



Kitsap County EMS

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Status: Meeting opened without a quorum

1. Call to Order

Chief Jim Gillard called the meeting to order at 9:00 am following confirmation of a quorum.

2. Announcements

- Update on FIFA / World Cup impacts to Kitsap Peninsula added under Good of the Order.

3. Approval of minutes

MOTION by Chief Moravec to approve January meeting minutes, as presented. **SECONDED** by Chief McGanney. The Motion was **PASSED** unanimously by all members present.

4. Financial Update

Danielle Mackelwich reported:

- Checking Account: **\$32,974**
- Savings Account: **\$182,500** (expected to increase as council dues were recently sent)

5. Staff Reports

Medical Program Director Report – Dr. Joe Hoffman

- Taught pharmacology for EMT class and academy
- Participated in Governor’s Steering Committee as MPD representative
- Cadaver Lab preparation underway (Feb 13–14)



- State protocol and pilot project submissions pending >30 days
- Legislative updates:
 - Cardiac & Stroke System designation bill (funding dependent)
 - Proposed cigarette excise tax funding EMS systems
 - EMT/Paramedic recertification proposal extending cycles for long-tenured providers
 - Involuntary Treatment Act proposal extending DCR response times (significant ED concern)
- HELMS system updates:
 - Renewals, reinstatements, evaluator credentials functional
 - Future enforcement, investigation, and tracking features planned
- WATrac platform undergoing redesign
- Data reviewed on airway management

Administrative Report – Danielle Mackelwich

- Implemented new 2026 budget and accounting structure
- Cleared one overdue invoice (cadaver lab)
- Extensive work on WA State sales tax applicability
- Reconciled accounts; filed 1099s and W-2s
- Updated staff contracts (4 outstanding)
- Renewed PO Box and annual subscriptions
- Managing cadaver lab and EMT course expenditures
- Journal entries in progress to align 2025 revenue with 2026 budget lines

Training Coordinator Report– Tamarah Hoffman

- DOH-aligned modules completed or in review:
 - Buprenorphine
 - Vulnerable populations
 - Cadaver lab (published)
 - Infectious disease (in progress)
 - Scope of practice (in progress)
- 18 providers up for DOH recertification (individual letters sent)
- HELMS issues identified:
 - 15 missing supraglottic airway endorsements across 4 agencies
 - IV and evaluation endorsements also affected
 - Extensive coordination with DOH to reinstate endorsements



- National Registry:
 - 45 providers up for renewal in March
 - ~95% of education records entered on providers' behalf
-

6. Discussion Items

A. Sales Tax Mitigation (SB 5814)

- Determined EMS Council must collect sales tax on paid training
- Uncertainty remains regarding physician-provided and dues-funded training
- **Proposed Plan:**
 - Begin collecting sales tax on all registration-based training immediately
 - Adjust course pricing as needed to absorb tax where possible
 - Cover any prior or unanticipated tax liability from reserves
- **MOTION** by Chief Faucett to adopt sales tax mitigation plan and authorize use of reserves as needed, as presented. **SECONDED** by Chief Christian. The Motion was **PASSED** unanimously by all members present.

B Physician Delegate Contract Update

- Dr. Bellis currently working under Bainbridge Island contract
- Contract with KCEMS not yet finalized
- January double payment identified; adjustments underway
- Bainbridge dues and KCEMS payments to be reconciled

C. County Operating Procedures

- Nearly finalized
 - Will be incorporated into Kitsap-specific Northwest Protocols
 - Final edits pending (ALS training section)
-

5. Agency and Partner Updates



St. Michael Medical Center – Keirrie Waddington

- ED flow improved; one admitted patient at the time of report
- Tower units 6–8 operational
- Construction intermittently closing rooms
- Staffing stable with some traveler support; cold/flu surge ongoing

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health – Satellite Eds

Free-Standing EDs – John Viglo.

- Bremerton fully staffed; Port Orchard using travelers
- Both sites averaging >100 patients/day
- Approximately 400 ED patients/day across the peninsula

Air Medical Services

- **Life Flight:** New base opened in Hillsboro, OR (no local impact)
- **Airlift NW:** Free clinical education available (trauma, burns, airway, cardiac, pediatrics, LVADs)

Public Health – Dr. Herbie Duber

- Measles outbreak statewide; no Kitsap cases yet
- Encouraged vaccination advocacy
- Flu activity remains high
- FPHS funding proposed to be cut 25–40% in the Governor’s budget

Olympic Ambulance – Jack Reynolds

- New ambulance placed in service
- Stroke awareness campaign launched community-wide
- Internal EMS stroke education materials distributed
- Exploring blood drive due to regional blood shortage
- Behavioral health transport unit under legislative review

Fire & Regional Updates

- DOH approved Northwest Region EMS Min/Max numbers
- Behavioral health white paper pending DOH response
- CARES/APP staffing challenges discussed; alternative models explored



- Nurse practitioners, nurses, paramedics with telemedicine support
- Partnerships with hospitals and physician groups are suggested

6. Good of the Order

FIFA / World Cup Planning Update – Chief Jared Moravec

- Fan zone planned in Bremerton during June–July
- Increased ferry ridership anticipated; coordination underway
- Bainbridge July 3 street dance and July 4 parade expected to see elevated attendance
- Coordination occurring through:
 - Kitsap 911 Strategic Advisory Board
 - WA State Fusion Center
 - Northwest Healthcare Response Network
- Focus on unified emergency response and resource coordination

7. Adjournment at 9:50 AM

The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2026

Attendees:

Chief Jim Gillard-PFD
Dr. Hoffman-MPD
Tamarah Hoffman-KCEMS
Danielle Mackelwich-KCEMS
Guy Earle-KCHD
Lora York-LifeFlight
Chief Pat McGanney-BFD
Vanessa Palensky-Airlift
Josh Herguy-KCEMS Treasurer
Chief Jeff Faucett-SKFR
Dr. Herbie Dubar-KPHD
Chief Jared Moravec-BIFD
John Viglo-SMMC
Guy Earle-KCHD
Chief Lagrdeur-NKFR