

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 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 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
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College – Chair
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Mayor Wanda Dudley, Mayors' Council (Kenneth City)
Mayor Joseph Manzo, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)
Larri Gerson, Citizen Representative (District 2)
Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Mike Jones, Citizen Representative (District 4)
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
Anissa Raiford, Pinellas County Medical Association
Comm. Julie Peluso, Independent Fire District Elected Official – Vice Chair

Absent:

Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, Mayors' Council (Dunedin)
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Ashley Hoskins, Pinellas County Health department
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
William Holmes, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Rosalie Bousher, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Denise Whitfield, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Staff Present:

Lourdes Benedict, County Administration
Jim Fogarty, Safety & Emergency Services
Craig Hare, 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
Lori Collins, Regional 9-1-1
Liz Fogo, EMS & Fire Administration
Ana Smith-Lopez, Intern

Also Present:

Comm. Kevin Kenney, East Lake Fire Rescue
Kathy Fenelon, American Heart Association
Jeffrey Walker, American Heart Association
Dr. Jose Barquin, Advent Health North Pinellas
Mike Savoy, Citizen
June Van Scoyoc, Belleair Beach Park & Recreation
Karen Yatchum, Human Services
Tim Burns, Human Services
Elisa DeGregorio, Human Services
Kelly Intzes, St. Pete Beach Fire Rescue

Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics
Josh Works, Sunstar Paramedics
Chief David Mixson, South Pasadena Fire Department
Chief Trip Barrs, Treasure Island Fire Rescue
Chief Craig Misener, Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue
Chief Brett Schlatterer, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Chief Rob Angell, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Chief Andrew Hughes, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Chief Mike Burton, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue
Chief Josh Stefancic, Safety Harbor Fire Department
Chief William Morelli, Seminole Fire Rescue
Capt. Allen Smay, Lealman Fire District
Joanne Lamb, Department of Health

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Carver called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were 18 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 15, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. They passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

RECOGNITION: MISSION LIFELINE AWARDS

Kathy Fenelon, Vice President of the American Heart Association for the Tampa Bay region, and Jeffrey Walker, upcoming Vice President of the American Heart Association for the Tampa Bay region, presented the American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Awards for STEMI Care to Craig Hare, Dr. Jameson and Dr. Carver who all accepted the award on behalf of Pinellas County EMS.

Awards were also presented to:

Lealman Fire Rescue	South Pasadena Fire Department
Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	St. Pete Beach Fire Department
Pinellas Park Fire Rescue	St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue	Sunstar Paramedics
Safety Harbor Fire Department	Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue
Seminole Fire Rescue	Treasure Island Fire Rescue

RECOGNITION: KATHY FENELON, AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Craig Hare and Dr. Jameson presented Kathy Fenelon, Vice President of the American Heart Association for the Tampa Bay Region with a Commendation Certificate and Challenge Coin from the Office of the Medical Director. She was recognized for being a critical partner with the Pinellas County EMS system for 25 years, helping to drive improvement in the quality of care within the Pinellas County EMS System for STEMI, Stroke and Cardiac Arrest.

PRESENTATION: PEDIATRIC DROWNING

Chief Andrew Hughes presented a video of Pinellas Park Fire Department's annual In-Service training for Pediatric Drowning Emergencies.

PRESENTATION: DDFG RECOMMENDATIONS

Craig Hare and Chief Jamison gave a presentation from the Data Driven Focus Group.

Changes based on earlier recommendations of the group:

- New additions to Pinellas County EMS and Fire Administration:
 - New EMS Logistics Coordinator
 - EMS Administrative Manager promoted to Exempt Service
 - EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator position posted
 - Additional Administrative Support Specialist added will help with Quality Assurance and Improvement. Their time will be split between EMS and Fire Administration and 911 as 911 pursues further accreditation
 - Exempt position being added for further quality improvement and data analysis

Workforce Updates:

- Promotions and Retirements create need to fill positions
- 50% of Field Paramedics and EMT's are less than 5 years on the job
- Ambulance Service has brought on more than 200 new personnel each year over the last three years – all State Certified
- Working with all agencies to expand County Orientation to Academy format – two weeks for Paramedics, one week for EMT's – 90 day Orientation in the field with a preceptor – all after they are State Licensed
- Program produces County Certified clinicians in 90 days
- No degradation in protocol compliance or performance metrics including patient satisfaction and customer service scores

Discussion ensued regarding improvements in employee retention for Paramedics Logistics.

