

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD

November 7, 2012

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board met in a regular session at Public Safety Services, Second Floor Conference Room 217/219, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida, at 10:30 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Dr. Stephen Haire, Morton Plant Hospital (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital
Dr. Henry Kurusz III, St. Petersburg General Hospital
Mr. Brian Flynn, Palms of Pasadena Hospital
Mr. Stephen Daugherty, Northside Hospital
Dr. Paula Pell, All Children's Hospital (Secretary)
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Hiten Upadhyay, Bayfront Medical Center

Members Absent:

Mr. Keith Neeley, Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center
Mr. Glenn Waters, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare
Dr. Cecele Murphy, St. Anthony's Hospital

Also Present:

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Public Safety Services
Craig Hare, Public Safety Services
Dr. Dave Bowden, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate EMS Medical Director
Dr. Jay Fitch, Fitch & Associates
Ms. Dianne Wright, Fitch & Associates
Mr. Guillermo Fuentes, Fitch & Associates
Mr. Chris Callsen, Optima
Debbie Vass, Sunstar Paramedics
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Rob Smith, Sunstar Paramedics
Greg Woodrum, Public Safety Services

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Haire called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum present. There were eight voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 5, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Hare stated that currently Dr. Haire fills the position of Vice-Chair and that the position of Chair is vacant. Dr. Haire expressed a willingness to serve as Chair and Mr. Flynn agreed to serve as Vice-Chair to backfill that position.

Dr. Namey made a motion that Dr. Haire be appointed as Chair and Dr. Upadhyay seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Bellini made a motion that Mr. Flynn be appointed as Vice-Chair and Dr. Namey seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DR. FITCH & ASSOCIATES: "OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS OF EMS AND FIRE DEPLOYMENT AND RESPONSE"

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Director of Public Safety Services, introduced Dr. Jay Fitch of Fitch & Associates. Dr. Moeller stated that Dr. Fitch and his team have been contracted by Pinellas County to conduct an operational analysis of the current system as contrasted with two other potential models and to make any other recommendations they believe to be prudent in the EMS System design.

Dr. Fitch briefed that his team does emergency service consulting all over the world.

Dr. Fitch shared that he was one of the original paramedics trained in the United States, that he was the EMS Director for the City of St. Louis and that he directed the Public Utility Model in the City of Kansas City before starting his consultant business.

Dr. Fitch then introduced the following members of his team:

- Project Director Mr. Guillermo Fuentes is the former Operations Director of the Montreal EMS System which is the largest EMS system in North America. He also served as the Chief Administrative Officer for a large regional police agency.
- Ms. Dianne Wright is the former Assistant Director of Metro Dade Miami Florida. Ms. Wright will be working with the County and municipalities on the financial components of the project.
- Fire Chief James Broman was the fire chief of Englewood, Colorado and subsequently suburban Seattle.
- Mr. Chris Callsen Chief Executive Officer of Optima North America.

Mr. Fuentes then briefed the Medical Control Board on the scope of the project. Mr. Fuentes briefed that the project called for a comparison of four models costed out in a virtual environment using both EMS & Fire apparatus. The four models are the current model, the IPS Study plan, the Sanford/Millican plan and a hybrid model based on best practices.

Mr. Callsen then provided a demonstration of the Optima software that would be used to create the virtual environment referred to by Mr. Fuentes.

Dr. Fitch emphasized that the data that would be used to run all of the different models is the same data and is from the period October 1, 2010 thru September 30, 2011. Dr. Fitch said that part of the rationale for picking that data frame is that the financial information matches and his team will be able to match cost to operational factors.

Dr. Fitch summarized that the purpose of the presentation was to answer questions and draw feedback from the Medical Control Board.

Dr. Haire asked if the positioning of units would be taken into account in the analysis and Dr. Fitch responded that the Optima tool will take that year-long bank of calls and compare how the system will react with different variables to include positioning of units.

Dr. Pell asked if the simulation area presented was similar to Pinellas County and Mr. Callsen said that the presentation simulated Denver with about 95,000 calls but had been used in other much larger areas such as an entire province in Australia. Dr. Fitch added that this particular software is being used in other areas of Florida such as Lee County.

Dr. Namey asked if we would need to purchase a large amount of computers to support the amount of data being analyzed. Mr. Callsen replied that he can typically run a simulation on his laptop.

Dr. Bellini asked if actual financial data would be used in the cost analysis.

Dr. Fitch replied that in the past there were some differences in cost related numbers so his analysis will involve a pre-validation of numbers with all agencies prior to the actual simulation.

Dr. Bowden asked if the study was looking at clinical outcomes from a medical standpoint.

Dr. Fitch explained that the analysis will not be a clinical study but an operational analysis of how the system will perform from a cost perspective with a given set of parameters.

Dr. Fitch asked if there were items that the Medical Control Board would like his team to be hypersensitive to, without changing the scope, while conducting the analysis.

Both Dr. Pell and Dr. Bellini emphasized the importance of response times and priorities.

Dr. Pell asked that population variations be taken into account and Dr. Fitch replied that they would be because the same data is being used for all models.

Dr. Upadhyay asked if the data would be available for all the various alerts such as stroke, cardiac, trauma, etc. and Dr. Fitch replied that they would be analyzed down to the sub-determinant level within the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS).

Dr. Bellini asked if every call would be looked at under each model and Dr. Fitch replied that every call in the one year period would be analyzed under each model.

Dr. Bellini commented that as long as the data was accurate and the analysis was fact-based that he believes the Medical Control Board would be supportive. Dr. Bellini stated that his main concern is that the process should not get politicized as it goes forward and that the interest of the patient is foremost.

Chairman Haire thanked Dr. Fitch and his team for their presentation.

Mr. Hare introduced Dr. Dave Bowden and Dr. Donna Dooley to the Medical Control Board.

Dr. Bowden briefed that he and Dr. Dooley had been in the field running calls with various agencies and that he had received a lot of positive feedback concerning the current Medical Direction approach.

Dr. Bowden stated that one of his goals is to roll out some new changes with the Medical Operations Manual and he expected to be able to bring a package to the Medical Control Board for review within the next four weeks.

Mr. Flynn asked about the status of Dr. Jameson and Dr. Bowden stated that he would be in town and ready to go to work on December 3, 2012.

Dr. Pell asked who would be the named Medical Director for now and Dr. Bowden answered that he would until Dr. Jameson had completed his written and oral certifications.

Mr. Hare added that staff would come back to the Medical Control Board for approval when it was time for Dr. Jameson to assume the position.

Dr. Bellini advised that he had received a lot of good feedback from medics. He said they seem to like the interaction with the Medical Director and seem to feel more empowered.

Mr. Hare reported that the EMS Division has been taking on new roles such as personnel certifications and Quality Assurance Reviews. Mr. Hare noted that his office has seen a reduction in frivolous complaints related to quality assurance and have noted increased efficiency by having Sunstar relay medical information to the field.

Mr. Hare briefed that staff will come back to the Medical Control Board either at the end of November or at the beginning of December with a package of proposed protocol changes.

Mr. Hare stated that at that next meeting one goal will be to gain a consensus from the Medical Control Board of what is the right amount of change to roll out at once.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Hare announced that Mr. Greg Woodrum would now be coordinating all meetings of the Medical Control Board.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Woodrum was asked to coordinate with the members online after the meeting to come up with a date for the next meeting that is either at the end of November or the beginning of December.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Pell made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Namey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

An audio recording of this meeting as well as any correspondence received is on file at Public Safety Services – EMS Division.