

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD

HYBRID REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2021

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

Dr. Stephen Haire, Morton Plant Hospital - Chairman
Dr. Jose Barquin, AdventHealth North Pinellas
Ms. Patti Squires, Largo Medical Center (Alternate)
Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital
Mr. Lou Galdieri, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare
Dr. Aron Schlau, Pinellas County Medical Association
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Matt Nelson, St. Anthony's Hospital (Alternate)

Members Not Present:

Dr. Jennifer Pearson, C.W. Bill Young V.A. Medical Center - Vice Chairman
Dr. Krista Gillis, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg
Dr. Andrea Apple, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Alternate)
Mr. Michael Irvin, Palms of Pasadena Hospital
Mr. Raynard Ware, Palms of Pasadena Hospital (Alternate)

Staff Present:

Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Joseph Morrissey, County Attorney's Office
Jim Fogarty, Director, Safety and Emergency Services
David Hare, Deputy Director, Safety and Emergency Services
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration
Jazmin Soloman, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Ms. Nancy Hopkins, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare (Alternate)
Ashley Overend, Board of County Commissioners
Jerri Reed, EMSAC Citizen Representative (District 3)
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Haire called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. Roll call was taken, and it was determined that there was a quorum present. There were 6 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon presentation by Dr. Haire, Dr. Namey moved, seconded by Dr. Bellini and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the September 17, 2020 meeting be approved.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following discussion, Mr. Galdieri moved, seconded by Dr. Bellini, to maintain the current Medical Control Board roster with Dr. Stephen Haire as Chair, Dr. Jennifer Pearson as Vice-Chair, and Dr. Joseph Namey as Secretary, terms ending March 2023. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

SYSTEM UPDATE - DIRECTOR, EMS & FIRE ADMINISTRATION

Craig Hare provided the following system update:

- Welcomed Dr. Aron Schlau, representing the Pinellas County Medical Association, and Dr. Paul Anderson, as his alternate.
- Thanked Dr. Christos Politis, Largo Medical Center's former Chief Medical Control Officer, for his service to the MCB and EMS System, relating that he is leaving the field of medicine to join his family's construction business.
- Welcomed Amelia Russell, representing HCA Largo Medical Center, and Patti Squires, as her alternate. Ms. Russell is replacing Dr. Politis.
- Pandemic Plan Condition Yellow remains in effect, noting that the system has marked the one-year anniversary of the first reported COVID case.
- Reviewed PPE protocol for 911 calls.
- Summarized transport volumes, hospital statuses, and bed delays. Relayed impacts to Sunstar operations, including significantly increased transport times, use of mandatory overtime, and crew fatigue.
- Expressed appreciation for the great working relationships with hospital administrators, physicians, and ER staff.
- Provided a budget overview, noting requests for an additional EMS Academy Training Coordinator and Growth Management Coordinator.
- Jim Fogarty to brief EMS Advisory Council on Growth Management/Priority Dispatch initiative at tomorrow's EMSAC meeting.
- Shared information on new fire station locations and designs.
- Discussed comprehensive refreshers of the Hazmat and Tech Rescue programs, including new vehicles, specialized equipment, and sustained training measures.
- Presented updates of the Support Rehab Unit Replacement and Drone projects.

CLINICAL UPDATE – EMS Medical Director

Dr. Jameson presented new and updated clinical information, as follows:

- Continued service on the Executive Policy Group.
- Discussed ongoing PPE protocol/vigilance and medic vaccination rates.
- Recognized EMS Training Coordinator Jazmin Soloman and Protocol/Equipment Coordinator David Hudak for their great work, noting their training protocols are being utilized nationwide.
- Presented an overview of vaccination site operations and personnel.
- Discussed educational strains and struggles experienced by new paramedics and EMTs due to the COVID situation and additional resources being provided to ensure success.
- Reported that System Status Management strategies have been used to ease difficulties with transport volume and hospital offloads.
- Shared that he serves on the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT) as liaison to the American Heart Association's Cardiac Care Committee; and that he has been asked to join the Florida Stroke Registry's Writing Committee.

- Strengthening the relationship with USF School of Medicine on Pinellas County's first paramedic-led research initiative, the Austere Environment CPR project.
- Reported that the Nurse Managers/STEMI/Stroke Workgroup remains committed to improving heart attack and stroke systems of care.
- Summarized information regarding two protocol updates being presented for approval, AD-2 and AD-3.
 - Protocol AD2 Updates - Approved: Following discussion, Dr. Bellini moved, seconded by Ms. Hopkins, to approve the revision of Protocol AD2 911 Call Processing and Response Assignment to reflect MPDs Version 13.3 updates. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
 - Protocol AD3 Updates - Approved: Following discussion, Ms. Hopkins moved, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the revision of Protocol AD3 Medical Priority Dispatch (MPDS) Local Options to incorporate MPDS Version 13.3 updates. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
- Announced that Largo Medical Center is working to become designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. Patti Squires provided information regarding Largo Medical's accreditation process. Dr. Jameson presented an overview of the approval criteria and current stroke triaging protocol and facilities, and discussion ensued; whereupon, he recommended that the Board approve Largo Medical Center's consideration as a "Comprehensive Stroke Center" destination while they pursue accreditation.
 - Largo Medical Center Comprehensive Stroke Services - Approved: Following discussion, Ms. Hopkins moved, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve Largo Medical Center's designation as "Comprehensive Stroke Center" for patients meeting criterion while accreditation is pursued.

OPEN FORUM

- Jim Fogarty provided an overview of the Growth Management presentation that he will be conducting at the EMSAC meeting on March 19, 2021.
- Craig Hare presented information regarding changes to helicopter transports, noting that John Hopkins All Children's Lifeline 1 will be expanding its services soon to start providing 911 responses to adult and pediatric traumas.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Haire adjourned the meeting at 10:54 A.M.

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