



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2025

**Members Present:** Matt Dale, Chair; Dr. Ritu Sahni, EMS Medical Director; Dr. Thomas Kofoed, CC Associate Medical Director; Brad Kuhn, Colton Fire; Vince Stafford, Molalla Fire; Dr. Sarah Present, CC Public Health Officer; Jason Mahle, Clackamas AMR Operations Manager; Scott Vachter, LOFD; Glen Suchanek, Milwaukie PD Behavioral Health Specialist; Vince Stafford, Molalla Fire; Rick Huffman, Clackamas Fire EMS

**Members Absent:** Jennie Wilcox, County Resident Representative; Dr. Sean Stone, FACEP Manager, Tony Collins, CCOM Operations Manager, Marc Oeschlager, Local 1159; Chief Smario, TVFR EMS

**Guests:** Cheryl Bledsoe, CCOM Director; Tim Case, Washington County EMS; Dr. John Turner, CC Associate Medical Director; Ben Sorenson, TVFR; Dave Dennis, TVFR; Joshua Nordberg, TVFR; Justin Behrens, TVFR

**Staff:** Kim LaCroix, Interim Public Health Director; Bill Conway, Office of Public Health Emergency Services, Emergency Services Manager; Bill Steward, Office of Public Health Emergency Medical Services, EMS Coordinator; Terri Heft, Public Health Management Analyst

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 am.

### Introductions:

- Introductions were completed.

### Additions/Deletions/Acceptance of Agenda:

- Agenda approved with no additions.

### Call to the Public:

- No requests from the public.

### Approval of Minutes:

- October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes approved.

### Recognitions:

- Chief Matt Dale, new Fire Chief of Canby Fire

### Staff Reports:

- County Staffing Update (Bill Conway)
  - Office of Public Health Emergency Services (OPHES) is fully staffed with the new addition of Community Paramedic, Jamie Breunig.
    - Focusing on Public Health
      - Houseless outreach
      - Opioid and polysubstance abuse or use
      - Behavioral Health
      - General Outreach, identifying gaps, and connecting those most vulnerable to appropriate resources
- Public Health Update (Dr. Sarah Present)
  - Respiratory viral season ending.
    - Covid levels have been low for quite some time.
    - Influenza has started to have significant declines.
      - Under 10% for the past two weeks, 5% last week.
      - Record setting influenza year, Flu B watching for potential spike
      - RSV is still prevalent
  - Concerns around notification for emerging diseases
    - Communication changes at the federal level

- Keeping on a close eye on Measle outbreaks in the southern portion of the United States.
- Finance (Sherry Olson)
  - Not Present, No Update.
- Behavioral Health Response Update (Matt Dale)
  - Bill Conway – Clackamas County is working on the JULOTA Platform.
    - Currently working on getting the Community Paramedic piece running.
  - Glen Suchanek – Stabilization Center, Recovery Center, and Caring Place
    - Recovery Center – Flora Health will be the contractor
    - Stabilization Center:
      - Front end is the 24-hour stabilization center
      - Back-end shelter will be run by Father's Heart
    - Caring Place will be in the Miles Fiber Glass building in Oregon City.
      - The old building is down. Construction starts at the end of the year.
      - Projected opening is 2027
    - Clackamas Village – Ribbon cutting May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, opening in June
  - CCOM mentioned the addition of Steve O'Sullivan, a Behavioral Health worker embedded within CCOM
    - Works Sunday night through Wednesday, 1 of 2 positions that will cover the week.

#### **Committee / Special Interest Reports:**

- EMS Strategic Plan Taskforce (Bill C.)
  - No new report
- QI Committee (Dr. Ritu Sahni/ Dr. John Turner)
  - Last quarter the group met about Strategic Annual Planning, Myocardial infarction, Substance Use
- Protocol Development Committee (Dr Ritu Sahni)
  - Met in March and April
  - New Protocol- Working on new protocols for heat emergencies that will include a more active cooling protocol. Working to implement the new protocol this summer.
    - National standards are moving from passive to more aggressive approach to partially due to increasing temperatures and the amount of time it can take for a hospital to start treatment.
- Operations Subcommittee (Brad Kuhn)
  - Bag Valve Masks
    - Tested at MAT
  - Medication shortage has been added as a regular topic and has been helpful in locating medication sources.
- System Enhancement Subcommittee (Jason Mahle)
  - Timberline Conference – awarded \$20,000 for scholarships. The conference is this weekend.
  - Video Laryngoscopes:
    - Project needs a bit more money to fund the system wide upgrade. This topic is currently being discussed with the county.

- ESO Committee (Scott Vachter)
  - Two new committee members. Robert Toombs from Molalla, Scott Herzog from Canby.
  - Focus has been on data. Working with Deidre to standardize data for both KPI and uniformity with all agencies.
  - Currently evaluating creating custom forms.
  - Jason Mahle – Clackamas County and Washington County AMR changed to using the County run number for all charts in ESO. For Qi, the run number is the same as fire.
- EMS Training Group/MAT (Dr. Sahni)
  - MAT is being held at Clackamas County AMR.
    - 6 days of training were this April.
  - Topics covered were Qi topics:
    - Capacity assessment, severe respiratory distress caused by heart failure, proper management and documentation of severely agitated patients.
- Emergency Physician Advisory Board
  - Dr. Sahni mentioned the return of EPAB, Emergency Physicians Advisory Board
  - Adding the EDs to the invitation.
- PSAP (Cheryl Bledsoe)
  - Tony will be out for some time, please check in with Cheryl for any open requests
    - Steven O'Sullivan is with CCOM as a Behavioral Health addition
    - Final two vacancies are starting training on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - All budgeted positions are now filled
    - Last week was Telecommunicator Week so both LOCOM and CCOM were heavily involved in recognizing their dispatchers
- Labor Committee (Bill S/Mark O.)
  - No report

#### **Old Business:**

- ALS Provider Council position vacancy
  - Position will be posted. Advanced life support paramedic currently providing prehospital care in Clackamas County.
  - Bill to post position and send link to EMS council members.

#### **New Business:**

- ALS Provider Council position vacancy – same as above

#### **General Announcements**

- No General Announcements

#### **Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting will be July 21, 2025, at 9:00 am.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:48 am.

#### **Addendum:**

- Immediately following the meeting, a correction was found that the ALS provider council position in Old Business was previously posted in 2024 with 2 qualified applicants. Voting to fill online will occur prior to the July 21, 2025, meeting.  
The 2 applicants are:
  1. Ben Sorenson, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
  2. Nick Fisher, Clackamas Fire District #1