

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

June 16, 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 Joseph T. Connors, 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
Rev. Dean Young, Citizen Representative
Beth Rawlins, 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
Dr. David Weiland, Pinellas County Medical Association – Vice Chair

Absent:

Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Amber Boulding, Pinellas County Health Department
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Mayor Maria Lowe, Mayors' Council (St. Pete Beach)
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative
William Holmes, Citizen Representative
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College
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:

Chief Jeff Parks, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics
Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department

Chief Shelby Willis, Largo Fire Rescue
Chief Sal D'Angelo, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue
Ashley Hoskins, Pinellas County Health Department
Chief Anthony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire Department
Kelly Cisarik, Citizen
Lou Snelling, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue
Chief Rob Angell, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics

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 13 voting members in attendance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Citizen - Kelly Cisarik (Indian Rocks Beach) – Discussed concerns regarding proposed EMS taxation increases.

RECOGNITION

Fire Commissioner Lou Snelling was recognized for his service to the Pinellas County EMS System. Mr. Snelling served for 40 years and was responsible for many improvements in the System.

Bayfront Trauma Center was recognized for its 30th Anniversary. On hand to accept the award were Kathryn Gillette (President & Chief Executive Officer), Lisa Nummi (Chief Operating Officer), Dr. Steven Epstein (Trauma Medical Director), and Carol Bissinger (Trauma Program Manager).

REPORTS

Director, EMS & Fire Administration:

Mr. Hare introduced Ms. Ashley Hoskins from the Pinellas County Health Department and announced that Ms. Gayle Guidash had been promoted to Assistant Director of that organization. Ms. Amber Boulding is now working for St. Petersburg Fire Rescue.

Mr. Hare briefed about a recent active shooter table top exercise and the number of agencies that participated. Mr. Hare stated that there were plans to add active shooter medical bags as well as ballistic vests and helmets for paramedics and first responders.

Mr. Hare summarized the following staff budget recommendations:

- Six (6) additional Paramedic positions, one for the City of Clearwater for Truck 45, one for the City of Pinellas Park for Truck 33, one for the City of Largo for Truck 42, one for the Lealman Fire Rescue District for Engine 19 and two peak rescue positions for the City of St. Petersburg.
- Through Penny for Pinellas dollars – A multiuse EMS facility to be located in North Redington Beach. This will be a permanent station that is in the design phase and will incorporate a Sheriff sub-center as well as public works.

Mr. Hare highlighted upcoming events such as the Pride Festival and the Wharf Tour.

EMS Medical Director:

Dr. Jameson briefed the Council on the following items:

- Training program – revamped medical education classes are going on all over the county. Dr. Jameson visited training and briefed that there is excellent engagement between the instructors and the students.
- Equipment updates – Dr. Jameson briefed that there would be a small number of changes related to Active Shooter preparedness. The goal is to achieve standardization of equipment on the trucks.
- Spice – Dr. Jameson reported that there have been an increase in calls related to Spice usage. The first Fusion meeting has been held attended by EMS, the Sheriff's office, Fire Rescue, poison center, medical center, forensic lab and department of health. It was a good opportunity to share a lot of information, find out what everyone is seeing and how we can support each other efforts. Homeless personnel seem to be the most affected.
- Dr. Jameson announced that Dr. LeFebre would be joining his team in a couple of weeks.
- Dr. Dooley has taken on a more active role with the Florida EMS Medical Directors and is working on various projects with them.

Sunstar:

- Mr. Postma reported that call volume continued to be high.
- Josh Hoover, Sunstar Education Coordinator, won the EMS Florida State Injury Prevention Award. Sunstar will be going to Orlando in a month for that presentation.
- The Critical Care Team unit has been refurbished.

First Responders:

Chief Accetta gave a presentation on current countywide water rescue capabilities. There was discussion concerning the different depths of water and different boats required for the different areas. Chief Accetta noted that the majority of rescues happen during inclement weather.

Chief Accetta briefed on the different types of boats used in each of the county/district waters and noted that the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office also has boats.

Mayor Palladeno suggested that a training video be created for citizens to understand the use of the various water rescue units.

Mr. Hare briefed on available funding for the Water Rescue Program.

BRIEFING: AMBULANCE USER FEES

Mr. Hare briefed on a recommendation made to the EMS Authority concerning proposed ambulance user fees. These are for patients that are transported by ambulance that we bill to Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance or private pay. Private pay is 2% of our bills sent.

Mr. Hare discussed establishing a basic life support ambulance in Pinellas County. The concept being that this would really help the hospitals. This would reduce the cost to facilities, by not increasing the full retail rate that we need to for system funding. From a staffing perspective we can bring on new young paramedics or EMTs and it gets them available and active in the system quickly. This is not related to 911. Mr. Hare stated that the next step would be to amend the EMS Ordinance

OPEN FORUM

Rev. Young asked where we stand on Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

Mr. Hare replied that there is discussion with the Fire Chiefs about refreshing our support for CISM. There are about 60 members so we have the capability. The Sheriff's office is very involved in that effort. The next piece is the stress first aid and we have done some train the trainer in the system.

Mr. Hare briefed that All Children's Hospital would begin their own stand-alone pediatric regional helicopter transport program under their own license. They will brand their transport program as Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital – LIFELINE. Mr. Hare requested a vote of support from the EMS Advisory Council to issue an updated Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN).

Mayor Palladeno called for a motion. Dr. Weiland made a motion to support the issuance of a COPCN to incorporate the regional pediatric helicopter transport service. Dr. Webster seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hare announced that the Pinellas County EMS System had been awarded the American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Gold award.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on September 15, 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 11:52 A.M.

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