

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 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:

Dr. David Weiland, Pinellas County Medical Association – Chair
Chief Scott Ehlers, Clearwater Fire Department
Capt. Eric Dinan, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Chief Tom Jamison, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association
Capt. Michael Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Mayor Wanda Dudley, Mayors' Council (Kenneth City)
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)
William Holmes, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7)
Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter – Vice Chair
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

Absent:

Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, Mayors' Council (Dunedin)
Mayor Max Elson, Mayors' Council (South Pasadena)
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative (District 2)
Donald Turnbaugh, National Alliance on Mental Illness
John Jones, National Alliance on Mental Illness

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:

Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Kelly Cisarik, Citizen
Chief Mike Burton, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District
Chief Terry Tokarz, Largo Fire Rescue

Ashley Hoskins, Pinellas County Health Department
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics
Bobby Stanley, Sunstar Paramedics
Daniel Mynsberge, Citizen
Chief Heather Burford, Seminole Fire Rescue
Chief Mark Zipeto, Dunedin Fire Department
Chief Chris Palmieri, Safety Harbor Fire Department
Chief Doug Zimmerman, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue
Lt. David Young, Oldsmar Fire Rescue

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Weiland called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were 16 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 27, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Ch. Angell motioned for approval of the minutes and Ms. Mullins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION: MISSION LIFELINE AWARDS

Mr. Hare and Dr. Jameson introduced Kathy Fenelon, Regional Vice President of the American Heart Association who presented Mission Lifeline Awards to the Pinellas County EMS System and each agency that makes up that system. Pinellas County received the highest recognition that can be received in the country which is a Gold Plus Award for Mission Lifeline.

This recognition came for meeting three criteria:

- Patients receive a 12 lead EKG that are identified as a possible STEMI
- Upon the scene of arrival the 12 lead EKG was done within 10 minute window
- First medical contact by pre-hospital (EMS first medical contact) to device time (PCI) is less than 90 minutes

Dr. Jameson presented certificates to:

Airport Fire Rescue, Clearwater Fire Rescue, Dunedin Fire Department, East Lake Fire Rescue, Gulfport Fire Rescue, Largo Fire Rescue, Lealman Fire Rescue, Madeira Beach Fire Rescue, Oldsmar Fire Rescue, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue, Pinellas Park Fire Department, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue, Safety Harbor Fire Rescue, Seminole Fire Rescue, South Pasadena Fire Department, St. Pete Beach Fire Department, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue, Sunstar Paramedics, Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue, Treasure Island Fire Rescue

Mr. Hare thanked Jeremy Tinter as the individual who, along with Dr. Jameson, analyzed the data.

Dr. Jameson pointed out that Pinellas County was one of only 11 systems in the state of Florida that received the Gold Plus Award. He foresees the 90 minute first contact to balloon window shrinking to 60 minutes very shortly and believes that the Pinellas County EMS System will be ready for that when it happens.

REPORTS

- Director, EMS & Fire: Craig Hare
 - Ms. Joy Lewis will not be seeking another term as a Citizen Representative although her term doesn't end until Spring
 - Reverend Young is not seeking another term as a Citizen Representative and has already moved to Virginia
 - John Bennett is departing as Assistant County Administrator. He is going to work with the software company he helped create to do crime mapping, assisting them in rolling the software out across the country
 - Lourdes Benedict, the Director of Health and Human Services has been appointed as Assistant County Administrator that is overseeing Public Health, Safety and Welfare
 - Hazmat Agreement goes to the Board on the 12th – It has already been signed by the Agencies providing Hazmat and includes Palm Harbor, Largo, Seminole, Pinellas Park, and St. Petersburg – Features increasing funding for training, vehicle replacement plan, drone program
 - Tech Rescue 34 has arrived and is being assigned to Pinellas Park – an identical vehicle is being purchased this year that will be Tech 48 and that will be assigned to Clearwater
 - Hazmat 33 has arrived and is being outfitted – It will be assigned to Pinellas Park
 - The Water Rescue Committee has met for initiatives for the next year – Lead by Ch. Accetta the next round of grants improvements is to finish up Rapid Diver Equipment and Training, additional classes for rescue boat operator and the biggest new component will be John Boats/Protective Equipment to go into flooded streets and areas – Dunedin is the lead agency on that, they've put together a John Boat, small motor/Dry Suit Gear model that will be rolled out across the system
 - Marine 57 – first airboat in the system is ready to go into service – training another 30 days before it goes live
 - Fireboat 44 for Clearwater will be here December 22nd
 - ACLS Training is coming to an end – nearly 1000 paramedics went through the training – 60 instructors from FD and Sunstar – Every agency was involved – Sunstar is the training center that managed all the paperwork and all the affiliate faculty to make sure all the American Heart Association's requirements were met
 - MOM's Manual for 2018 passed around
 - Trauma and Transport Protocols are part of the MOM's and have been approved by the State for the next 2 years
 - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for First Responder providers, ambulance providers, helicopters have been approved by the Board and are going out in the mail now
 - Finishing the Wash Bay refurb project for Sunstar – the Wash Bay decontaminates every piece of equipment that comes through the County System – washer/dryer, backboard decontamination machine, truck wash to clean all the ambulances before they go out on the street

