

**PINELLAS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

October 27, 2017

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:

Chief Anthony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire Department  
Chief Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue  
Chief Shelby Willis, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Capt. Michael Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Mayor Max Elson, Mayors' Council (South Pasadena)  
Mayor Wanda Dudley, Mayors' Council (Kenneth City)  
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)  
Rev. Dean Young, Citizen Representative (District 3)  
Beth Rawlins, Citizen Representative (District 4)  
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative (District 5)  
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7)  
Chief Rob Angell, EMS Leadership Group  
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics  
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College  
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – Secretary  
Julie Peluso, Independent Fire District Elected Official  
Donald Turnbaugh, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Absent:

Dr. David Weiland, Pinellas County Medical Association – Chair  
Anissa Raiford, Pinellas County Medical Association  
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department  
Ashley Hoskins, Pinellas County Health Department  
Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, Mayors' Council (Dunedin)  
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative (District 2)  
William Holmes, Citizen Representative (District 6)  
Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter – Vice Chair  
Susan Byrd, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter

Staff Present:

Jim Fogarty, Director, Safety & Emergency Services  
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  
Liz Fogo, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Mayor Woody Brown (Largo)  
Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department  
Kelly Cisarik, Citizen  
Chief Mike Burton, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District  
Chief Joe Accetta, Safety Harbor Fire Department  
Richard Pauley, Labor Representative  
Nancy Obarski, Citizen  
Daniel Mynsberge, Citizen  
Debbie Scaccianoce,

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chief Womack called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were 17 voting members in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 15, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Rawlins motioned for approval of the minutes and Ms. Peluso seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**PRESENTATION – PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION – CHIEF WILLIS**

Chief Willis from Largo Fire Rescue, representing the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association, presented the Personnel and Equipment Demonstration. Utilizing a Power Point presentation she provided information on some of the services they provide throughout Pinellas County, while individuals physically demonstrated different equipment and uniforms from various departments during the Firefighter Fashion Show.

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council attendees then adjourned briefly to go outside and observed presentations in front of different specialty apparatus.

**RECOGNITION OF HURRICANE IRMA RESPONDERS**

When reconvened, Mr. Hare and Dr. Jameson presented recognition certificates to individuals and departments that went above and beyond during Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Peterson assisted in recognizing Sunstar employees from the following departments:

- The Management Team and Administrative Staff
- Supervisors, Coordinators and Scheduling
- Communications and EOC Staff
- Fleet, Materials and Central Supply
- Field Operations and Shelter Staff

Chief Accetta from Safety Harbor Fire Rescue assisted in recognizing Firefighter Holly Warkenthien

Chief Angell from Pinellas Park Fire assisted in recognizing Fire Prevention Staff Assistant Andrea Fisiorek

Fire Marshal Michael Handoga from Dunedin Fire & Rescue was recognized in absentia.

Craig Hare from Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration recognized the Regional 9-1-1 Center staff.

### **PRESENTATION – PENNY FOR PINELLAS**

Mr. Hare presented the Penny for Pinellas, directing attendees to pages 10-11 in the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee Informational Packet.

Overview:

A very small portion of the past 3 Penny for Pinellas revenues have been utilized for support for some safety initiatives. It was used for the Fire Training Facility and some cities have been able to buy fire apparatus and fund fire stations but the support for the county wide component of support for Special Operations and EMS has been somewhat lacking. Important for the upcoming referendum is to have a larger portion of those revenues earmarked for specifically Fire and EMS improvements. That would be percentage support back to cities for fire stations and fire apparatus to cover unincorporated portions, and Special Operations.

### **PRESENTATION – NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS**

Mr. Donald Turnbaugh from the National Alliance on Mental Illness presented an overview of NAMI. They provide support, education and advocacy for individuals coping with mental illness and their families.

