

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 7, 2012

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met in a regular session at Public Safety Services, First Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida, at 9:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Chief Donald Sayre, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Assoc. (Vice-Chair)  
Chief Robert Weiss, Clearwater Fire Department  
Chief Steve Girk, St Petersburg Fire & Rescue  
Chief James Angle, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Lt. Glenn Luben, Law Enforcement Agency  
Sharlene Edwards, Citizen Representative  
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)  
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)  
William Israel, Citizen Representative  
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative  
Julie Baker, Citizen Representative  
Carl Lavender, Citizen Representative  
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative  
Mark Postma, Sunstar Paramedics  
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society  
Dr. David Weiland, Pinellas County Medical Association

### Absent:

Dr. Adam Berko, Citizen Representative (Chairman)  
Mayor Kathleen Mortensen, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)  
Mayor Gary Katica, Mayors' Council (Belleair)  
Blake MacPherson, Citizen Representative (Secretary)  
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative  
Kelly Triolo, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter  
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs

### Also Present:

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Public Safety Services  
Craig Hare, Public Safety Services  
Dr. David Bowden, EMS Medical Director  
Dr. Donna Dooley, EMS Associate Medical Director  
Greg Woodrum, Public Safety Services  
Chief Joe Accetta, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Chief Joseph Connors, Clearwater Fire Department  
Chief Steve Knight, St Petersburg Fire & Rescue  
Chief Bill Scott, Largo Fire Rescue  
Commissioner Norm Atherton, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue  
Dr. Jay Fitch, Fitch & Associates  
Guillermo Fuentes, Fitch & Associates  
Dianne Wright, Fitch & Associates  
Chris Callsen, Optima, Inc.  
Shelby Rivera, Bayfront Medical Center

Debbie Vass, Sunstar Paramedics  
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics  
Philip Young, Sunstar Paramedics  
Barry Niemann, Sunstar Paramedics  
Rob Smith, Sunstar Paramedics  
Don Toomey, Sunstar Paramedics  
Anne Lindberg, Tampa Bay Times  
Susan Byrd, All Children's Hospital  
Lisa Nummi, Bayfront Medical Center  
Cpt. Jim Millican, Lealman Fire Rescue  
Lt. Scott Sanford, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Sayre called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum present. There were 16 voting members in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 6, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF LETTER TO DR. LAURIE ROMIG AND MR. JEFF BARNARD**

Chairman Sayre called for a motion. Mr. Israel made a motion to approve the letters of appreciation for Dr. Romig and Mr. Barnard and direct staff to mail them out. Lt. Luben seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **PALS SELECTION FOR ALTERNATE EMSAC REPRESENTATIVE**

Chief Angle made a motion that Assistant Chief Bill Scott be nominated to fill the alternate position for PALS on the EMS Advisory Council. Ms. Scofield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **DR. FITCH & ASSOCIATES: "OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS OF EMS AND FIRE DEPLOYMENT AND RESPONSE"**

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Director of Public Safety Services, introduced Dr. Jay Fitch who will be providing an overview of the operational analysis that his firm has been contracted by Pinellas County to conduct.

Dr. Fitch introduced his project team as follows:

Project Director: Mr. Guillermo Fuentes was the Assistant Director of EMS for the 5<sup>th</sup> largest system in North America, Montreal, Canada. Mr. Fuentes then moved to Niagara EMS as the Assistant Director and then became the Chief Administrative Officer of a regional police agency.

Financial Advisor: Ms. Dianne Wright is the former Assistant Director of the Metro Dade Fire Rescue. Ms. Wright has been with Fitch & Associates for 14 years and will be working with stakeholders on the financial aspects of the project.

Software Analysis: Mr. Chris Callsen is the Chief Operating Officer of Optima, Inc. Optima is the software tool that will be utilized on this project to run visual simulations of the various scenarios and plans being analyzed.

