

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

HYBRID REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 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:

Commissioner Julie Peluso, Independent Fire District Elected Official – Chair
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7) – Vice-Chair
Chief Tom Jamison, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association – Secretary
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)
Larri Gerson, Citizen Representative (District 2)
Becca Tieder, Citizen Representative (District 5)
William Holmes, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Mayor Joseph Manzo, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Mayor Chris Alahouzos, Mayors' Council (Tarpon Springs)
Chief Anthony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire Department (Alternate)
Chief Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Chief Terry Tokarz, EMS Coordinator
John Peterson, Sunstar Paramedics
Capt. Michael Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Jo Dee Nicosia, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter

Absent:

Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Mike Jones, Citizen Representative (District 4)
Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Mayors' Council (Pinellas Park)
Dr. Aron Schlau, Pinellas County Medical Association
Dr. Paul Anderson, Pinellas County Medical Association (Alternate)
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College

Staff Present:

Matthew Tolnay, County Attorney's Office
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director
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
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration
Jazmin Soloman, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Chief Scott Sanford, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics (Alternate)
Julie Bacon, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital
Denise Whitfield, National Alliance on Mental Illness (Alternate)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Julie Peluso called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll call was taken, and Greg Woodrum indicated that a physical quorum was not met, but the meeting can proceed until one additional member arrives.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Woodrum stated that a quorum was met upon Becca Tieder's arrival. There were 11 voting members in attendance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

MISSION LIFELINE GOLD PLUS AWARD RECOGNITION

Craig Hare announced that Pinellas County EMS has been awarded the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Award for the third consecutive year and recognized the great collaboration between County EMS, local agencies, and hospitals, noting special thanks to Jeremy Tinter for his hard work. He indicated that certificates will be sent out as awards will not be presented in person this year. Dr. Jameson shared information about the criteria to achieve Mission Lifeline honors.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Jim Fogarty referred to a PowerPoint titled *EMS Growth Management Program* and presented a Growth Management performance update, discussing the following topics:

- Historical Approach to Increases
- Managing Growth
- Proof of Concept
- Priority Dispatch Updates
- Complex Case Management
- Communities of Care
- Complex Situation
- Next Steps

Following the presentation and in response to queries by the members, Mr. Fogarty and Dr. Jameson discussed partner collaboration, agency participation, program purpose, and community access to services.

(Ms. Tieder entered the meeting room.)

Mr. Fogarty indicated that he is asking the Council members to support formalization of a Growth Management program in Pinellas County; whereupon, Chief Tom Jamison moved, seconded by Chief Anthony Tedesco and carried unanimously, that the EMS Growth Management Program be approved.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING - APPROVED

Upon presentation by Commissioner Peluso, Gayle Guidash moved, seconded by John Peterson and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the September 18, 2020 meeting be approved.

REPORTS

Director, EMS & Fire Administration - Craig Hare

- Presented an overview of Pinellas County vaccination site coordination and discussed training, personnel, agency participation, and community partnerships, noting that 129,000 vaccinations have been given out, 69 percent of people over 65 have been vaccinated, and the governor is lowering the age to 50-plus next week.
- Jo Dee Nicosia has joined EMSAC as the Council's new NAMI representative.
- Mayor Sandra Bradbury has replaced former Mayor Wanda Dudley as the new Mayors' Council representative for EMSAC.
- Dr. Aron Schlau joins EMSAC as the Medical Control Board representative.
- Dr. Christos Politis, Largo Medical Center's former Chief Medical Control Officer, has left the field of medicine to join his family's construction business.
- Reported on the leadership changes at Largo Medical Center.
- Pandemic Condition Yellow remains in effect, noting that March 9 is the one-year anniversary of the first reported COVID case.
- Summarized transport volumes, hospital statuses, bed delays, and impacts to Sunstar operations.
- Provided a budget overview and discussed various sustainment measures.
- Shared information on new fire station locations and designs.
- Discussed replacement of HAZMAT and Tech Rescue (TR) vehicles and equipment and provided information on the new TR commander.
- Presented a status of the Drone program and Major Incident Support Rehab Unit project.
- Introduced Julie Bacon, Chief Flight Nurse, at All Children's Hospital.
- Discussed changes to Pinellas County's Air Medical Transport operations.