More specifically his presentation focused on the C.I.T. program which is a program that was developed in Memphis, Tennessee to help law enforcement and EMS personnel who respond to calls related to a person having a mental illness crisis. In addition to law enforcement, they include dispatchers and will soon be including 911 operators. The course covers a wide variety of topics including discussion about why patients stop taking their medications – from patients themselves, Baker Act, de-escalation scenarios etc.

Mr. Hare talked a bit about NAMI, highlighting the long standing relationship that EMS and Fire Administration has had with the Mental Health Advocate and the valuable part she has played in the CME training for Paramedics and EMT's, as well as utilizing her work to benchmark the inter-facility Van Transfer Service.

Mr. Hare introduced two new members, Ms. Mullins and Mr. Mercado as well as Mayor Brown. Mr. Hare introduced Mike Burton as the new fire chief for Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue.

### **REPORTS**

- Director, EMS & Fire Administration

Mr. Hare provided updates –

- 2 year contract agreements for First Responders was reached with all cities and fire districts. It includes the settlement agreement with Pinellas Suncoast, in a full two year agreement with Pinellas Suncoast relative to their staffing and equipment.

- New units have been added to the system in terms of funding. The newest unit out on the street is Medic 40 in the Highpoint Area for Largo – that serves the Airport area and the 49<sup>th</sup> St. corridor.
  - Medical Director Dr. Jameson and Dr. Dooley got a new five year agreement.
  - A number of fire academy students were overcome by heat when the heat index was very high, so work is being done with the fire academy, Jim Angell – and some EMS grant funds will be used to create a shelter overhang and cooling misters – studies will be done to determine how to track heat index and how long people can stay active and working. They'll be using information gained to improve their field rehab Program. Sunstar has been instrumental in helping take that to the next level on a county wide basis. Mr. Hare highlighted the extremely high heat indexes that the region has been experiencing and the importance of making sure that people are being hydrated and medically monitored.
  - The water rescue committee is under Chief Accetta's lead. They met this week in regards to storm preparedness. They are looking at the flooding that was a result of Hurricane Harvey and the difficulties rescuers had in getting into small flooded streets and subdivisions and they are using those scenarios to inform them about Pinellas County's own storm preparedness. Two prime things they are focusing on: Small John Boats with small motors that can get into neighborhoods and evacuate people out, and educating the public about getting out of the water due to the algae, bacteria and other harmful things in flood waters – additionally they will be providing protective equipment, dry suites for rescuers so they aren't going into bacteria laden water to perform rescues.
  - The mental health piece ties into the Opioid Crisis and the President's recent declaration of a Public Health Emergency. Pinellas County hadn't been dramatically impacted until recently. Dr. Jameson leads a Fusion Group to bring in Public Health, all the law enforcement agencies, the Medical Examiner, hospitals, Public Defender, fire rescue agencies, social services – a broad spectrum, they are meeting on a quarterly basis. Maps and statistics are quite startling and will be passed along, now we're seeing a significant impact. Dr. Jameson speaks to this more during his report.
  - EMS and Fire Administration was able to obtain from the State Department of Health 27 ventilators – six went to Critical Care Paramedic Units on the street that are able to move patients that are on ventilators and that was instrumental during Hurricane Irma – they were called on to evacuate Kindred which is a long term care facility in South St. Pete and they were able to move several patients that were on ventilators. Dr. Jameson speaks more about this during his report.
- EMS Medical Director
- Dr. Jameson presented updates –
- 2018 Medical Protocol book is complete and has been approved by the Medical Control Board – on the way to printing
  - 2018 Training Plan is complete and has been approved by the Medical Control Board with several new and exciting additions
  - The undertakings of the beginnings of Stress First Aid for accompanying officers – trained the first 40 or 60 of them in a full day seminar – Training included how to care for

their individual units, immediate debriefs after calls, signs and symptoms to look for to take care of both themselves and the folks under their charge as the accompanying officer and how to plug in with further resources when they need.

