of the Rehab Registry
- UTI / CAUTI Identification and Improvement
- Social Media Campaigns

Rehab challenges include:

- Rehab Facility Staffing (nursing)
- Decreasing Volume
- Physiatrist Requirements
- Return Transport

Future goals include:

- Review Performance/Outcome Measures
- Trauma Awareness Month (May)
- Rehab Service Standards SWOT
- Incorporate National Benchmarks

Trauma Rehabilitation TAC Data Report: Xinyao DeGrauw, DOH
PowerPoint Presentation

Xinyao provided a data presentation to the committee on Trauma Rehabilitation Performance Measures.

Emergency Care System Annual Reports
PowerPoint Presentations

Emergency Care System Strategic Plan - Annual Report

Catie provided an emergency care system annual report to the committee.

Jim Jansen provided an annual report on the statewide performance measures for the system.

Tim Orcutt and Dr. Robinson provided an annual report from the Trauma Quality Improvement Program.

Trauma Clinical Guidelines
Draft Trauma Clinical Guidelines

Tim presented draft guidelines for

- Trauma Team Activation
- Anticoagulation in Head Injured Patients

The committee recommended approval of the guidelines inclusive of a couple of minor recommendations for changes as provided by the Committee.

TAC Reports:

Prehospital TAC: Dawn Felt, DOH – PHTAC met on October 16th. Our next meeting is February 19th. At our October meeting we did some rules implementation review, strategic plan updates, talked about some opioid related activities, updated our membership list, and had a presentation from Pat Songer around our national horizon scanning as well as the Strategic Plan exercise.

EMS Medical Program Directors Workgroup: Dr. Hoffman ohh we met virtually on November 6 our quarterly meeting that was stationed from cardiac arrest registry from Jenny shin and impact on that data review of the facility complaint process and the commands have sometimes issues that they wanna address just go facilities facilities in our hospitals updates

Hospital TAC: probably not this morning the hospital attended it this morning that time with an update from Jim Jansen removing the trauma registry Johnson spent a fair amount of time talking to us about the need to open the trauma registry rules and in the coming future we also I also presented both guidelines to the hospital tax and they provided some feedback which will take

forward and make those changes contact next meets in January prior to start meeting thank you up

IVP TAC: Marla Emde, DOH / Mike Hilley, IVP TAC Chairperson – The TAC met in September and heard about some work being conducted by various community paramedic programs, falls prevention programs, and a data report from Dana Drummond.

OUTCOMES TAC met on October 9th to review the rehabilitation TAC data report. We will meet again on December 10th to review the hospital TAC data report.

ECS TAC: Dr. Buck, TAC Chairperson – The TAC did not meet yesterday. In our next meeting on February 18th, we will be reviewing the cardiac and stroke applications so that we can align those with the new licensing software. We will be evaluating a revision to the stroke triage tool and interfacility transport guidelines for stroke and then the prehospital cardiac triage tool.

COST TAC: Eric Dean, DOH – no update outside of what has been provided.

Pediatric TAC: Matt Nelson, DOH. Tim Orcutt provided the TAC an overview of the trauma team activation guideline and we provided our input on that as we heard today. The TAC had a discussion around safe transport for kids here in Washington state so feedback and is evaluating the feasibility of creating a guideline. The TAC is changing their schedule, more to come on that soon.

RAC TAC: Carlye Beah, TAC Chairperson – the TAC met yesterday, and we reviewed our progress towards our strategic goals. Regions are working on their PCP updates and that included a quite dynamic discussion surrounding stakeholder identification with an activity. DOH will be updating our contracts and statements of work in January and we'll be reviewing and providing input into those.

Chair prerogative to adjourn.

Next Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025.
Meeting adjourned at 12:18.