

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD**

MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2017

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board met at the EMS & Fire Administration, Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida, at 9 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Dr. Brian Charity, Morton Plant Hospital
Dr. Jennifer Pearson, C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
Ms. Kelly Cullen, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare
Ms. Sharon Hayes, Palms of Pasadena Hospital
Dr. Paula Pell, All Children's Hospital (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Krista Gillis, Bayfront Medical Center

Members Absent:

Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital
Dr. Raj Mathur, Florida Hospital North Pinellas
Dr. Jeremy White, Florida Hospital North Pinellas
Dr. Stephen Feilinger, St. Anthony's Hospital
Dr. David Ball, St. Anthony's Hospital
Mr. Anthony Degina, Largo Medical Center (Secretary)

Staff Present:

Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate EMS Medical Director
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration
Pam Bell, EMS Ambulance Billing

Also Present:

Mark Postma, Sunstar Paramedics
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Pell called the meeting to order at 9 A.M. A roll call was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were 7 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 14, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Dr. Pell motioned for approval. Dr. Namey made a motion to approve and Ms. Cullen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION – PRE-AUTHORIZATION – MS. PAM BELL, EMS AMBULANCE BILLING

Mr. Hare introduced Ms. Pam Bell, Ambulance Billing and Finance Manager. She presented information regarding the quickly escalating denial rate for prior authorizations for non-emergent transports. In the '14-'15 Fiscal year they increased by roughly 200%. Ms. Bell posited that this seemed to have been influenced by the results of an audit that CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) authorized which, while it didn't include the state of Florida, had an unfavorable outcome for anything non emergent. Around the same time, the insurance companies, with the exception of straight Medicare, began to want pre-authorization for any non-emergency transports to determine if they're medically necessary.

Ms. Bell highlighted the difficulties this was causing in regards to billing patients, and the steps they are currently engaged in to attempt to resolve the issue. Research and fact finding are ongoing.

Lengthy discussion ensued about the legalities of the issue, what the Board could do to bring publicity to issue, and how the issue should be approached on both a State and Federal level.

A follow up report was requested to be presented at a later meeting date.

DIRECTOR, EMS & FIRE ADMINISTRATION – MR. CRAIG HARE

- Update – EMS System
 - On final approach on the First Responder Agreement with the cities and districts
 - 2 year agreement with 3, 1 year extensions
 - There will be a number of improvements including payment for a quarter FTE or quarter of a position for five new units in 4 cities
 - Pinellas Park Engine 16 which serves Kenneth City
 - Largo Rescue 40 will come on with partial staffing serving Roosevelt/Highpoint West area that covers all of 49th St. corridor
 - Squad 39 which serves Baskins
 - Engine 49 which serves the Clearwater Mall area
 - Engine 19 which serves the Lealman area
 - New five year Hazmat agreement
 - Several Fire Stations either under construction or renovation
 - Fire Station 71 is now online in Tarpon Springs serving unincorporated Anclote area
 - Station 50 near Countryside Mall area is under construction
 - Station 43 that serves Bellaire Bluffs and Bellaire is underway
 - Station 32 in Seminole was completed
 - A new Publics Works/Fire and EMS facility which will serve North Reddington Beach is in the design stage
- All addressed through Penny for Pinellas and matching funds from the County

- Penny for Pinellas Referendum coming up which would extend it another 10 years from 2020 going forward
- Medic 22 has been put into service in Pass-A-Grill area of St. Pete Beach – non transport rescue but it has water rescue equipment on board and 12 people are going through dive school this week to become Rapid Divers
- There have been a number of water rescue improvements
 - Added a boat to Lake Tarpon for Eastlake
 - On the gulf side, State funds were procured for Palm Harbor to replace a marine unit
 - Currently working on a partnership with the City of Clearwater matching funds, City Penny Funds and some EMS dollars to put a large Fire Rescue boat at Sand Key
- Rescue 21 transport capable unit at Tierra Verde Fire Station 21
- There is a new Special Rescue Unit - a transport capable Kubota all-terrain vehicle which can be put at Fort DeSoto or it can be moved around the county for more coverage
- St. Pete has implemented Station 2 as a temporary location serving 66th and Tyrone Square area
- Still seeing a lot of population growth, call volume increases, redevelopment

