

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**HYBRID REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2021**

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met using the Zoom online meeting platform and in person at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College – Chair
Commissioner Julie Peluso, Independent Fire District Elected Official – Vice-Chair
John Peterson, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Secretary
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Aron Schlau, Pinellas County Medical Association
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Jo Dee Nicosia, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)
Larri Gerson, Citizen Representative (District 2)
Becca Tieder, Citizen Representative (District 5)
William Holmes, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7)
Mayor Joseph Manzo, Mayors’ Council (Belleair Beach)
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors’ Council (Largo)
Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Mayors’ Council (Pinellas Park)
Mayor Chris Alahouzos, Mayors’ Council (Tarpon Springs)
Chief Anthony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire Department (Alternate)
Chief Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Chief Chad Pittman, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs’ Association
Capt. Michael Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office
Chief Terry Tokarz, EMS Coordinator

Absent:

Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Mike Jones, Citizen Representative (District 4)
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses’ Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Brenda McCarthy, Emergency Nurses’ Association West Coast Florida Chapter (Alternate)

Staff Present:

Matthew Tolnay, County Attorney’s Office
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director
Dr. Andrew Smith, MD4
James Fogarty, Bureau Director, Safety and Emergency Services
David Hare, Deputy Director, Safety and Emergency Services
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Commissioner Kevin Kenney, Independent Fire District Elected Official (Alternate)
Chief Scott Young, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs’ Association (Alternate)
Julie Bacon, Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital
Elizabeth Lavelle, Orlando Health St. Petersburg (Bayfront)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Eric Carver called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll call was taken, and Greg Woodrum confirmed that a quorum was met. There were 20 voting members in attendance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2021 MEETING - APPROVED

Upon presentation by Dr. Carver, Jorge Mercado moved, seconded by Karen Mullins and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting be approved.

EMSAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Craig Hare reported that the EMSAC Executive Committee met on April 16, 2021, and provided a meeting overview; whereupon, referring to page 8 of the agenda packet, he discussed the letter addressed to Congressman Bilirakis relaying support for Pinellas County's request for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) funding for a new Consolidated Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System. Jim Fogarty reviewed the history of the current CAD system and discussed the need for CAD consolidation, operational details, costs/funding source, completion timeframe, and EMSAC Executive Committee representation.

Following discussion, Mayor Woody Brown moved, seconded by Karen Mullins and carried unanimously, that the EMS Advisory Council supports Pinellas County's request for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) funding for a new Consolidated Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System.

Minutes of the April 16, 2021 EMSAC Executive Committee Meeting - APPROVED

Dr. Carver presented the April 16, 2021 EMSAC Executive Committee meeting minutes for approval. Mayor Joseph Manzo requested that the minutes be revised to reflect that he had presented the Consolidated CAD System funding request to the Mayors' Council, not staff; whereupon, no objection was noted.

Mayor Woody Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Mercado and carried unanimously, that the amended minutes of the April 16, 2021 EMSAC Executive Committee meeting be approved.

REPORTS

Director, EMS & Fire Administration - Craig Hare

- Presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Commissioner Kenneth Webster in recognition of his distinguished career spanning 34-year career as Executive Director of the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society and dedicated service to Pinellas County's Emergency Medical Services System and EMS Advisory Council for the last 10 years. Commissioner Webster expressed thanks to the members and provided the following information:
 - Invited everyone to attend the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society's First Responders Appreciation Night at 7:00 p.m. on September 10 at the Hilton Carillon, noting that last year's event was suspended due to COVID 19.
 - Announced that PCOMS is holding its annual membership drive.
- Recognized Brenda Dixon and Sandy Brookings for reaching 30 and 35 years of employment, respectively, with Pinellas County.
- Pandemic Plan has returned to Condition Green. Crews continue to wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), noting a sufficient supply of systemwide PPE.
- Provided statistical information regarding call/transport volumes and discussed hospital staffing issues, bed delays, and impacts to Sunstar operations.

