

**PINELLAS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
March 17, 2016**

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:

Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach) – Chair  
Capt. Eric Dinan, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue  
Chief Joe Accetta, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Capt. Michael Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department  
Rev. Dean Young, Citizen Representative  
Beth Rawlins, Citizen Representative  
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative  
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative  
William Holmes, Citizen Representative  
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative  
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative  
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative  
Mark Postma, Sunstar Paramedics  
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College  
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society - Secretary  
Dr. David Weiland, Pinellas County Medical Association – Vice Chair

Absent:

Chief Robert Weiss, Clearwater Fire Department  
Chief Joseph T. Connors, Clearwater Fire Department  
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)  
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)  
Mayor Maria Lowe, Mayors' Council (St. Pete Beach)  
Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter  
Susan Byrd, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter  
Chief Bob Markford, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association  
Kathleen Litton, Independent Fire District Elected Official  
David Root, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Staff Present:

Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration  
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:

Amber Boulding, Pinellas County Health Department  
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics  
Chief Jeffrey Parks, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Kimberly Lacina, Sunstar Paramedics  
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics  
Chief Shelby Willis, Largo Fire Rescue  
Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department  
Chief Rob Angell, Pinellas Park Fire Department  
Elizabeth Monforti, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue  
Carol Bissinger, Bayfront Medical

Julie Bacon, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital  
Chief Tony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire Department  
Bill Lewis, Citizen  
Chief Bill Scott, Largo Fire Rescue

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Palladeno 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 December 17, 2015 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Neri made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Kuebler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **RECOGNITION**

Mayor Palladeno and Mr. Hare recognized a citizen and first responders for their performance during a difficult trauma scene.

### **PRESENTATION**

Liz Monforti, Public Information Officer for Palm Harbor Fire Rescue gave a presentation on the benefits of Tai Chi as a Wellness Program.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Director, EMS & Fire Administration:**

Mr. Hare introduced Rev. Dean Young as a new citizen representative on the EMS Advisory Council.

Mr. Hare briefed that there would be a transition of the All Children's Hospital team to be a stand-alone program as they have taken on more of a regional mission.

Mr. Hare reported that a Data Driven Focus Group comprised of County staff and fire chiefs was being formed to review call volume data and make recommendations concerning program improvements back to the EMS Advisory Council for review.

Mr. Hare shared that a five-year Technical Rescue Agreement has been drafted through a joint effort of Technical Rescue Commanders and County staff. It is currently going through contract review and will be going to the EMS Authority for approval this year.

Mr. Hare briefed on efforts to research and develop a drone program that would enhance and improve search and rescue operations for first responder agencies.

#### **EMS Medical Director:**

Dr. Jameson briefed the progress of the Continuing Medical Education Program and the positive impact it is having on protocol updates.

Dr. Jameson described the incredible increase in call volume being experienced and the recent need for him to invoke System Status Management to address hospital closures during these times.

Mr. Hare noted that eight new ambulances had been added to help address the increase in call volume.

#### **Sunstar:**

Mr. Postma said that he gave a system presentation at a conference of the Ambulance Manufacturers Group. This group builds all the ambulances nationwide.

Mr. Postma said that Sunstar recently broke a daily transport record by transporting 584 patients.

Mr. Postma discussed the importance of placing patients at hospitals. He praised the level of professionalism between ambulance, first responders and hospital staff that he observed during a recent unannounced ambulance ride-along.

### **First Responders:**

Chief Accetta briefed the 2015 incident statistics with EMD activity and discussed the "Falls" determinant.

Chief Accetta noted that first responders were also feeling the impact of the increased call volume and that strike teams were also assembled to assist other counties which added to the increased activity.

Ms. Lewis brought up her concern with stress factors placed on clinicians and first responders.

Dr. Jameson replied that he shared Ms. Lewis's concern and that a Wellness Committee led by Chief Markford was looking for ways to address these stress related issues.

Mr. Hare added that EMS Grant funds had just been secured to contribute toward these wellness efforts.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Woodrum stated that the three officer positions up for election are Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary and there were also two positions on the Executive Committee and that for the position of Chair he had received two nominations for Mayor Palladeno and three nominations for Dr. Weiland. Mayor Palladeno and Dr. Weiland both gave a brief statement as to why they would like to serve as Chair.

Chief Accetta as Executive Committee member took over as Chair for the election process and called for a vote of each nominee in turn by a show of hands. Mayor Palladeno received eight votes and Dr. Weiland received six votes. Mayor Palladeno was elected Chair.

Mayor Palladeno called for a nomination for Vice-Chair and nominated Dr. Weiland for the position. Mr. Woodrum said that he had also received a nomination for Chief Weiss and Dr. Webster. Dr. Webster was at the meeting and withdrew his nomination in favor of Dr. Weiland. Mayor Palladeno closed the nominations and called for a vote by show of hands for each nominee. Dr. Weiland received twelve votes and was elected Vice-Chair.

Mayor Palladeno called for a nomination for Secretary. Mr. Woodrum said that he had received two nominations for Mayor Lowe to remain as Secretary and one nomination for Dr. Webster. Dr. Webster received eight votes and Mayor Lowe received seven votes. Dr. Webster was elected Secretary.

Mayor Palladeno called for nominations to fill the two Executive Committee positions. Mr. Neri nominated himself, Mr. Postma nominated Chief Accetta and Mayor Palladeno nominated Ms. Rawlins. Mayor Palladeno called for a vote by show of hands for Chief Accetta and he received ten votes which secured one of the positions. Then Mayor Palladeno called for a vote by show of hands for the second position and Mr. Neri received eleven votes securing the second position.

The newly elected slate of officers and executive committee are:

Chair: Mayor Palladeno

Vice-Chair: Dr. Weiland

Secretary: Dr. Webster

Executive Committee: Mayor Palladeno, Dr. Weiland, Dr. Webster, Chief Accetta and Mr. Neri.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Ms. Julie Bacon provided some information related to the State Strategic Plan and advised that EMS Week would be the week of May 16<sup>th</sup> and that All Children's Hospital would be providing free pediatric skills training during that week.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on June 16, 2016 at 10 A.M. at the EMS & Fire Administration, Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Palladeno adjourned the meeting at 11:35 A.M.

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