

**PINELLAS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

March 15, 2019

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met in Conference Room 130 at the EMS & Fire Administration, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774 at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

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 Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)  
Mayor Wanda Dudley, Mayors' Council (Kenneth City)  
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)  
Larri Gerson, Citizen Representative (District 2)  
William Holmes, Citizen Representative (District 6)  
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7) – Secretary  
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter  
Chief Doug Zimmerman, EMS Leadership Group  
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics  
Dr. Steven Epstein, Pinellas County Medical Association  
Comm. Julie Peluso, Independent Fire District Elected Official – Vice Chair  
Rosalie Bousher, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Absent:

Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, Mayors' Council (Dunedin)  
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College – Chair  
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – Vice-Chair  
Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)  
Mike Jones, Citizen Representative (District 4)

Staff Present:

Jim Fogarty, Safety & Emergency Services  
Craig Hare, EMS & Fire Administration  
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director  
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office  
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration  
Liz Fogo, EMS & Fire Administration  
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Chief Anthony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire Department  
Chief Scott Sanford, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue  
Chief Rob Angell, Pinellas Park Fire Department  
Kelly Cisarik, Citizen  
Chris Taylor, Pinellas Park Fire Department  
Andrew Hughes, Pinellas Park Fire Department

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Comm. Peluso called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were 17 voting members in attendance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 14, 2018 meeting were presented for approval. They passed unanimously.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

## **“TURN OVER THE KEY” CEREMONY**

Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration Director, Craig Hare, and EMS Special Operations/Fire Coordinator, Sandy Brooking, presided over the “Turn Over the Key” Ceremony for two new Special Operations vehicles: Technical Rescue 48 and Hazmat 33

The keys to Technical Rescue 48 were turned over to Chief Ehlers, and will be stationed in Clearwater. The keys to Hazmat 33 were turned over to Chief Angell, and will be stationed in Pinellas Park.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

Dr. Jameson presented commendations to individuals from Safety Harbor Fire Rescue for having worked 4 cardiac arrests in a matter of days, successfully resuscitating all of them.

Dr. Jameson and Captain Dinan (St. Pete) also presented commendations and challenge coins from the Office of the Medical Director to the St. Petersburg Fire Rescue EMS team that took first place against 20 teams in the 2019 Journal of Emergency Medical Services Games.

## **REPORTS**

- Director, EMS & Fire Administration – Craig Hare
  - Data Driven Focus Groups continues to study data related to monitoring system performance and budget needs. Recommendations will be brought forward at a special meeting, or at the June meeting for consideration.
  - High speed data is a key to sustainability. Currently every vehicle has low speed data. Hot spots are recommended for data synching and sharing, XY coordinates can be sent for better mapping in real time. The backup system would be County Radio system. The primary would be First Net, a nationwide high speed wireless project for Public Safety.
  - EMS Coordinators and Field Supervisors have a tremendous workload. EMS is currently working with Dr. Jameson to assess their duties to determine their needs and next steps
  - Looking at work loads and response times across the system for sustainability
  - Budget is underway.
  - Clearwater is in progress with Growth Management strategies
  - Safety Harbor, Largo, Seminole, Lealman all agreed unanimously. Lealman and St. Pete are still under consideration for Growth Management
  - Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District Fee increase was passed at the March election
- EMS Medical Director – Dr. Jameson
  - Metrics across the board look good and are continuing to improve. Multiple quality improvement cycles underway
  - Provider wellness continues to be a major focus
  - Expanding Paramedic Orientation program to two week academy style orientation beginning in October
  - Continuing to build partnership with USF, multiple research projects underway with them
  - Presented a video about the partnership between EMS and USF Health Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLs) in order to give EMS instructors hands on practice utilizing simulation based education.
- First Responders – Ch. Tom Jamison
  - Presented packet which illustrated the growth of the EMS System over 5 years (18%)
  - Flattening over the past year, and continues into this year
  - Too early to tell if flattening is an anomaly or respite from growth

- Call volume will drop if system improvements are adopted by all Agencies in their entirety (10%)
- Sunstar – John Peterson
  - Introduction of Damien Gonzalez as new Operations Manager
  - First two weeks of February were two of the busiest weeks in the history of this EMS System for Paramedics Logistics – each of those weeks saw more transports than the week of Hurricane Irma – ended 2.5% up compared to 2018
  - January down 2.5% compared to 2018
  - March to date up 5% compared to 2018
- Affiliates & Stakeholders – Rosalie Bousher (NAMI) earlier in the meeting
  - Rosalie Bousher introduced herself and spoke about NAMI's purpose

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chair – Dr. Carver

Vice Chair – Comm. Julie Peluso

Secretary – Mr. Jorge Mercado

Officers for Executive Committee

Chief Jamison

Chief Womack

Refreshing/Confirmation of Selection Committee

Karen Mullins, Jorge Mercado, Mayor Dudley, John Peterson, Larri Gerson

Nominations of Officers and Selection Committee were presented for approval. They passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on June 21, 2019 at 10 A.M. at the EMS & Fire Administration, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Comm. Peluso adjourned the meeting at 11:05 A.M.

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