- Presented an overview of First Responder and Fire budgets and discussed various contract amendments and funding requests.
- Thanked Jeremy Tinter for his hard work regarding Pinellas County's American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline award recognition.
- Discussed changes to Pinellas County's Air Medical Transport program, sharing information on the new LifeLine Critical Care Transport Team, dispatch operations, and new helicopter I.D.s.
- Presented information on Sunstar Ambulance accreditation, noting the process is on track.
- Provided updates on the EKG Monitor Replacement Project, Controlled Substance Protocol/PSTrax rollout/related training, Cyberlock system, and CACTUS waste container installation.
- Discussed the progress of design/construction of various new fire stations and funding sources.
- Briefed members on yesterday's Medical Control Board meeting, noting that the Board supports the introduction of the 26 Alpha/Omega level of service upgrades.

EMS Medical Director – Dr. Andrew Smith

- Dr. Jameson sends his apologies as he is attending a Medical Director's conference, Gathering of Eagles.
- Utilizing System Status Management strategies to alleviate bed delays.
- Shared information regarding the approval of Controlled Substance protocols by the Medical Control Board. Thanked the members of the Controlled Substance Committee for their incredible work implementing best practices and appropriate DEA standards.
- Increasing focus on various projects that were delayed due to the COVID-19 response.
- Discussed the planned summer rollout for the Opioid Use Disorder Provider program.
- Currently conducting a full update of all protocols and rollout of the Medical Operations Manual by January of 2022.
- Returning to Pandemic Condition Green.
- Presented a COVID-19 update on EMS and hospital operations, noting that the system continues to experience bed delays and monitor patterns.
- Expressed thanks to all hospitals for their continued support.

First Responders – Chief Terry Tokarz

- Introduced Scott Young, Tarpon Springs Fire Chief.

Sunstar – John Peterson

- Sunstar is one of very few ambulance services in the nation to all hold all three accreditations: Dispatch, Critical Care, and overall Ambulance Service, noting that the ACE (dispatch) accreditation was just renewed successfully for another three years. Kudos to Brian Eels and his team for their hard work for making it happen.
- Wrapping up the Critical Care onsite review today, noting that it went well.
- Preparing for the CAP August site review.
- Provided an overview of 2020 versus 2021 call volume, noting there has been a significant increase in tourists.
- Critical Care Transport and Special Operations vehicle delivery, and ePCR tablet replacement.
- Discussed the continued use of mandatory overtime for Sunstar medics and a new memorandum of understanding with the union, allowing for changes to its collective bargaining agreement, better shift assignment, and improved overtime setup.
- Provided updates on the Stryker Power-LOAD stretcher project, ePCR tablet replacement, Special Operations supervisor vehicle replacement, and the arrival of the new Critical Care Transport unit.

Affiliates and Stakeholders

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Jo Dee Nicosia

- Thanked members for their support.
- Provided an overview of fall educational programs and provider training opportunities.
- Discussed the annual membership drive scheduled for August and upcoming October fundraiser.
- Shared that NAMI continues to be a part of Pinellas County's Critical Intervention Training, showing support for our law enforcement officers trained to interface with some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community.
- Provided background information on NAMI leadership, office locations, and community services, and distributed support materials.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

OPEN FORUM

- Craig Hare announced that we are coming upon the one-year anniversary of the transition of SWAT paramedics to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.
- The County is refreshing training and ballistic equipment for the Tech Rescue Task Force, noting an uptick in the number of active assailant-type incidents.
- Commissioner Julie Peluso related that this year marks the 20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001, and everyone is invited to the 9/11 Memorial Service being held on Saturday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Curlew Hills Memorial Gardens in Palm Harbor.
- Dr. Smith announced that his team is just finishing up the Auster Environment CPS project, noting that it is the County's first medic-initiated, -designed, and -developed research protocol and are working with the University of South Florida for IRB approval.
- Craig reported that Fire Rescue agencies are installing mobile data terminals, and the County is installing high-speed wireless modems, enabling the system to transition to full, closest-unit dispatch.
- In response to Larri Gerson's query regarding Active Shooter response kits, Craig Hare discussed the distribution of bleed kits, ballistic equipment, and training resources.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2021, format to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

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