

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

March 19, 2015

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
Capt. Scott Zweifel, 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 Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)
William Israel, Citizen Representative
Beth Rawlins, Citizen Representative
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative (Secretary)
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative
Vicki Glenn, Sunstar Paramedics

Absent:

Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative
William Holmes, Citizen Representative
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative
Chief William Scott, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association
Chief Bob Markford, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. David Weiland Jr., Pinellas County Medical Association
Anissa Raiford, Pinellas County Medical Association
James Terry, Independent Fire District Elected Official
Kathleen Litton, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Staff Present:

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Assistant County Administrator
Craig Hare, EMS & Fire Administration Director
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate EMS Medical Director
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Chief Jeffrey Parks, Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association
Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Mayor Maria Lowe, St. Pete Beach
Sally Israel, Citizen
Susan Byrd, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Keith Murray, EMS & Fire Administration
Shawn Tatham, EMS & Fire Administration
Carol Bissing, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg
Debbie Vass, Sunstar Paramedics
John Peterson, 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 13 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Neri made a motion to approve the minutes and Mayor Palladeno seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

EMS Director: Mr. Hare provided an update on the Request for Proposal process for Ambulance Services. Mr. Hare stated that Paramedics Plus had been ranked number one and the rank order would go to the EMS Authority on March 24th for approval to move forward with negotiations with Paramedics Plus.

Mr. Hare asked Ms. Debbie Vass, Chief Administrative Officer for Sunstar, to provide an update on the Medication Error Subcommittee that she led to look into the root cause of a significant rise in medication errors as compared to previous years.

Mr. Hare asked Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate EMS Medical Director, to provide an update on initiatives to improve on-scene times for trauma events. Dr. Dooley said the goal was to have the patient packaged and transported within 10 minutes.

At Mr. Hare's request, Chief Accetta gave an update on the Water Rescue Committee which had been meeting for about 4 or 5 months to review the water rescue capability of our system. Chief Accetta stated that the final analysis document would be completed soon and that the Water Rescue Committee was supporting the City of Dunedin Resolution that requested the EMS Authority approve the ALS First Responder Agreements to be amended to allow for EMS funding of water rescue maintenance and operational costs. Chief Accetta asked for the support of the EMS Advisory Council in seeking that approval.

Mayor Palladeno asked if joint training between the ambulance contractor and the first responder agencies had been discussed. Chief Accetta stated that the training was recommended in the Water Rescue Committee's analysis.

Mr. Hare asked Mr. Keith Murray, Fire Coordinator, to provide an update on current water rescue capabilities and explained the Reach, Throw, Row, Go technique.

Mayor Palladeno thanked Chief Accetta, Mr. Hare and Dr. Moeller for recognizing the lapse in water rescue coverage and addressing it with an increased focus on water rescue capabilities.

Mayor Lowe of St. Pete Beach described the challenges that she faces in her city related to water rescue. Mayor Lowe said that the distance from shore to sea has increased as a result of beach restoration projects and the expanse has become substantial and affects response times in relation to patient transfer points and the rescue equipment best suited for each transfer.

Mr. Hare pointed to the success the City of Clearwater has experienced by better integrating their lifeguard program into their water rescue plan and adding a 4-wheel drive capable type vehicle to their beach response.

Mayor Palladeno said that one water rescue enhancement would be to work with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to possibly provide funding for a medic to ride on their existing boats.

Capt. Luben said that from sunrise to sunset there are generally two or more PCSO boats in the water and that the challenge is not one of assets but of personnel to man those assets.

Mayor Lowe suggested having mutual support agreements in place where first responders could be trained to operate PCSO watercraft that is docked at municipal locations to enhance rapid response capabilities.

Capt. Luben said that the Sheriff had discussed some cost sharing ideas with the City of Dunedin to have a boat staged there and that future discussions were anticipated.

Mr. Hare briefed the group on the Medic 40 Program. This is a joint effort between Largo Fire Rescue and Pinellas Park Fire Rescue to staff a community paramedic in a Sport Utility type vehicle to serve the 49th Street corridor. Mr. Hare stated that there is a real need for indigent care in this area and that there are currently between six and eight responses daily that impact fire protection coverage. Medic 40 would partner with the PCSO, public health, Department of Health and Human Services and the Pinellas Hope Center to augment and support the services they provide.

Mr. Hare reported that EMS & Fire Administration was able to provide Brush Truck 60 to the City of Dunedin. This is a new F-350 style of vehicle that provides both foam and water capability and would be used for foam support at the upcoming Grand Prix in St. Petersburg.

EMS Medical Director: Dr. Jameson reported that he is working with the American Heart Association on a Community CPR training initiative to help improve bystander CPR levels.

