

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

September 18, 2014

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met at EMS & Fire Administration, 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 Robert Weiss, Clearwater Fire Department
Chief Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Chief Joe Accetta, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Vice-Chair)
Capt. Glenn Luben, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Mayor Patricia Gerard, Mayors' Council (Largo)
William Israel, Citizen Representative
Beth Rawlins, Citizen Representative
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative (Secretary)
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative
William Holmes, Citizen Representative
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative
Chief William Scott, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association
Vicki Glenn, Sunstar Paramedics
Dr. David Weiland Jr., Pinellas County Medical Association

Absent:

Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
James Terry, Independent Fire District Elected Official
Kathleen Litton, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Also Present:

Craig Hare, EMS & Fire Administration
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate EMS Medical Director
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration
Alexandra Dolce, EMS & Fire Administration
Shawn Tatham, EMS & Fire Administration
Chief Joseph Connors, Clearwater Fire Department
Chief Kent Watts, Clearwater Fire Department
Amber Boulding, Pinellas County Health Department
Susan Byrd, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Chief Bob Markford, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association
Carol Bissinger, Bayfront Medical Center
Bill Lewis, Citizen
Debbie Vass, Sunstar Paramedics
Richard Schomp, 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 17 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 19, 2014 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Neri made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Israel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

EMS Director: Mr. Hare reported that Mr. Mark Woodard had been appointed as the permanent County Administrator.

Mr. Hare briefed that the move to the new Regional 9-1-1 Center was conducted on July 23, 2014. The agencies that are located at the new facility now are the Sheriff's Administration, County 9-1-1 staff and the Emergency Operations Center. By the end of the calendar year the ambulance dispatch will be relocated to the new facility.

Mr. Hare described the recent call taking problems experienced at the Regional 9-1-1 Center and Sunstar Communications Center due to a power surge combined with a lightning strike and the actions taken to transfer calls to a backup operations plan.

Mr. Hare reported that on August 19th the Board of County Commissioners approved a master Advanced Life Support First Responder Agreement with all the cities and fire districts.

Mr. Hare announced that Mr. John Todaro has been hired by St. Petersburg College as the new Program Manager for the Continuing Medical Education Program.

Mr. Hare and Dr. Dooley gave a presentation on the new Handtevy Pediatric Care System. This system will provide a more standardized medical bag for all pediatric care and will make it much easier for clinicians to make drug dosage calculations and will alleviate some of the stress experienced on scene when caring for pediatric patients.

EMS Medical Director: Dr. Dooley announced the opening of the Center for Prehospital Medicine. The Center provides high fidelity simulation mannequins that have drug recognition capability and high tech, state of the art adult and pediatric simulators. All new paramedics to the system will receive a week long training session using the high fidelity simulators at which time they will be certified by the Medical Director.

Mr. Neri asked how we can better educate and inform the public on new equipment being used so that they have a better understanding.

Mr. Hare responded that public education did take a hit in previous budget cuts and that there was a gap in that area. Mr. Hare said that EMS does support initiatives such as the County's Youth Advisory Committee and the Great American Teach-In but acknowledged that more can be done.

Mr. Neri described a recent Tampa Bay Times cover story on pediatric trauma alerts being transported to non-pediatric trauma centers. He then asked whether we had that problem in Pinellas County.

Mr. Hare responded that fortunately we are not in that situation. He then briefed the EMS Advisory Council on how transports of pediatric and adult trauma patients are distributed to the various hospitals serving our county based on the patient's needs and location. Mr. Hare concluded by stating that all pediatric trauma alert patients in Pinellas County are transported to pediatric trauma centers.

Sunstar: Ms. Glenn reported that Sunstar continues to experience very high call volume and that she anticipates it going up even more because we are about to enter the busy season.

First Responders: Chief Accetta briefed the year-to-date incident statistics by EMD determinant and the air transports by geographic area. He also provided a report on incident statistics by age as well as dispatch statistics by department.

Mr. Neri requested that the dispatch statistics report be sorted highest to lowest by department and that a separate column be added to show what percentage of the total each department represents.

Chief Accetta stated that he would sort the report as requested and that he would separate EMS and Fire calls for the next meeting.

WATER RESCUE DISCUSSION

Mr. Hare introduced Ms. Alexandra Dolce from the EMS & Fire Administration staff who would provide a briefing on water rescue capability in Pinellas County.

Mr. Hare pointed out that there were also numerous agencies and subject matter experts in the room such as Chief Weiss & Chief Watts of Clearwater, Chief Accetta of Safety Harbor, Chief Womack of St. Petersburg and Capt. Luben from the Sheriff's Office who would be welcome to contribute to the discussion and answer any questions.

Ms. Dolce gave a presentation and provided a detailed report on water rescue responses and available resources.

There was a lengthy discussion on water rescue operations.

Chief Accetta asked Mr. Hare if any EMS dollars are used to fund these vessels.

Mr. Hare responded that these vessels are funded with local, municipal fire protection dollars. Mr. Hare stated that there is a County percentage if there is an unincorporated component to the funding. Mr. Hare added that this is an area where EMS is not directly involved although there are patients at the completion of the rescue that are treated and transported.

Chief Accetta requested discussion on whether there were any possible funding mechanisms available to support water rescue operations.

Dr. Kuebler reiterated his position from the last meeting that he believes it is very important to fund water rescue and he believes that EMS dollars should be contributed because the majority of responses are medical in nature.

Capt. Luben was asked how funding for the PCSO watercraft worked and he responded that there is very, very little revenue generated. Although there are numerous safety stops made to verify proper equipment on board that is required by law, there are very few citations issued as a result of these stops. Capt. Luben said that the primary function of his agency's watercraft is to be visible and enforce the safety aspect more as public education.

Ms. Scofield commented that the EMS Advisory Council might coordinate communication between the individual agencies and EMS.

Mr. Hare stated that there is opportunity for the EMS Advisory Council to identify program gaps or needs to take back to the fire chiefs. Mr. Hare observed that we currently have a lot of water rescue resources and that one goal is to work on getting the boats into the water more quickly and that this would be an initiative that he believes the County could support.

Chief Accetta recommended that the EMS Management Committee take up the topic of water rescue at a future meeting and invite subject matter experts from Pinellas County agencies to join in the discussion. The entire group was in agreement.

OPEN FORUM

Ms. Rawlins requested discussion on how items are added to the EMS Advisory Council agenda.

After discussion, Ms. Rawlins made a motion that agenda items can be placed on the agenda in open discussion at a meeting or by communication with staff in advance of a meeting. Dr. Kuebler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Scofield made a motion that staff provide direction in writing on how to add an item to the agenda and who to contact. Mr. Neri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on December 18, 2014 at 10 A.M. Staff will plan a tour of the new Center for Prehospital Medicine and the new Public Safety Complex. The details of the next meeting will be announced at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neri made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Weiland seconded the motion. Chairman Cullen adjourned the meeting at 11:15 A.M.

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