

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2022

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 – Chair
Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital
Dr. Matt Nelson, St. Anthony’s Hospital (Alternate)
Matthew Novak, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare
Amelia Russell, Largo Medical Center
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society - Secretary

Members Not Present:

Dr. Jennifer Pearson, C.W. Bill Young V.A. Medical Center - Vice Chairman
Dr. Jose Barquin, AdventHealth North Pinellas
Dr. Krista Gillis, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg
Dr. Brian Charity, Morton Plant Hospital (Alternate)
Dr. Jeremy White, AdventHealth North Pinellas (Alternate)
Dr. Stephen Feilinger, St. Anthony’s Hospital
Kelly Malloy, HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital, (Alternate)

Staff Present:

Jason Ester, County Attorney’s Office
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director
Dr. Michael Lozano, Associate Medical Director
Dr. Andrew Smith, Associate Medical Director
Dr. Andrew Kropp, Associate Medical Director
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration
Michelle Slawinski, EMS & Fire Administration
Chris Jordan, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Nancy Hopkins, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare (Alternate)
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Jazmin Soloman, Sunstar Paramedics
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Haire noted that the June 16 and September 29, 2022 Medical Control Board meetings were canceled.

Upon presentation by Dr. Haire, Nancy Hopkins moved, seconded by Dr. Matt Nelson and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the March 17, 2022, Medical Control Board meeting be approved.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE – MCB Bylaws Section 3.1 Membership - APPROVED

Craig Hare related that the Pinellas County Medical Association has disbanded after approximately 50 years and, referring to page 8 of the agenda packet, presented information regarding a proposal to change the language in MCB Bylaws Section 3.1 Membership from “a physician member or designee to represent the Pinellas County Medical Association” to “a pediatric physician or designee to represent a hospital with pediatric services located within Pinellas County.”

Following discussion, Dr. Roberto Bellini moved, seconded by Dr. Matt Nelson and carried unanimously, that the MCB Bylaws Section 3.1 Membership language change to “a pediatric physician or designee to represent a hospital with pediatric services located within Pinellas County” be approved.

Mr. Hare indicated that the MCB Bylaws change and appointment to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will be presented for approval and members will be updated.

SYSTEM UPDATE

Craig Hare provided the following information:

- **Staffing**
 - Welcomed Chris Jordan as the new EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator and Michelle Slawinski as Data Analyst and provided a summary of their education and employment history.
 - Later in the meeting, congratulated Greg Woodrum on his retirement in early December after 18 years of incredible, dedicated work with Pinellas County and wished him well in his future endeavors. Position to be posted shortly.
- **Budget**
 - Provided information on several medic and rescue units that were added to Largo, Dunedin, Gandy area, Tarpon, and East Lake to build geographic coverage.
- **BLS Ambulance Utilization Update**
 - Craig Hare distributed a packet titled *Data Pulled from RescueNet Reports, February – August 2022*, and Richard Schomp, referring to the packet, discussed the BLS to 9-1-1 call dispatch process and provided an overview of call/transport volumes and FD ride-ins. Mr. Schomp provided background information regarding the EMR learn-to-earn employment opportunity and recruitment strategies, noting that the goal of the program is to bolster EMR, EMT, and paramedic staff.

- Operations
 - Ongoing success with Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) and BLS ambulance/9-1-1 call responses.
 - Continued work on improving emergency response times, noting high clinical outcomes and great customer service satisfaction rates.
- EKG Replacement Project
 - The County has received 50 Philips Tempus Pro devices, and every paramedic and EMT has been trained. The FDA has placed a shipping hold on the delivery of additional devices, waiting to hear more. Looking into alternative vendors for EKG monitors.
 - Master Medical has been retained to maintain current equipment.
 - Kudos to David Hudak for going above and beyond trying to resolve monitor issue. Project to continue to move forward. More to come.
- CAD Replacement Project
 - Pinellas County and the Sheriff's Office signed with Hexagon for a new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The \$10 million project will combine 9-1-1, Police, Fire, EMS, Sheriff, and local law enforcement CADs, allowing for the streamlining and alignment of an integrated records management system. Plans to go live in June of 2024.
 - ImageTrend contract to go before the BCC on November 15. ImageTrend to handle all Fire and EMS records systems, ePCRs, Fire reports, Fire inspections, and Quality Assurance Reviews (QARs). Philips Corsium will allow the sharing of real-time EKG telemetry and fully integrated patient registries from hospitals. Year 1 costs are covered with funds by the American Rescue Plan, CARES Act, and County General fund.
 - Discussed how the new technology interface should resolve data capture problems with run reports. Jeremy Tinter and Jazmin Soloman explained that Sunstar is providing crew training and helpful information in its newsletter to correct the issue.
- Air Medical
 - In September, All Children's Hospital has taken Bayflite 1 out of service for adult and pediatric trauma for scene response, noting other local air medical backup providers.
- Medical Director
 - Contract includes an increase to 2.5 FTEs for medical direction, a new Assistant Medical Director and biostatistician to help support training, clinicals, Quality Assistance (QA), and ongoing work with existing County staff on the next round of data analysis for the Growth Management programs.
 - Shared information about Dr. Jameson's brand-new web-based information portal, reference tool, and document repository.