- Started the process of a partnership with Dr. Jen Arnold with the All Children's Simulation Center – All Children's is building a new tower downtown and almost an entire floor will be dedicated to simulation center – so a significant increase in those capabilities here in the County. That capability was already being built into the training program.
- Dr. Lefebre has graduated and taken her EMS boards, waiting for results
- Dr. Mannion is in full stride in her fellowship – also received her Army Commission this week
- Dr. Simmons the Fellowship Director has chosen Dr. Tershakovec as next year's EMS fellow. She's already involved and helping out.
- Next protocols up for review are Hazmat – Hazmat also does specialized medical care with special medications and special treatment protocols so they can do some stabilizing care even when in those types of suits and in a hazardous environment but also have some special capabilities to treat chemical exposures that they might encounter outside of normal 911 protocols – so that set of protocols is under revision right now and the next set to be updated beyond that is the Critical Care Protocols.
- Gained significant capability with the ventilators received from the state gave with the grant – each of them are about \$20,000 and 27 of them were received. Six of them were deployed to front line Critical Care Paramedic Units – a paramedic that is on a regular 911 truck but is also a member of the Critical Care Team and so has expanded training and knowledge. The ventilators wouldn't necessarily be used on a normal 911 call, but they'll have them if they need them. The remainder of them, approx. 20 are going to be stockpiled as an emergency deployment resources the same way that emergency antidotes for bioterrorism attacks are stockpiled. They will be a great resource, they'll have 20 portable ventilators on standby. In the last year they would have been used twice already. They would have been used when they evacuated Bayonet Hospital, and Kindred. In Kindred, there were 37 ventilator patients which was a very daunting task. Hospital ventilators could not go in the trucks.
- RE: Opioid Epidemic – A program has been implemented which is supporting the law enforcement agencies if they choose to deploy Naloxone or Narcan to their officers – as of now they've trained over 100 officers from around the County on how to deploy a Narcan Rescue Kit – they are supporting those agencies which have obtained grants from either the State Police Chiefs or State Sheriffs Associations to obtain various formulations of Narcan and have also put together a standard Pinellas County Narcan Rescue Kit which they are deploying to agencies which were not able to obtain the grant but choose to equip their officers with that. It's the same kit that the Medics carry, which is good standardization. The kit that's been put together is an intranasal kit which means it can just be squirted up someone's nose, no needle needed which is great for officer and medic's safety.

Dr. Jameson stated that he and Mr. Hare are also participating on the Pinellas County Opioid task force led by Dr. Cho from the Health Department which is a group that is trying to figure out how to best address the opioid epidemic across the County at every level, from primary prevention to rescue efforts when someone has overdosed. They are attempting to take a global approach starting out with education to kids in schools, public service messages, the mental health community, substance treatment programs – all the way across the board because they recognize that by the time they're responding to a

911 call to someone for an overdose, they've failed them at any number of levels across the community.

Dr. Jameson was asked what the additional costs for Narcan are and how are they distributed and whether they are billed to the patient.

Dr. Jameson stated that the cost of a single vial of Narcan has gone up 4 or 5 times over the last 2 years, to the point where a single vial is somewhere in the \$30 range and they may use 2, 3, sometimes more of those on a single patient so the cost is somewhat exorbitant. They do not necessarily pass that cost along to the patient, it's just part of their operations.