Improvements for Next Year:

- Rescue Lieutenants are being added to system mid-year – 24/7 continually staffed positions
 - St. Petersburg LR9 serving city wide, stationed on the west side in Tyrone area
 - Largo LR42 serving city wide, stationed at East Bay and Belcher
 - Pinellas Park serving city wide, stationed at Station 35, 43rd St. and 118th Ave.
- Further refinement of EMS Supervision Formula:
 - Quarter FTE as a baseline, plus a quarter FTE for each Authority or Contractor funded unit
 - Seminole – addition of Administrative Lt. 40 hours
 - Lealman – addition of Administrative Lt. 40 hours – supports both Tierra Verde and Lealman Fire Rescue District
 - Palm Harbor – part time EMS support
 - St. Pete Beach – full time coordinator coming to days
 - South Pasadena and Oldsmar increasing to a 75% effort on their ems coordination
- New Vehicles:
 - Staff vehicle for Rescue Lt. in Largo
 - Other agencies have used existing vehicles to contain costs
- Busy area in Palm Harbor – Station 65
 - Combined two split positions that were County funded and put them on a Rescue Unit – this helps implement transport capable rescue in North County, as well as maintaining fire suppression coverage – implementation will be studied to determine whether a paramedic on the engine is needed to back up rescue truck
- Two conversions:
 - Gulfport - Rescue 17 – Gulfport purchasing truck, County covering staffing cost
 - Treasure Island – Rescue 24 – TI purchasing truck, County covering staffing cost
- All suggested improvements on a 2 year implementation plan:
 - All projects will be implemented at a mid-fiscal year, April 1 of 2020, with 50% funding, enabling the County to move into a 6 year financial forecast that does not increase tax millage, maintains adequate reserves, and funds all division and support budgets as well as these improvements
 - Year 2 is 100% funding – It will go from 1.3 million in new funding to 2 million recurring expense, most of it for personnel
 - Current approach funds all existing ALS units and service, no change in the tax millage, reserves greater than 25%, and 11 agencies will have some kind of program enhancement
 - Ambulance Contractor is adding 9 new Sprinter Vans, five replace old units, 4 as an expansion

Craig Hare requested a discussion and vote on support for the suggested Two Year Enhancement Plan.

An additional request was made for a motion to be made to add the topic of employee retention to the next agenda. The motion was made by Karen Mullins and seconded by Mayor Dudley. The motion was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL: DATA DRIVEN FOCUS GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Jamison made a motion for approval of support for the recommendations of the Data Driven Focus Group pertaining to the Two Year Enhancement Plan. Jorge Mercado seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION: PRIORITY DISPATCH IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Craig Hare provided a slide presentation to update the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council on the ongoing evaluation of Priority Dispatch Implementation.

PRESENTATIONS: MANAGING CALL GROWTH

Jim Fogarty provided an overview of four different areas of Call Growth Management, and presentations were given on each.

- Karen Yatchum, Healthcare Administrator, Human Services gave a presentation on Complex Cases, and the Federal SAMHSA Grant that has been applied for. She requested the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board take a vote regarding serving as the Advisory Board for the grant, a necessary component of the grant.

Commissioner Peluso made the motion for the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board to serve as a full committee Advisory Board for the SAMHSA Grant. Jorge Mercado seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Chief Barrs, Treasure Island Fire Rescue, presented real life stories about challenges with the homeless in his area, and shared some successful initiatives regarding rehabilitation.
- Jim Fogarty, Safety & Emergency Services, presented data and several pilot program initiatives related to mental illness patients going in and out of PEHMs.
- Lori Collins, Regional 9-1-1 presented data regarding the Falls Prevention Program.

