

Minutes



Marion County
OREGON
Health & Human Services

Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee

Date/Time: April 8, 2026, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Location: Salem Fire Dept. Station 6 (2742 25th St. SE, Salem) and MS Teams

Facilitator: Katrina Griffith **Recorder:** Sam Address

Appointed: ☒ Sherry Bensema ☒ Brian Butler ☒ Jordan Donat ☒ Frank Ehrmantraut ☒ Danny Freitag ☒ David Gerboth
☒ Katrina Griffith, *ex officio* ☒ Toni Grimes ☒ Stephanie McClung ☒ Tim Morris ☐ Dan Mullen ☐ Melvin Peterson

Attendees: ☒ Sam Address ☐ Rosa Antoine ☒ Darrin George ☒ Brandi Johnson ☒ John Kubasak ☐ Kyle McMann ☒ Steve Boughey
☒ Kyle Amsberry

Guests: ☒ Aryn Walker, MCHHS

Time	Agenda Item (Who) Information/Discussion	Description
10:00 – 10:02 am	Welcome and Introductions – Brian Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 287 361 039 927 43, Passcode: CQ2yk7A2	Meeting called to order.
10:02 – 10:05 am	Open for Public Comment	No public in attendance. Katrina announced there are new accessibility standards for public meeting minutes, including using plain language and accessible PDFs.
10:05 – 10:10 am	Review Minutes from 1/14/26 Meeting – Brian	Brian Butler asked for a motion to approve the January 14, 2026, meeting minutes. Tim Morris motioned, Danny Freitag seconded. All in favor, no opposed. Minutes from January 14, 2026, were approved as written.
10:10 – 10:25am	Rules Advisory Committee Update – Toni/All	Several members attended the first of three Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings on upcoming ASA rule updates. The session focused on the rulemaking process, roles, and early areas of potential change. Roles: OHA provides administrative oversight; counties enforce ASA plans. A clearer role for the ASA Administrator as OHA liaison is being considered.

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		• Process: A new preliminary OHA review step may be added before formal certification. No gaps are expected between current and updated plans. Plans are reviewed every 5 years (Marion County: 2028), with minor amendments allowed in between. • Key Topics: Updates to definitions (e.g., treat in place, non-emergent transport), clarification of plan approval (county → state), and alignment with statute. • Considerations: Concerns raised about air provider inclusion, ASA boundary clarity, and QA requirements for smaller/rural providers. • Next Steps: More detailed discussion at the May 12 RAC meeting; public comment anticipated in August. OHA is open to feedback.
10:25 – 10:55 am	EMS ESSENCE Data in Marion County – Aryn	Aryn Walker, Sr Epidemiology presented EMS Essence Data for Marion County. Essence data is protected and limited to specific individuals and agencies; access is given by Oregon Health Authority. There was discussion around the use of Narcan and opioid reversal medications to improve the rate of overdose and overdose mortality. Please reach out to MCHHS if you would like Narcan and Narcan training for your staff.  ESSENCE_EMS_Opioid_Surveillance_2020
10:55 – 11:05 am	REACH Team Update – David/Katrina	Chief David Gerboth explained that a 2025 multi-casualty incident at UGM was one catalyst for the REACH initiative and is part of the Safe, Clean & Healthy Salem. This initiative focused on downtown Salem but included some of NE Salem to provide increased service levels and response. An influx of new EMS and EMT professionals allowed the REACH team to be developed. The REACH team is comprised of a medic, EMT, and Qualified Mental

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		Health Associate (QMHA). The purpose of this team is to offload calls with behavioral health concerns from EMS to the correct resources. This response allows for behavioral health calls to be transported to the appropriate levels of service rather than emergency department. This is a pilot program, but David shared the data has been promising so far with recent numbers showing the REACH team has been able to transport around 35% of contacts to somewhere other than emergency department. Soon, the REACH team will be able to respond to the NE Lancaster corridor. MCHHS has offered mobile response services for some time through the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, but funding has become complicated. MCHHS is training all staff at Behavioral Health Crisis Center to be able to respond to mobile calls.
11:05 – 11:30 am	Roundtable Discussion	Discussion was held surrounding the Salem Fire transition from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advanced Life Support (ALS) program with Falck. At this time, there is no capacity to maintain BLS. Santiam Hospital Ambulance will remain Santiam Hospital through the affiliation agreement with Salem Health. Santiam has doubled the number of emergency department beds and will add an additional ALS ambulance in December. Sherry Bensema informed the committee that the trauma registry number is overriding state trauma number in the system and to double check that the numbers are transferred properly. Discussion was held around wait times for transfers and emergency department visits. They would like to better

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		track how long wait times are and see if additional data can be tracked and trends identified. There is a desire from the group to have the hospital attend an ASA meeting in the future. Toni shared that Woodburn Ambulance has new physician. The new physician will cover all areas except Aurora and Woodburn. Dr. Stone covers those areas. . Marion County responded to a public records request and has sent all 10 franchise agreements to the requestor. There is a desire from the group to receive a report on Measles. They would like to know what is a trigger point for reporting for notifying EMS that exposure risk is high. Katrina explained that sometimes we won't know there is an exposure or risk until after the fact. Wastewater testing is an early warning system for the possibility that measles will occur within a community. It is not 100% accurate at predicting measles. The best method for preventing measles is being up to date on immunizations. Hospitals are required to report suspect measles cases to MCHHS Communicable Disease immediately. The OHA news releases are the best source of information for measles exposure and those notifications happen quickly. Stephanie shared they are completing seismic upgrades to their fire stations. Frank shared they will be receiving a new ambulance in a couple of months, totaling 4 physical ambulances.
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Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 8th, 2026, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Location: HHS 3160 Center St. NE, Salem (Rockaway Conference Room A) and MS Teams