

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD**

MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2020

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board met virtually via the Zoom platform at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Dr. Stephen Haire, Morton Plant Hospital - Chairman  
Dr. Jennifer Pearson, C.W. Bill Young V.A. Medical Center - Vice Chairman  
Dr. Jose Barquin, AdventHealth North Pinellas  
Dr. Krista Gillis, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg  
Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital  
Ms. Nancy Hopkins, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare (Alternate)  
Mr. Michael Irvin, Palms of Pasadena Hospital  
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society  
Dr. Stephen Feilinger, St. Anthony's Hospital

**Members Not Present:**

Dr. Christos Politis, Largo Medical Center  
Mr. Brad Whitmer, Largo Medical Center (Alternate)  
Dr. Steven Epstein, Pinellas County Medical Association

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director  
Dr. Donna Dooley, Office of the Medical Director  
Jason Ester, County Attorney's Office  
Matthew Tolnay, County Attorney's Office  
Jim Fogarty, Director, Safety and Emergency Services  
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration  
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration  
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration  
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

**Also Present:**

Karen Macauley, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital  
Chief Anthony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire & Rescue  
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics  
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics  
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Dr. Haire called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. Roll call was taken, and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were 9 voting members in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon presentation by Dr. Haire, Dr. Bellini moved, seconded by Dr. Feilinger and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the June 18 and July 1, 2020 meetings be approved.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

## **DIRECTOR, EMS & FIRE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM UPDATE**

Craig Hare provided a system update, as follows:

- Michael Irvin and Raynard Ware have been appointed as primary and alternate representatives for Palms of Pasadena Hospital.
- David Hare has been selected to serve as the Deputy Director of the Emergency Administrative Services Division and Deputy Director of Safety and Emergency Services. Mr. Hare had previously been assisting with 911 operations as Special Assistant to the County Administrator.
- A five-engine strike team, led by Chief Trip Barrs, Treasure Island, has been deployed to Escambia County to assist with Hurricane Sally rescue operations. The team consists of assets from Palm Harbor, East Lake, St. Petersburg, Lealman, and a combination of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and Treasure Island.
- The EMS Hospital Plan has been updated to return to normal drop-off and pick-up operations. All hospitals are on Open Status.
- Pinellas County has been approved by the American Heart Association (AHA) to become a certified AHA Training Center, noting excellent work by Jeremy Tinter and Jazmin Soloman.
- Pinellas County EMS has won the AHA's Mission Lifeline EMS Gold Plus award, with special thanks to all hospitals and Jeremy Tinter.
- Glenn Davis, Program Director for the St. Petersburg College EMS Program, has retired after 25 years in the system. To be recognized at tomorrow's EMS Advisory Council meeting.
- Pinellas County has entered into an agreement with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) to process Immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody testing samples for all Fire and EMS personnel.
- All budgets have been submitted. Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approval is scheduled for September 22.
- No millage increases.
- Fire millage decreases in Clearwater, Dunedin, Gandy, Largo, Safety, and South Pasadena. Sustainable reserves for those areas.
- Budget adjustments for 3 percent caps and system improvements for Clearwater, Gulfport, Palm Harbor, Pinellas Suncoast, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island.
- System Enhancements: Palm Harbor's Squad 38 has been approved at 50 percent funding for year one, and 100 percent, for subsequent years. St. Petersburg's Medic 7 is a roving rescue that goes into service October 1, serving the Northeast area.
- Ambulance Contract: Extension has been approved, effective October 1, includes a full-time critical care nurse to conduct quality assurance/clinical reviews of the Critical Care Team and a Special Operations Supervisor to assist with Emergency Management preparedness, special events, and interface with Hazmat and Technical Rescue Teams.
- Technical Rescue Contract: One-year extension has been approved. Plans to evaluate all training programs.
- Special Operations: Working on a comprehensive replacement of Hazmat and Tech Rescue vehicles and equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatuses, air monitoring meters, and radios.
- Water Rescue: Funding assist agreement with Palm Harbor's Marine 68.
- PSTrax: Deployment of the EMS grant-funded inventory management system is complete. Working to convert all agencies to electronic narcotics tracking before the year's end.
- Fire Station Penny for Pinellas Funding: Agreements to replace Lealman's Station 19 and Palm Harbor's Station 68.
- Working with the City of Largo to relocate Station 39 to Ulmerton Road and Wilcox Street.
- Redington Beaches EMS Station design phase to begin.

