

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

March 20, 2014

The annual meeting of the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met at Emergency Medical Services, First Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida, at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter (Chair)
Chief Joseph Connors, Clearwater Fire Department
Chief Joe Accetta, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Vice-Chair)
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Mayor Patricia Gerard, Mayors' Council (Largo)
William Israel, Citizen Representative
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative
Chief William Scott, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association
Vicki Glenn, Sunstar Paramedics
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. David Weiland Jr., Pinellas County Medical Association

Absent:

Capt. Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Maj. Sean Jowell, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Capt. Glenn Luben, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative (Secretary)
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs
James Terry, Independent Fire District Elected Official
Kathleen Litton, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Also Present:

Craig Hare, Emergency Medical Services
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director
Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office
Greg Woodrum, Emergency Medical Services
Shawn Tatham, Emergency Medical Services
Chief Bob Markford, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association
Mrs. Sally Israel, Citizen
Mr. William Holmes, Citizen
Ms. Carol Bissing, Bayfront Medical Center
Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Chief Robert Angell, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Susan Byrd, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Ms. Debbie Vass, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Cullen called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum present. There were 12 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 19, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Weiland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

EMS Director:

Mr. Hare briefed that a one-year extension of the Ambulance Service Agreement had been approved by the EMS Authority and that it would run through the fall of 2015. The next step will be to do a Request for Proposal and go out to bid sometime this summer.

Mr. Hare reported that staff is working with cities and fire districts to develop a multi-year ALS First Responder Agreement.

Mr. Hare said that EMS staff had developed an electronic version of the Medical Operations Manual that will be available to all paramedics on their smart phones.

Mr. Hare stated that the emergency generator upgrade project is nearing completion and the power changeover to the new generators will take place in mid April.

EMS Medical Director:

Dr. Jameson briefed that we are just weeks away from turning on our Critical Care protocols as well as our Tactical Paramedic protocols.

Dr. Jameson said that the next step would be to work on the Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue protocols and that he anticipates that within a few months they would be ready for the editing and update phase.

Dr. Jameson elaborated on the electronic Medical Operations Manual and said that it would be user friendly and much easier to use than the previous format.

Ms. Scofield asked if the electronic manual would be available to the public and Mr. Hare responded that it is a public document.

Dr. Jameson reported that Pinellas County has made excellent progress toward reducing hospital bed delays and with great support from the hospitals we are currently better than 95% at turning the patient over to the hospital and returning the ambulance unit to service.

Dr. Jameson said that staff is working on a new Narcotics Control Program that will be 100% DEA compliant and he hopes to report in a few months that the program is up and running countywide.

Dr. Dooley briefed the group on the new employee orientation program.

Dr. Jameson talked about the benefits of simulation training and the efforts being made to move toward high fidelity simulation training for the EMS system.

Sunstar:

Ms. Glenn briefed that Sunstar is experiencing a 13% increase in transports compared to this same time last year and is also having record weekly transports. A new daily transport record of 488 was also set on March 3rd.

Ms. Glenn said that Sunstar would be transitioning to the Philips ECG monitor over the next few weeks and that this would allow Sunstar to use the same monitor as is currently being used by first responders.

First Responders:

Chief Accetta briefed the first responder dispatch statistics for 2014 year-to-date. The statistics were broken down by department.

VACANCIES

Mr. Woodrum reported that there are two citizen representative positions to fill and that the Selection Committee had rank ordered two candidates back in October 2013 to fill future positions. The two candidates were Ms. Beth Rawlins and Mr. William Holmes.

Chairman Cullen called for a motion on the candidates. Chief Accetta made a motion that Ms. Rawlins and Mr. Holmes be nominated to fill the two vacant citizen representative positions. Ms. Guidash seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Brody explained the process for the annual election of officers. The officer positions up for election were Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

Chief Accetta as the current Vice-Chair asked if there were any nominations for the Chair position. Ms. Glenn nominated Ms. Cullen to serve another term as Chair. Ms. Scofield seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Chairman Cullen called for a nomination for the Vice-Chair position. Ms. Scofield nominated Chief Accetta to serve another term as Vice-Chair. Mr. Israel seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Chairman Cullen called for a nomination for the Secretary position. Mayor Gerard nominated Mr. Neri. Dr. Weiland seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Mr. Brody stated that the newly elected officers are automatically members of the Executive Committee and that the Council should elect the two additional Committee members.

Chairman Cullen called for nominations to fill the two positions on the Executive Committee. Dr. Webster nominated Dr. Weiland. Mr. Israel seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Chief Accetta nominated Chief Scott to fill the second position on the Executive Committee. Mayor Gerard seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Ms. Byrd briefed the Council on a program sponsored by All Children's Hospital to reach out to asthma patients after they are discharged. Ms. Byrd stated that All Children's would like to partner with the Pinellas County School Board and EMS to develop a continuity of care plan for areas of the county that have a concentration of pediatric asthma cases.

Mr. Hare reported that the EMS Management Committee was continuing to meet to update the EMS Rules and Regulations and that the PALS Committee is working to update the Quality Assurance manual. Mr. Hare said that we would look to bring these two groups together to develop a consensus document that outlines the next generation of quality assurance improvement and the regulatory structure for the group.

Dr. Webster asked if there could be more done to give the EMS Advisory Council more advanced notice of upcoming EMS issues so that members could provide more input into those issues. Dr. Webster also asked if a County Commissioner could attend future meetings, perhaps annually. Mr. Israel concurred.

Mr. Hare responded that he felt these were both good ideas and that he would provide this feedback to the County Commission. Mr. Hare further stated that it was often very difficult to give advance notice due to the frequency of meetings and the emerging nature of issues.

Dr. Webster added that he does appreciate the efforts that staff makes to keep the Council informed. He just feels that it would be beneficial to hear more from those that are responsible to make decisions on these issues.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on June 19, 2014 at 10 A.M. at the EMS Center, 1st Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Glenn made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Guidash seconded the motion. Chairman Cullen adjourned the meeting at 10:45 A.M.

An audio recording of this meeting as well as any correspondence received is on file at the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services.