Greg Woodrum introduced and shared information regarding new MCB representatives and existing members.

CLINICAL UPDATE – EMS Medical Director

Dr. Jameson presented new and updated clinical information on the following topics:

- Medical Director Contract
 - Officially began operations as of October 1 under a new five-year contract.
 - Announced the launch of the new Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Office of the Medical Director website, www.pcemsomd.com.

- Introduced his roster of Online Medical Control (OLMC) doctors and new team members hired to support the Medical Director's Office.
- Philips Monitor Implementation
 - Discussed monitor accessories, improved capabilities, and hands-on training. Looking forward to full system integration that will provide real-time visibility of every EMS and emergency room monitor screen. Hoping that the FDA shipping hold will be resolved so the system can move forward.
- Opioid Use Disorder Programs
 - Moving forward with *Leave Behind Narcan* and shared information about the program's purpose, participants, package distribution process, contents of the packages to be handed out, and grant funding for the program.
 - Discussed work on Substance Use Disorder treatment referrals where paramedics are directly referring people to treatment from the back of the ambulance, and local treatment provider outreach will engage patients to treatment and provide follow up, noting successes of the project.
 - Presented information on the OMD's partnership with Pinellas County Human Services on the ED Bridge to MAT (Medication-Assisted Therapy) Pathway project implemented at Bayfront. Dr. Andrew Smith provided an overview of MAT for opioid use disorder, the project's purpose, stakeholders, targeted population, and successes since roll-out.
 - Reported on an upcoming press conference to be put on by the Florida Department of Health and the Governor's office regarding their launch of the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Program (CORP) that will look to begin building out comprehensive systems of care, including specialty referral hospitals that are fully equipped and set up to do MAT pathways to break the cycle of opioid addiction.
 - December In-Service training is going to have a significant piece on reframing opioid use disorder from a moral failing or choice to a chronic relapsing disease process and how we can intervene in that the same way we can with a diabetic. More to come on this topic.
- Freestanding Sub-Committee
 - Dr. Jameson referred to previous Board discussions regarding the creation of a Freestanding ED Utilization working group. He requested that Dr. Haire (1) consider forming a subcommittee comprised of a few MCB members involved in those type facilities to ensure that the County is utilizing freestanding emergency department facilities to their best use for our community and (2) appoint that committee to meet in an official capacity.

Dr. Haire recalled work on a previous committee related to setup and patient criteria for freestanding EDs and recommended that the MCB form a subcommittee to review freestanding ED criteria and bring those recommendations back to the Board for discussion and approval.

Following discussion, Dr. Haire moved, seconded by Nancy Hopkins, that a Freestanding ED Utilization Subcommittee be created. Following further discussion, Dr. Haire appointed Dr. Jose Barquin, Dr. Brian Charity, Dr. Stephen Haire, Dr. Matt Nelson, Amy Russell, and one member to be appointed later to serve on the Freestanding ED Utilization Subcommittee. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

- 2023 Proposed Medical Operations Manual (MOM) Updates
 - Referring to a document titled *2023 Medical Operations Manual Updates Executive Summary*, Dr. Jameson provided an overview of the types of revisions

made to the MOMs and, with input by Dr. Smith, reviewed the proposed protocol updates to *Volume 1 – Clinical Operating Guidelines*, *Volume 2 – Administrative*, and *Volume 3 – Critical Care*.

Dr. Jameson requested the Board's permission to make errata corrections, formatting changes, and other non-substantive changes as movement is made towards publication of the books and presented the 2023 Proposed Medical Operations Manual Updates for approval; whereupon, Nancy Hopkins moved, seconded by Dr. Roberto Bellini, that the proposed updates to the 2023 Medical Operations Manuals be approved. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Craig Hare asked the members of the Freestanding Subcommittee whether they had any preference to meet before or after the holidays, and the members agreed that Mr. Hare can poll the group later and set up a meeting at that time.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2022, format to be determined. Following discussion, Dr. Haire and MCB members agreed to cancel December 15, 2022 meeting. Mr. Hare indicated that an official cancellation will be sent out.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Haire adjourned the meeting at 11:35 A.M.

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