

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2018

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 Anthony Tedesco, 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)
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)
Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7)
Chief Terry Tokarz, EMS Leadership Group
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College
Julie Peluso, Independent Fire District Elected Official
Donald Turnbaugh, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Absent:

Mayor Max Elson, Mayors' Council (South Pasadena)
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
Jason Dorr, Citizen Representative (District 5)
Beth Rawlins, Citizen Representative (District 4)
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – Secretary

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

Also Present:

Kelly Cisarik, Citizen
Chief David Mixson, South Pasadena Fire Department
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Chief Doug Zimmerman, Palm Harbor 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 December 7, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Reed motioned for approval of the minutes and Mr. Mercado seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

RECOGNITION: BETH RAWLINS – CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Woodrum stated that Ms. Rawlins was not able to attend but that he had contacted her and thanked her for her service and mailed her a Certificate of Appreciation for her service on EMSAC.

REPORTS

- Director, EMS & Fire Administration – Mr. Hare gave updates on the following topics:
 - EMS Advisory Council Membership:
 - Jeri Reed (Citizen Representative)
 - Jorge Mercado (Citizen Representative)
 - Mayor Woody Brown (Largo).
 - Chief Willis will be cycling out from EMS Advisory Council as she has retired from Largo Fire Rescue as Chief.
 - Chief Jamison will be the new primary for the Fire Chief's Association with Chief Dave Mixon from South Pasadena being his alternate.
 - The Sale of Paramedics Plus:
 - All current terms and conditions of the contract will remain and the switchover should be seamless.
 - In the event of default, A&M Capital would immediately be put on notice and corrective action would be taken which could be up to \$2M in a letter of credit and up to \$6M in liquidated damages.
 - In 18 months there will be the option for an extension. At that time the County will have the opportunity to go back to bid in the event of service failure, or extend the contract. Extension of the contract will result in two additional three year time periods, subject to the Board's approval.
 - Communications Center:
 - The Sunstar Communications Center was just recognized with the Accredited Center of Excellence Award for the 7th time.
 - Budgets:
 - The first responder and fire budgets are currently being prepared. In this second year of a two year agreement there is a 3% cap on budget submissions. If costs go above that requests for additional funding will need to go before the City, Fire District and the EMS Authority for authorization for additional funding and an amendment to the agreement.
 - Active Shooter:

- Mr. Hare discussed the results of a working group with the sheriff and Police Standards Council to put together a working group to determine a collaborative effort to take the next steps for Active Shooter Preparedness.
- Technical Rescue:
 - Captain Todd Livingston with St. Petersburg Fire Rescue, Station 4 is the commander of the Technical Rescue team. He has been the Florida Search and Rescue chair and association president for several years and was just recognized as the chair and president of the National Association of Search and Rescue.
 - Technical Rescue 34 is in service in Pinellas Park. An identical unit is currently being built that is for Clearwater and will be Technical Rescue 48.
 - EMS has a need for two more vehicles to completely refresh Technical Rescue. Tech Rescue 14 is already in next year's budget and it will go to St. Petersburg and will be for urban flooding/swift water rescue.
 - The breathing apparatus for both the Hazardous Materials Team and the Technical Rescue Team are at the end of their useful life. (15 years) They need to be budgeted for and replaced.
- Hospital Data Exchange – HDE:
 - HCA Hospitals are now online and EMS is transmitting data both ways. Dr. Jameson has begun integrate it into the Quality Improvement Program. BayCare is close to being finished. They are at 95%. Bayfront has signed on and IT is working on the technical connections for them and go live end of May.
- Unregulated wheelchair transports:
 - Reporter Shannon Behnken covered this on Channel 8 news. EMS sent 675 letters to hospitals, nursing homes, adult living facilities, and other medical facilities that provided a list of the regulated, authorized wheelchair transport providers in Pinellas County. The next step is to send a cease and desist letter to all the transportation brokers that Medicaid uses that are using unregulated transport companies.
- Growth Management:
 - Mr. Hare discussed the collaboration between EMS and the Fire Chiefs to address Priority Dispatch.
- Demonstration Projects:
 - Mr. Hare discussed the need for support for funding from the County for Foundational Preparedness.
- EMS Medical Director – Dr. Jameson gave updates on the following topics:
 - Flu:
 - It has started to wind down but now there has been an increase in Type-B Influenza in the last few weeks.
 - Opioids:
 - Dr. Jameson gave an overview of ongoing Law Enforcement Narcan Training. There have been 8 successful naloxone administrations by law enforcement since the program began.
 - Jems:
 - We were featured in an article in Jems regarding the Quality Management work that's

been going on here.