Fire Service Liaison: Chief James Broman was the Fire Chief of Englewood, Colorado and suburban Seattle. Chief Broman will be the primary liaison working with the fire chiefs in terms of understanding some of the dynamics of the individual departments.

Mr. Fuentes briefed that the project called for a comparison of four models costed out in a virtual environment using both EMS & Fire apparatus. The four models are the current model, the IPS Study plan, the Sanford/Millican plan and a hybrid model based on best practices.

Mr. Fuentes said that the four models will be evaluated against 1) whether they can maintain clinical outcomes, 2) whether they can stand up to the cost/value and 3) whether they will change the customer service perspective or response time and if so by how much.

Mr. Fuentes stated that to accomplish this evaluation they intend to have a large stakeholder engagement model.

Mr. Fuentes said that there would be maximum stakeholder involvement in each model and that they had already received 9-1-1 CAD data as well as Sunstar CAD data.

Mr. Fuentes briefed that fire services will be involved in three round table exercises to tune the models. A tuned model means that a virtual model properly represents reality.

Mr. Fuentes said that the final step would involve comparing the tuned virtual models against each of the potential service models to determine outcomes and costs.

Mr. Callsen described the simulation software process and showed an actual simulation from the City of Denver EMS system. Mr. Callsen also explained the "modeling" process.

Mr. Callsen briefed that the data that will be used for this analysis is the data collected from October 1, 2010 thru September 30, 2011. Mr. Callsen then explained the various analysis tools and techniques available through the simulation software.

The question was asked if an air medical overlay was available with this software. Mr. Callsen answered that there was not such an overlay with this software however the value comes by showing when the ground unit is released in such an incident.

Mr. Fuentes added that generally when there is such a low volume incident such as air medical then simulation type tools are not required.

The question was asked if the geographical area of the simulation could be enlarged to reflect a unit leaving its area and returning. Mr. Callsen responded that the software allows the geography to be built much larger to reflect these situations.

Mr. Neri asked how this software is used to analyze cost. Mr. Callsen responded that these simulations will provide how many unit hours or resources are required to achieve various levels of performance. That information can then be assigned specific costs.

Chief Knight stated that in his agency there had been a problem with intermittent GPS issues and asked if the simulation software took that into account.

Mr. Callsen answered that even if intermittent there may still be enough data to analyze or in the past they have applied historic freeway areas.

Dr. Fitch commented that this study will have a beginning, middle and an end. Dr. Fitch said that the approach of the study will be to isolate all variables up front so as not to drag out the "what if" scenarios.

Mayor Arbutine asked whether the study will reveal what standing fixed asset fire stations are required to provide fire service and whether the modeling will provide fixed costs for fire houses with EMS being the only variable.

Mr. Fuentes responded that the study is not specifically evaluating fire but from a fire perspective they will evaluate anything that they engage on that's additional activities of what they do today.

Mr. Fuentes added that the study will not recommend changes to any of the mutual aid strategies or any of those that they do within their jurisdictions but rather will look at the fire strategies that exist today and compare those strategies with the Sanford/Millican plan to determine the effect of transport.

Ms. Scofield asked if the modeling took into account construction and seasonal variation and Mr. Callsen and Mr. Fuentes both confirmed that these variables would be identified in the tuning process.

Dr. Fitch reiterated the importance of engagement in this process and how stakeholders will need to be involved up front.

Mr. Fuentes stated that from his team's consulting experience it is evident that Pinellas County currently has a very effective system.

Chief Angle distributed a letter from the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association to Dr. Fitch and his team which offers feedback on issues that the Chiefs consider critical to the study.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1) Letter from Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association to Fitch and Associates dated November 6, 2012

## **OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Sayre asked for a motion to enter the Fire Chief's letter into the minutes. Dr. Weiland made the motion and Mayor Palladeno seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on January 24, 2013 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The meeting will take place at the Public Safety Services Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Weiland made a motion to adjourn. Chief Weiss seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

An audio recording of this meeting as well as any correspondence received is on file at Public Safety Services – EMS Division.