- Pinellas Park is breaking ground for construction of Station 36. Temporary station to be located at 80th Avenue North and US19.
- Philips MRx Devices: EKG support to end February 2022. Looking to begin competitive bid process with County Purchasing before end of the calendar year.
- EMS grant request for the Rehab Unit Replacement project to be presented to the BCC on September 22.

## **EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Dr. Jameson presented the following clinical updates:

### **Covid-19**

- Recognized the outstanding work of all EMS professionals during the pandemic, noting various critical efforts undertaken by First Responders and Sunstar crews.
- Thanked the Board for its willingness to come together in special meetings to support the system with quick-change protocol updates.
- IgG Antibody Testing: Participated in a validation study with University of South Florida (USF) and TGH to determine whether capillary or venous testing is most useful. Presented an overview of IgG testing strategy, relating that the results may provide information about the prevalence of workforce exposure. Noted that cases are expected to increase through the fall until herd immunity is achieved.
- Vaccine Administration: Anticipated that First Responders will likely be asked to self-vaccinate and called upon to administer vaccines as part of any large-scale community vaccination effort.

### **Non-Covid**

- Student Interns: Focusing significant resources and additional support for new paramedics and EMTs coming into the system.
- Staffing:
  - Dr. Donna Dooley, MD2, continues to provide excellent oversight of Quality Assurance activities and direction to education and training programs.
  - Dr. Andrew Smith, MD3, continues to make excellent progress with facilitating discussion and coordination of clinical consistency to critical care and transport teams and will participate in training with Hazmat, SWAT, and Tech Rescue Teams.
  - Dr. Alicia Nassar, EMS Fellow, is off to a great start assisting with multiple research activities.
- Research: Discussed multiple projects in various stages. The Austere Environment CPR project is an ongoing study to evaluate CPR quality when responding to out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in areas that are logistically difficult to perform high-quality compressions, noting consideration of a funding request for automated CPR devices. Recognized Jeremy Tinter for assistance with activity coordination and Heather Henderson, a USF recruit, for amazing research assistance.
- 2021 Protocol Updates: Considering reviews/evaluations of the following:
  - Freestanding ED utilization
  - Controlled substance tracking/waste disposal
  - Pain management
  - Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) guided resuscitation strategy
  - Sepsis protocol and alert criteria
  - Destination choice for sepsis
  - Prehospital antibiotic use
  - Fluid choices for patients
  - Narcan dosing
  - Reauthorization of magnesium for severe asthma, based on an updated Cochrane review

- Addition of commercial pelvic binders for pelvic fractures
- Pediatric King Tube Airways
- Push Dose Presser protocol
- Stroke destination
- Junctional tourniquets for SWAT medics
- **STEMI:** Applauded the collaborative teamwork of our paramedics and hospital partners on Pinellas County's AHA's Mission Lifeline Gold Plus honors. Thanked Jeremy Tinter for his extraordinary data management work.
- **Stroke:** Noted significant advances in stroke care and discussed the Pinellas County Regional Dashboard for Stroke and metrics in last week's ED Nurse Managers & Stroke/STEMI Workgroup meeting.

Dr. Jameson indicated that, due to the COVID situation, there will be no protocol package being presented today, but he will keep the Board updated on any changes; whereupon, Dr. Namey commended Dr. Jameson for bringing scholarly activity to the EMS system, and Nancy Hopkins recognized the impressive collaboration between Morton Plant Mease Healthcare and Pinellas County EMS during recent certification surveys.

### **MCB BYLAWS UPDATE - APPROVED**

Mr. Hare referred to a document titled *Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board Bylaws* and provided an overview of the proposed bylaw changes to Article III, Membership, Section 3.1, and Article IV, Officers, Article 4.1.

Following discussion and input by Attorney Ester, Dr. Haire called for a roll call vote of the members, and the MCB bylaws update passed unanimously with a 2/3 majority quorum present.

Aye: 8 - Dr. Bellini, Dr. Haire, Dr. Barquin, Dr. Feilinger, Dr. Pearson, Ms. Hopkins, Mr. Irvin, Dr. Gillis

Defer: 1 - Dr. Namey

### **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020, format to be determined.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Haire adjourned the meeting at 10:51 A.M.

*Audio and any correspondence received for this meeting is on file at the Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration.*