- Other facility project – replaced fencing and gate because of ambulance fleet expanding
 - Displayed updated System Infographic
 - Considering doing an EMS Academy for new Citizen Appointments for Advisory Council Members to get them oriented to the system
 - Request for submissions of ideas to add as topics to keep Advisory Council Members informed
 - SUNSHINE LAW REMINDER – submissions only to staff members, and do not “reply all”, no discussion between members outside of meetings
- EMS Medical Director: Dr. Jameson
 - Dr. Marshall Frank, previously an Online Medical Control Physician has agreed to step up as an Interim Associate Medical Director – In the response to the RFP for contract renewal, Dr. Jameson requested that they return to a 3 doctor team and the County granted that request. Dr. Frank was already in the system as MD10, he is also the Medical Director of TGH's Aeromed program and has a lot of experience with pre-hospital fellowship training. This may be temporary and the County may end up doing a more formal recruitment process for a permanent associate if he moves on.
He is currently updating the Critical Care Protocols and working very closely with the critical care team because that's his area of expertise.
 - MOM's Manual 2018 is published and training is underway – as of Monday, the first weekend the training was live, 400 individuals already completed it – it will go into effect January 3rd – Dr. Jameson thanked David Hudak for his tireless work on the document – it is much more user friendly
 - New project being explored – partnership with the local Army US Reserve Medivac squadron that's based in St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport – they are on a spin up cycle for possible deployment within the next year or two and they are looking for some help in getting their Combat Medics and Flight Medics some experience so they're looking to see if they can facilitate that and get them some good training experience here in our system
 - Update on opioid epidemic – continue to train law enforcement officers on using Naloxone – Dr. Jameson has now trained over 100 individuals with video and online training going out to many more – They had their first law enforcement administration of Naloxone a few nights ago by a Sheriff's Deputy – very worthwhile program – It's an Officer Safety Program which protects them and also gives them greater ability to help citizens
 - Continuing to host Pinellas County Fusion group – next meeting in January – the group continues to evolve according to whatever threat the County appears to be dealing with – it started with Spice epidemic and now it's focusing on the Opioid Crises
- Sunstar: John Peterson
 - October/November up 2% on ambulance transports compared to last year so keeping an eye on that
 - Starting to see things getting busy in December already – on Monday this week they did 590 transports – almost a record day this early in December
 - Recognized Clinical Services Department at Sunstar – they were recognized nationally by the American Ambulance Association for their work on improving their recruitment process and their new employee orientation process – they accepted the award at their annual conference in November.

- Debbie Vass, Corporate Director of Quality Initiatives was recognized as a Sterling Master Examiner this year
 - Mr. Hare provided an update on the Opioid Task Force that Ms. Vass is currently involved with – A national committee from the National Association of EMS State Directors on developing standards of practice for opioid overdose and Narcan administration across public safety fields especially law enforcement
 - Mr. Postma has been asked to chair a committee through the state EMSAC Group regarding paramedic and EMT shortages throughout the state – He'll be setting up that committee at the next State EMS meetings so there will be information coming in from that
 - Jim Fogarty provided an update regarding outreach and education regarding fall prevention due to an increase in calls related to falls
- First Responders: Ch. Jamison
 - Continuing to see a rise in call volume – data report on that at next meeting
 - Still analyzing data and issues that arose during Hurricane Irma – communications issues, search capacity issues, system as a whole saw a large spike in demand in weeks following the hurricane
 - Station 50 just came online, Station 43 Largo recently came online, 71 Tarpon Springs recently came online serving an entirely new area that was needed
 - Fire prevention has had incredible success over the last 30 years between community education and codes restrictions – now turning those resources towards prevention of other related items like falls, community risk reduction – using the data to determine areas of high volume of calls and then utilizing resources in those specific areas to try to drive those numbers down – There's only so much that can be done with utilizing assets to address these needs that are outpacing the resources, so new approaches need to be identified and utilized
 - As economic recovery has happened, places like Pinellas Park, East Lake, Largo have been able to turn a full time asset to public education – there are now personnel that are in place that work with Pinellas County Pub Ed, St. Pete's Pub Ed – There's a comprehensive group that gets together, Safe Kids Coalition out of All Children's Hospital that work together collaboratively to identify areas where they can send out a consistent message across the board from East to West, North to South to educate and reduce risks
 - Peak Demand Units are new and are being run by both Ch. Dinan and Ch. Ehlers' Agencies which are taking stress off assets in the system during peak use hours
 - Ch. Dinan spoke to the efficacy of these units in St. Pete - Between 8am to 10pm call volume spikes up to about 20% increase, and while some economic recovery has occurred, it still wasn't enough to justify a full time asset be added – so a Peak Medic Truck was implemented – it runs from 8am to 8pm 7 days a week and is currently being used as a training unit for new paramedics until they have staff onboard to staff it full time

Prior to implementing these trucks, Unit Utilization Hours were above 30 which is too much for a 24 hour truck. Downtown units were working way above 30. Once Peak Units were put in place downtown, that number came down significantly. Peak Units are currently running about 8-11 calls during that window, once they become 12 hour shifts they are expected to run 11-12 calls.

- Chief Ehlers spoke to the efficacy of these units in Clearwater: Peak Medic 45 was implemented after a trial period last year. It has been successful in reducing Unit Utilization Hours in the downtown area. It runs T-F a 10 hour day, with 10-11 calls during that time.

CITIZEN VACANCY NOMINATIONS

Mr. Peterson briefed the EMS Advisory Council on the recommendations made by the Selection Committee and presented the following roster of nominees to fill the four citizen vacancies:

District 3: Ms. Jeri Reed

District 4: Mr. Dillard Jones

District 5: Mr. Jason Dorr

District 6: Mr. William Holmes

Ms. Cullen made a motion to accept the nominations for Citizen Vacancies. Ms. Mullins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

There was no discussion under open forum.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on March 16, 2018 at 10 A.M. at the EMS & Fire Administration, Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Weiland adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.

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