REPORTS

- Director, EMS & Fire Administration – Craig Hare
 - The Academy of Mobile Healthcare Integration is looking at demonstration projects in our Emergency Services System like the ones covered in this meeting that are focusing on Human Services resolutions to some of these complex problems. Updates to come regarding possible inclusion of any of our initiatives.
 - 5 year agreement for first responder with cities and fire districts is underway
 - 5 year fire protection agreements are underway
 - \$200,000 in BP and EMS funding is being used to support St. Pete Beach establish a fire rescue boat at Pass A Grill
 - Project with Chief Burton for Water Rescue Enhancement, working out what the assets should be, \$150,000 in funding to support Water Rescue Enhancement on both Gulf and Intercoastal sides
 - A partnership has begun with BayCare for licensed mental health care providers to deal with cumulative and post-traumatic stress
- EMS Medical Director – Dr. Jameson
 - Continuing to update and expand simulation based medical training for field crews
 - Expanded and refined Orientation Program starting in October
 - Congratulations to EMS Fellow Dr. Stephanie Tershakovec who is graduating and will be staying on at Tampa General in the Emergency Room and will be staying on as an Online Medical Control Physician for us
 - New EMS Fellow, Dr. Andrew Smith – graduating from Emergency Medicine Residency Program at USF Tampa General
 - Annual protocol cycle updates are underway – updates for Medical Control Board in September
 - New stroke protocols initiated in January are going very well, still being evaluated - additional requests for public education support may be requested at a later date
 - Fusion Group – EMS, Hospitals, Law Enforcement, Human Services, Toxicology, Poison Center, Medical Examiner all meet, review data and identify actionable solutions regarding opioid crises. Narcan Program - Nearly every law enforcement agency in Pinellas County is now carrying Narcan. There have been over 100 law enforcement administrations in the last year and a half. Close to 2000 law enforcement officers have been trained on the proper administration of Narcan.
 - Juvenile Welfare Board's Preventable Infant Death – sleepbabysafely.com – more info about program – Messages have been sent out to local pediatrician practices about safe sleeping. Still working on educating those who continue to advocate co-sleeping as a safe alternative.

Decline in deaths last year, but numbers are rising again this year, with several deaths in just the last few weeks. Ongoing media public education through local TV shows, refreshing ongoing initiatives, developing new ones Tagline: ABC – Alone, Back, Crib

- First Responders – Chief Tom Jamison
 - First Responders through the course of Jan1 through May 31st, responded to 85,000 calls – up less than 1% increase from last year
 - Data Driven Focus Group – majority recommendation, not unanimous
 - Priority Dispatch still a work in progress, agencies that are not participating are evaluating the data outcomes from participating agencies
- Sunstar – Richard Schomp
 - Sunstar transports are up 2.6% - April transports 15,604, May transports 16,316
 - Investing in purchasing 9 more vehicles for the system – retiring 6 older van styles used for interfacility and increasing fleet size by 4 over the summer
 - Sending two people to DC for Stars for Life
 - Participated in EMS Day for Leadership Pinellas
- Affiliates & Stakeholders – Captain Eric Dinan
 - Pride Fest – Largest in the Country, festivities all weekend long
 - Captain Dinan - Incident Commander
 - Dr. Jameson - On Site EMS Physician
 - Many contingency plans

OLD BUSINESS

No old business

NEW BUSINESS

- Nomination of Citizen Representative
 - Four nominations reviewed
 - Becca Tieder approved – Educational consultant, small business owner
 - Philip Vozza backup

Dr. Carver made a motion to accept the recommendations of the subcommittee regarding nomination of Citizen Representative. Comm. Peluso seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on September 20, 2019 at 10 A.M. at the EMS & Fire Administration, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Carver adjourned the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

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