MEDICAL DIRECTOR – DR. JAMESON

- Update – Fentanyl & Protocol CS9 Standardized Medical Gear Inventory – Revision
 - Due to national shortages of Fentanyl they are moving from 250mcg/5mL vial format to 100mcg/2mL Carpuject format – the concentration does not change, but the amount and format does
 - Adult Tube Holder is added to the right zipper pocket of the main lid of the airway bag so that it is included with the inventory of King Airways (see protocol page 2)
 - Epinephrine 1 mg / mL for dilution is authorized as a temporary substitution for Epinephrine 1 mg / 10 mL prefilled syringes due to ongoing medication shortages (see protocol page 6 and related Medical Control Directive 2017-11).
 - Fentanyl 100 mcg / 2 mL Carpujet format is authorized as a substitution for Fentanyl 250 mcg / 5 mL due to ongoing medication shortages (see protocol page 7 and above)

Dr. Pell called for a motion. Ms. Cullen made a motion to approve. Dr. Gillis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Update – Protocol AD16 BLS/ALS Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Authorizations and Substitutions – Revision
 - Florida Administrative Code requires a Short Spine Board and Three Straps or Equivalent. Revisions were made to Medical Directive 2018-08 allowing for and authorizing the substitution of the half size vacuum mattress in Pinellas County EMS

Dr. Pell called for a motion. Ms. Cullen made a to approve. Dr. Namey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- Update – MCD 17-10 OB Destination (Updates CS5, M10, M11, P12 & CP19)
 - Dr. Jameson discussed the history behind these changes: with 6 or 7 hospitals with L&D units that receive obstetric patients, each with a slightly different layout it was found Field Clinicians were not always clear as to which doors they should

be going to, the emergency room or directly to a specialty unit within the hospital. Dr. Jameson cited several situations where this had caused issues.

In order to clarify one right answer, Dr. Jameson had discussions with all L&D hospitals and concluded that all patients should be taken directly to the Emergency Room, briefly assessed and then taken to the correct department. These changes are reflected in protocols CS5, M10, M11, P12 and CP19.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding concerns about these changes. The board voted to table the vote in deference to further consultation between Dr. Jameson and hospital leadership to resolve this issue.

- Update – MCD 17-11 Epinephrine
 - Due to a severe national shortage of epinephrine in the 1 mg / 10 mL prefilled syringe, Medical Control Directive 17-11 authorizes field personnel to mix Epinephrine 0.1 mg / 10 mL (1mL Adrenalin [Epinephrine] Vial in 9 mL 0.9% Sodium Chloride Prefilled Syringe) as per the instructions in the July 2017 Pinellas County EMS Equipment Update.
- 2018 Protocol Updates
 - Work has begun on the 2018 Protocol Book
 - Dr. Jameson requested input from the board regarding protocol improvements
 - Planning on refining the Pediatric portion of the book working to better integrate it with the rest of the book so it flows better
 - Sepsis pre-notification protocol seems to be successful
 - Comprehensive stroke is on the horizon with AHA's new recommendations of a suggested triage algorithm as well as a bill that passed the Florida legislature requiring Florida to designate comprehensive primary and stroke ready hospitals - reviewing literature, talking to people about it
 - BLS Transport Program
 - In January deployed BLS ambulances for the first time in Pinellas County
 - 10 units, 2-3 overnight
 - It started in January with full implementation by March
 - 8,000 transports since then
 - Review started in May – looking good, working well – through review a need was discovered to be more concrete in delineating which patients go by BLS – these are non-emergent inter-facility, discharges, Dr.'s office runs, dialysis runs – clarified and corrected it - improved on-time for requested pick up time percentage from 65% to six months later 82-83% improving every month

DISCUSSION

- Schedule of Future Meetings
 - A survey/poll will be provided to facilitate discussion about the convenience of future meeting dates for members
 - Mr. Hare suggested moving it closer to EMSAC dates for administrative expediency

OPEN FORUM

- Update – PreAct
 - A joint meeting will be hosted by EMS and Fire Administration and AHA on July 19th @ 7:30 am
 - Next phase is working with Hospitals to change their internal processes where appropriate and do data reporting from the hospitals so that we can put both sides of it together and see if it works
 - Dr. Jameson made a request for the individuals listed at the top of the Mission Lifeline: PreAct STEMI flyer that attendees received to attend the July 19th meeting. This includes:
 - ED Medical Directors
 - ED Directors
 - Cath Lab Directors
 - Cardiologists
 - Hospital Leaders

DETERMINE NEXT MEETING

- TBD

ADJOURNMENT

- Dr. Pell called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Namey made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Cullen seconded the motion. Dr. Pell adjourned the meeting at 10:40 A.M.