- Sunstar

Mr. Peterson provided the Sunstar report –

- Transport numbers from the Hurricane Response – starting on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> a few days before the storm and going to Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> about 5 days after the storm
  - Pre-Storm - 3 FEMA strike teams consisting of 15 ambulances came to help. Post-Storm - 5 FEMA strike teams which consisted of 25 ambulances after the storm sent to assist with ambulance transport. Those folks primarily helped evacuate hospitals pre-storm and post-storm getting people who were displaced back to their facilities.
  - They did end up evacuating 3 hospitals and partially evacuating another as well as multiple skilled nursing facilities throughout the storm response. They came from all over the country, many had just left deployment from Texas.
  - Strike teams did a total of 255 ambulance transports.
  - Throughout the storm the fire department rescue transport capable units assisted in doing 123 transports – they assisted the 911 system making sure that they were able to care for all the 911 patients that were calling in.
  - Critical Care Ambulance did 61 patient transports – 20 just on Sept. 12th alone which is a high call volume for just 1 truck.
  - Overall for the Sunstar ambulances responded to 4,882 patient transports in that 8 day period.
  - Total patients transported by ambulance with all of those combined was 5,321 patients.
  - For perspective: the typical transport day is around 500 patients. The highest number ever was in March in 2016 when they did 601 transports in one day – on Sept. 12th after the storm there were 741 patients transported and the following day 725 and each of the following days over 600 and pre-storm 646 – so not just records, but blowing away records.
- Contract year statistics beginning Oct 1st and ending on Sept. 30th –
  - Sunstar responded to 237,950 calls for requests and transported 184,149 patients 4% above the previous year – 6-10% growth annually in prior years.
  - Response time compliance for emergency calls for the year was 93.41% which exceeds contract obligations. Non-emergency was 98.2%.

- First Responders

Chief Angell from Pinellas Park presented –

- Chief Angell commended the inter-agency support that he witnessed during the hurricane.
- Truck Stats for FY 2017 155,314 – for FY 2016 148,954 so up 4.2%.
- EMS FY 2017 136,444 – FY 2016 132,332 which was up 3%.

### **CITIZEN VACANCY PROCESS**

Mr. Hare directed everyone to page 13 in the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee Informational Packet. He explained the process by which Citizen Representatives are chosen. Where once they just collected resumes, now there was an online application process. Several Citizen Representatives are up for reappointment, but several of those same Representatives sit on the Selection Committee that chooses the Citizen Representatives from the pool available from the online applications. Because those Citizen Representatives cannot vote for their own reappointment, Mr. Hare suggested organizing a new Selection Committee during this meeting. Mr. Hare also gave a rundown of the time line for the processes, explaining that the advertisement period takes about 30 days, then the selections are brought forward at the next quarterly meeting which could take up to 90 days, then the selections go to the Board of County Commissioners which could then take the process out to 150 days. He suggested that the process begin now.

Mr. Woodrum further expounded on the process. He directed everyone to page 2 in the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee Informational Packet. He reiterated the importance due to the fact that nearly a third of the membership is Citizen Representatives and because it's such a lengthy process it's important to identify who is coming up so they can be appointed in time for the next meeting.

Citizen Representatives with Terms Expiring:

Rev. Young in January  
Beth Rawlins in April  
Joy Lewis in October  
William Holmes in April

In November those 4 vacancies will be advertised. Communications will put out an advertisement and there will be an application process that will go most of November, then those applications will be collected by the Commission's Staff and they'll be passed to Mr. Woodrum. Mr. Woodrum will then convene a Selection Committee prior to the next EMS Advisory Council meeting, that morning upstairs and then they'll come down for the main meeting. They will then nominate at the main meeting positions to fill those vacancies – then from there in January hopefully they will recommend them to the EMS Authority for appointment – so if the existing members are reappointed they would just begin a new 2 year appointment. If it's someone else then they would serve out the remainder of their term and they would begin the next person after that.

Mr. Hare stated that the next meeting would be December 7<sup>th</sup>, and asked the current members if they wanted to serve again go through the online application process – He asked for the Chairman to appoint a Selection Committee for the morning of December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The volunteers for the Selection Committee:

Mr. Peterson

Dr. Carver

Mayor Dudley

Mr. Mercado

Ms. Peluso

Rev. Young moved for a motion to vote to advertise for 4 new replacement Citizen Representatives. Ms. Mullins seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodrum stated that he would contact those individuals to set up the Selection Committee and the current members on their reappointment.

### **OPEN FORUM**

There was no discussion under open forum.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on December 7, 2017 at 10 A.M. at the EMS & Fire Administration, Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chief Womack adjourned the meeting at 12:05 P.M.

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