

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

May 23, 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
Chief Robert Weiss, Clearwater Fire Department
Chief Ian Womack, 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
Mayor Maria Lowe, Mayors' Council (St. Pete Beach)
Rev. Dean Young, Citizen Representative
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative
William Holmes, Citizen Representative
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative
Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Chief Bob Markford, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association
Mark Postma, Sunstar Paramedics
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – Secretary

Absent:

Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Beth Rawlins, Citizen Representative
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College
Dr. David Weiland, Pinellas County Medical Association – Vice Chair
Anissa Raiford, Pinellas County Medical Association
Kathleen Litton, Independent Fire District Elected Official
David Root, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Staff Present:

John Bennett, Assistant County Administrator
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate EMS Medical Director
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office
Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration
Elliot Carhart, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Chief Joseph T. Connors, Clearwater Fire Department
Capt. Eric Dinan, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Chief Jeff Parks, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association
Chief Shelby Willis, Largo Fire Rescue
Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Chief James V. Marenkovic, Gulfport Fire Department

Chief Richard Graham Lealman Fire Department
Chief Jim Millican, Lealman Fire Department
Chief Heather Burford, Seminole Fire Department
Richard Pauley, Labor Representative
Lt. Travis Witt, St. Petersburg Fire Department
Chief Derryl O'Neal, Madeira Beach Fire Department
Chief Tom Jamison, East Lake Fire Rescue
Chief Dayton Saltsman, South Pasadena Fire
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Kim Lacina, Sunstar Paramedics
Julie Bacon, All Children's Hospital

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 16 voting members in attendance.

RECOGNITION

Mayor Palladeno recognized Chief O'Neal from Madeira Beach Fire Department in regards to Bay News 9's coverage of their duck saving techniques and thanked Engine 25 for their efforts.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 ALS FIRST RESPONDER FUNDING REQUESTS

Mr. Bennett began the discussion. Mr. Bennett stated that data drivers can really make a difference if they are centered on the right opportunity. Mr. Bennett said we want to make sure there are no service inequities in Pinellas County, and this starts with data. Mr. Bennett said we adopted a phrase of this theme, which you will see unfold today through all of your hard work, "which is the best for the most, starting with the least".

Mr. Bennett said it is our job as professionals to come together and pull this data together from the different focus areas, and make sure we are all talking with the same standardized tone. Mr. Bennett said once this is delivered you have an opportunity for it to evolve, once it evolves those services get better and stronger. Mr. Bennett said that one of the most important things that come out of it is this program will become attrition proof, and this system will be strong enough to serve those people that we actually designed it too, which is the most important part of it.

Mr. Bennett said we can collectively and collaborate with innovation evolve the process. Mr. Bennett thanked the Advisory council for coming together today to look at this.

Chief Graham stated that he believes this is the first time since he's been involved in the organization that there is consensus on this issue. He thanked Mr. Bennett and staff for all the time dedicated to this.

Chief Graham there has been a large increase in call volume. He stated that a lot of this burden is taken up by cities, and fire districts that are supporting the system with their own contract funded units.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Hare said staff has been working with the Chiefs through the data driven focus group. This provides a juncture to look at what the projects are have a qualitative review from the EMS Advisory Council.

Mr. Hare said the mission of the EMS Advisory Council is to study and analyze the procedures and protocols, which we talk about regularly and to recommend to the EMS Authority and staff, such actions deemed necessary to assure high quality Emergency Medical Service throughout Pinellas County.

Mr. Hare said we have pretty much used up the reserve capacity in the system. Mr. Hare said about 1997 or so we added this concept of contractor funding units, and at the time mostly for training or operational flexibility. Mr. Hare said some fire districts added paramedics units for that purpose, but now we have them running 20,000+ calls, which is 20% or more of our call volume, so now they are running out of necessity to insure that we have coverage. Mr. Hare said this is why this has become a hot topic for us to address.

Mr. Hare gave a presentation on ALS transport volume statistics and stated they continue to grow, primarily 911, effecting first response and ambulance, and call volume is continuing to grow. Mr. Hare said EMS calls affect our fire rescue coverage, and it affects the special operations units. Mr. Hare stated overall the system is working very well and then asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Hare briefed the following ongoing projects and initiatives:

- Active shooter preparedness, we are working on a table top drill that will be June 2nd
- Ballistic vests and helmets for all fire rescue and ambulance.
- Provider wellness, cumulative and post-traumatic stress - looking at July to start our awareness level
- CPR training and public education
- Turn out time performance
- Continuing medical education
- Online Learning
- 16 regional training sites
- Patient simulators
- CME reimbursement agreement
- Training coordinator and admin support
- Pre-hospital life support

Mr. Hare said he would like to see the EMS Advisory Council recommend to the Authority the specific things that are relative to the contractor funding units, new requests in projects, and other recommendations.

MOTIONS:

Mayor Palladeno called for a motion to endorse Fiscal Year 2017 ALSFR Funding Request. Dr. Webster made a motion to endorse and Rev. Young seconded the motion.

At Mayor Palladeno's request, Mr. Hare went through the funding request line by line.

Mayor Lowe made a request to add an item #15 to the 2017 ALSFR Funding Request to add a paramedic position to the St. Pete Beach FB22.

After considerable discussion, Chief Womack and Chief Graham emphasized for the record that Mayor Lowe's request was just that, a request, and in no way represented an item that had been vetted by the data driven focus group.

Mayor Palladeno called for a vote to approve the friendly amendment made by Mayor Lowe to the original motion to add the request for the FB22 position. The vote carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Hare asked if the EMS Advisory Council liked the direction that staff was taking and if there were additional recommendations.

Mr. Hare briefed that the Water Rescue Committee was led by Chief Accetta and comprised of several others from around the country. Chief Accetta is to give an update at the next meeting.

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 12:35 P.M.

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