

Ambulance Service Review Committee UNAPPROVED Minutes

August 13, 2025, 1pm

Key Decisions and Actions

- Motion passed requiring Pacific West Ambulance and South Lincoln Ambulance to self-report when staffing levels fall below ASA requirements
 - Reports to be included in regular compliance updates
 - Will track dates and times when staffing falls below required levels
 - Implementation to begin immediately

Detailed Discussion Items

Staffing Challenges

- Pacific West Ambulance staffing situation:
 - Experiencing significant paramedic shortage
 - Currently using BLS units as temporary solution
 - Coordinating with fire departments for paramedic support
 - Fire department paramedics can join BLS units when needed
 - Actively recruiting new paramedics
 - Three new paramedics starting training
 - One paramedic arriving from Texas in 3 weeks
 - Housing availability at coast identified as major recruitment barrier
 - Many staff living outside county due to housing constraints
 - Affecting ability to maintain consistent staffing

ASA Compliance Reporting

- Reporting process changes:
 - Data now coming directly from service providers rather than WVCC
 - WVCC working on improving their reporting capabilities
 - Meeting with IT department to consolidate reporting formats
- Committee oversight:
 - Members requested advance access to compliance reports
 - Reports to be distributed with meeting agendas when available
 - Enhanced monitoring of staffing compliance to be implemented

Life Flight Operations

- Current status:
 - Newport base continuing normal operations
 - Working toward full IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) pilot staffing
 - Expected completion by October
 - Currently training two additional IFR pilots
 - New IFR plan approved for North Lincoln Hospital
 - Implementation expected by mid-November
 - Will improve access during adverse weather conditions
- Operational protocols:
 - 15-minute standard for ground time established
 - Improved communication procedures for weather checks
 - Direct activation preferred over availability checks

Future Planning

- 5-year ASA Plan Review
 - To begin January 2026
 - Will establish subcommittee in November 2025
 - County Council to be involved in review process
- Zone Classification Review
 - Committee to examine current response time requirements
 - Special focus on Seal Rock's 60-minute response zone designation
 - Will evaluate population changes and service needs

Next Steps

- Next regular meeting scheduled for November 12, 2025
- Agenda to include:
 - Formation of ASA plan review subcommittee
 - Review of initial staffing compliance reports
 - Updates on Life Flight IFR implementation