Dr. Jameson recognized the Department of Health, Dr. Dharamraj and her staff, for the level of cooperation they provided during the recent Ebola threat as well as a particular incident where providers were exposed to a potentially communicable disease.

Dr. Jameson reported that EMS was now working with the Medical Examiner's Office to receive anatomy training for new paramedics and thanked Dr. Thogmartin and his staff for the excellent partnership.

Dr. Jameson briefed that the Center for Prehospital Medicine continues to grow. Hospital ER staff have also now begun to utilize the facility for training.

Dr. Jameson reported that we are in the process of rolling out our FirstPass software. This Quality Management tool will ensure that all electronic patient care reports are reviewed electronically and referred for further human review as set by predetermined triggers. Dr. Jameson said that this will put Pinellas County EMS as one of the top ten systems in the country to have instituted this level of quality management.

Dr. Jameson stated that provider wellness will be a priority that he will be working on in the coming months along with several other champions in the system that will be partnering with him to address this important issue.

Sunstar: Ms. Glenn briefed that transports continue to rise. What was once 400+ transport days are now 500+ transport days. Thus far in the month of March there have been eight days with 500+ transports and there is a nine percent increase in transports over this time last year.

Ms. Glenn reported that at this time last year there were 11,417 transports and this year there have already been 12,383 transports.

Ms. Glenn praised the level of teamwork involved from all agencies to handle the rise in transports and the receiving of patients into the hospitals.

First Responders: Chief Accetta briefed the dispatch statistics and call volume by department for ALS First Responders.

Chief Accetta sought clarification on whether the EMS Advisory Council had made a formal motion on funding for water rescue operations. After consideration, it was determined that the subject had been brought up and discussed at a prior meeting but no formal motion had been made on the topic.

Chief Accetta then made a recommendation that the EMS Advisory Council provide direction on whether EMS funds should be allocated for existing water rescue resources, operating maintenance, training and future capital.

Dr. Moeller commented that the recommendation should reference countywide dollars to allow for flexibility in identifying funding sources. Dr. Moeller also stated that to the degree there is a regional approach to water rescue operations, he believes that asking the County to identify funding sources is appropriate.

After discussion there was concurrence that any water rescue initiative needs to be a countywide program to uniform standards.

Mayor Palladeno made a motion that the EMS Advisory Council support the City of Dunedin Resolution 14-31 for all First Responder agencies to include the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and that County funding be identified to support water rescue activities. Ms. Rawlins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Israel requested statistics on prolonged response times. Chief Accetta stated that he would request this data and add to his next report.

DRAFT EMS RULES & REGULATIONS

Chairman Cullen thanked the EMS Management Committee for their hard work amending the EMS Rules & Regulations. Chairman Cullen stated that the EMS Management Committee had met seven times over fifteen months to provide the draft presented today and asked staff to provide an overview.

Mr. Hare provided an overview of the amendments made to the EMS Rules & Regulations which included improvements in the following areas: Administrative Certifications, Quality Assurance Reviews, Safety Culture, Special Event Coordination, Controlled Substance Handling, Medical Records Retention, Hospital Information Exchange, SWAT Team Paramedic Certification, Concurrent Employment, Voluntary Demotion, Military Leave, CME Program, Background Screenings and Corrective Action Plans.

Chairman Cullen called for a motion. Mayor Palladeno made a motion to approve the EMS Rules & Regulations as presented. Mr. Israel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Brody briefed the EMS Advisory Council on the process for nomination and election of officers. No nominations had been received prior to the meeting so Mr. Brody stated that we would receive nominations from the floor for the following positions: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and two Executive Committee members.

Mayor Palladeno nominated himself for Chairman. Chief Accetta seconded the nomination and the nomination carried unanimously.

Mayor Palladeno nominated Chief Weiss for Vice-Chairman. Chief Accetta seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Mr. Israel nominated Mr. Neri for Secretary. Mayor Palladeno seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Chief Weiss nominated Chief Accetta for the first position on the Executive Committee. Mayor Palladeno seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Ms. Scofield nominated Ms. Rawlins for the second position on the Executive Committee. Mayor Palladeno seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Hare thanked Ms. Cullen for her long service to the EMS Advisory Council. Ms. Cullen said that it was her honor and privilege to serve and she received applause and recognition from the entire group.

Ms. Scofield thanked the staff for organizing the logistics of the tour last December as well as the First Responders and ambulance crew that conducted demonstrations.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on June 18, 2015 at 10 A.M. at the EMS & Fire Administration, Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neri made a motion to adjourn and Mayor Palladeno seconded the motion. All were in favor and Ms. Cullen adjourned the meeting at 11:20 A.M.

An audio recording of this meeting as well as any correspondence received is on file at the
Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration.