



WISCONSIN FIRE & EMS COALITION

321 E. Main Street, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703



Fire & EMS Coalition Meeting Minutes October 23, 2023 – 10:00am – Madison, WI

In attendance: Members: Chief Mike Stanley (WI State Fire Chiefs Association), Chris Anderson (PAAW), James Small (UW Office of Rural Health), Todd Blaser (WI State Fire Fighters Association), Brad Bowen (WI Fire Chiefs' Association), Kevin Gerarden (WI Society of Emergency Services Instructors), Alan DeYoung (WEMSA), Bob Salov (WEMSA), and Ken Asslin (WI Fire Inspectors Association).

Lobbyists: Joe Strohl (PFFW) and Matt Kussow (PAAW).



Meeting called to order by Chief Stanley and roll call taken at 10:00 am.

Joe Strohl gave an update on the following legislative proposals:



1. PTSD – needs to go through the WCAC in November, then to Legislature in January. We may need to look at a more narrowly focused bill that only covers Fire and EMS personnel.
2. WERC Racine Bill – passed the Assembly, going to the Governor for his signature.
3. EMS Age – Reduces age from 18 to 17, EMS Board opposes. Can't get 17-year-olds insured. Not opposed to them holding a training permit, just can't get licensed. Also issues with the Department of Labor and child labor laws.
4. Expand EMS Board by 2 to add more rural members. Since it's just an advisory board, is this really necessary?
5. Post Retirement return to work – Several bills for police/Firs/Ems pending. All in attendance are supportive.
6. LPG Training – Bill being considered on lifting the training requirements for persons dispensing liquid petroleum gas.
7. Healthy Aging Grants – State Chiefs and WEMSA supportive.
8. Electric Vehicle license plates – great in theory but not an effective safety measure.
9. Balanced billing – aids in settling disputes between service providers and insurance companies on transport of out of network patients. WEMSA may be looking for some amendments to make it better for providers and consumers.



Other updates:

1. Chief Stanley is hearing rumblings of discontent because the new building code language has not passed. DPSP is falling way behind on this, especially with all the new technology coming on board and no regulations for it all.
2. Fire Code CR 23-007, fire sprinklers on balconies, did not pass JCRAR.
3. GEMT – Matt noted the Department is still trying to maneuver through it and may need to pass additional legislation to move it forward. May need an amendment to the state Medicaid plan.
4. Innovation Fund status – DOR is working on the details of the administration of it.
5. Supplemental Funds priorities - need further clarification on definition of “administrative staff”.
6. DHS 110.06 – timing of licensure based on initial application. Ken Asslin noted the barrier the 24-month timeline presents. The NREMT is hard for the students to pass and it’s taking them longer to get through this process. DHS is looking at reopening DHS 110 so that would be a good time to address this issue. All in attendance agreed to get rid of the 24-month deadline. Question is how to do it in the most time efficient manner. A rule change can take 2 years to implement.

Federal Updates

1. Joe gave an update on 2 items of interest to the PFFW that the IAFF has raised. We’ll be working with our Congressional delegation on these issues.

Next Meeting – January 4, 2024, at the Administration Building

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy McGinnis, PFFW
November 30, 2023