- Emergency Pediatric Care Training:
 - Dr. Jameson discussed the details of the first formalized pediatric training happening this fall.
- Safe Sleeping:
 - EMS continues its work with the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board on a safe sleeping and preventable child death initiative.
- Protocol Updates:
 - An entirely refreshed Hazmat Protocol book is anticipated in the next 3 months. It is scheduled to be on the agenda for the June Medical Control Board meeting.
- Protocol Updates:
 - The Critical Care Team is refreshing their protocols. A full refresh of their book is anticipated over the next 6 months.
- HDE:
 - This project has progressed to the point where shortly the paramedics will see what happened to their patients and if they were right or wrong in their assessment and treatment of the patient.
- EMS Symposium:
 - This spring will be the first EMS Symposium the week prior to EMS Week.
- Stroke Symposium:
 - On Friday May 18th there will be a Stroke Symposium.
- First Responders – Chief Jamison spoke for First Responders:
 - There is a need to set a minimum foundational level of service that cannot be eroded in times of economic difficulty. There are concerns about how the Homestead Exemption, which is expected to pass, will affect service levels.
- Sunstar – Mr. Peterson gave an update on Sunstar Paramedics performance:
 - January's overall ambulance transports were 16,001 which was a 2.5% increase for January YTD
 - February's overall ambulance transports were 14,638 which was a 3.2% increase for February YTD
 - March – halfway through the month transports are 2.5% below normal for March – non-emergency is up but emergency is down. Those numbers are expected to rise towards the end of the month.
 - ACE re-accreditation for Communications Center – Also in the process of renewing accreditation for Critical Care Ambulance Team, as well as overall ambulance service accreditation which are both due this spring.
 - Article in Jems in March as well regarding the Sunstar and Pinellas County response to Hurricane Irma.

UPDATE: DATA DRIVEN FOCUS GROUP

- Mr. Hare, Chief Jamison, Chief Tedesco and Captain Dinan provided a presentation demonstrating the findings of the Data Driven Focus Group highlighting where the system is currently, and recommendations for future needs.
- The EMS Advisory Council was asked for and enunciated it's support for the following:
 - Two new EMS Coordinator positions - \$100 to \$120,000 for two positions combined
 - Technical Rescue and Hazmat self-contained breathing apparatus - \$500,000 out of Fire Regional Budget
 - Growth Management support with a caveat regarding briefing the EMS Advisory Council before it's put into place
 - Engine 2 - \$250,000 that is already earmarked for this purpose

Ms. Mullins made a motion to provide support for the requests. Mayor Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Mr. Woodrum presented positions that were up for re-election.
 - Current Chair was eligible for re-election – Dr. Weiland was nominated by Ms. Mullins. Nomination was seconded by Mayor Dudley. Nomination passed unanimously.
 - Current Vice-Chair was eligible for re-election – Kelly Cullen was nominated by Mr. Peterson. Nomination seconded by Cpt. Dinan. Nomination passed unanimously
 - Current Secretary served 2 consecutive terms, not eligible for re-election. Julie Peluso was nominated by Mr. Mercado. Nomination was seconded by Ms. Mullins. Nomination passed unanimously.
 - Chief Ian Womack and Mayor Elson to continue to serve on the Executive Committee – Nominated by Chief Jamison. Nominations seconded by Ms. Guidash. Nominations passed unanimously

OPEN FORUM

There was no discussion under open forum.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on June 15, 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 12:45 P.M.

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