EMS Medical Director – Dr. Angus Jameson

- Presented a COVID-19 update on EMS and hospital operations and local efforts with vaccination sites, noting that it will take time for the Executive Policy Group to consider changes to the Condition Pandemic Yellow designation, and PPE baseline protocol continues to be followed.
- Discussed educational strains and struggles experienced by new paramedics and EMTs due to the COVID situation.
- Reported that System Status Management strategies have been used to ease difficulties with transport volume and hospital offloads.
- Shared that he serves on the American Heart Association's EMS Cardiac Care Committee and the National Association of EMTS Advanced Medical Life Support Program as Associate Medical Director; and that he has been asked to join the Florida Stroke Registry's Writing Committee.
- Reported that the Nurse Managers/STEMI/Stroke Workgroup remains committed to improving heart attack and stroke systems of care.
- Strengthening the relationship with USF on the Austere Environment CPR project.
- EMS has decided not to roll out a full set of new protocols this year due to COVID. Expects to update the full protocol book by the end of 2021.
- Shared information regarding two protocol updates that were presented yesterday's Medical Control Board meeting.

First Responders – Chief Tom Jamison

- Announced that he is retiring in June and expressed thanks for the opportunity to have served as a member of EMSAC, noting that this meeting will be his last. The members congratulated Chief Jamison on his upcoming retirement.
- Gave a shoutout to County staff, EMS, and local fire agencies for their tremendous collaboration with vaccinating nursing home personnel and residents, noting that he is grateful to have been able to participate in the process.
- Thanked Pinellas County for being fair and judicious with CARES Act funding distribution to local fire agencies and municipalities, as it helped to reduce costs incurred during the past year.

Sunstar – John Peterson

- Echoed Chief Jamison's comments regarding the dynamic performance of the entire EMS/Fire system and hospital personnel during COVID and vaccination events, noting the difficult challenges that were overcome during the past year.
- Recognized Dr. Jameson, the CME instructors, and EMS Training Coordinator Jazmin Soloman, noting their training protocols are being utilized across the nation.
- Discussed the use of mandatory overtime for Sunstar medics, noting the agency is working to ramp up support for upcoming EMS Academy graduates.
- Provided updates on the ambulance contract extension, Stryker Power-LOAD stretcher project, Critical Care Transport vehicle delivery, and ePCR tablet replacement.
- Shared that Sunstar is in the process of replacing the ePCR tablets for patient reports.
- Discussed the ratification of a one-year agreement with the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics, effective once signed by all parties.

Affiliates and Stakeholders

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

- Provided background information on NAMI leadership, organizational structure, locations, and community services.
- Discussed educational programs and upcoming projects.
- Distributed various support materials.
- Thanked the members for all of their support.

Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County – Gayle Guidash

- Echoed Chief Jamison's and Mr. Peterson's sentiments and expressed thanks to everyone in the EMS/Fire system for their strategic collaboration, noting that December 16 was the date of the first nursing home evacuation.
- Continuing to watch the COVID variants and monitor the status of the Board of County Commissioners' mask mandate.
- Discussed the work of the Fusion Group and Opioid Task Force, noting an increase of overdoses and concerns that new drug combinations may reduce the effectiveness of Narcan.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- **Chair – Dr. Eric Carver**

Following discussion regarding nominations for Chair, Commissioner Peluso passed the gavel to Chief Jamison. Commissioner Peluso moved, seconded by Ms. Guidash and carried unanimously, that Dr. Eric Carver be selected to serve as Chair for a two-year term ending in March of 2023; whereupon, Chief Jamison returned the gavel to Commissioner Peluso.

- **Vice-Chair – Commissioner Julie Peluso**

Following discussion regarding nominations for Vice-Chair, Chief Jamison moved, seconded by Ms. Guidash and carried unanimously, that Commissioner Julie Peluso be selected to serve as Vice-Chair for a two-year term ending in March of 2023.

- **Secretary – John Peterson**

Following discussion regarding nominations for Secretary, Chief Jamison moved, seconded by Mayor Woody Brown and carried unanimously, that John Peterson be selected to serve as Secretary for a two-year term ending in March of 2023.

- **Refreshing/Confirmation of Executive Committee**

Following discussion, Mayor Joseph Manzo and William Holmes volunteered to serve as members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee to be comprised of Dr. Eric Carver, Commissioner Julie Peluso, John Peterson, Mayor Joseph Manzo, and William Holmes.

- **Refreshing/Confirmation of Selection Committee**

Mr. Woodrum indicated that Mayor Sandra Bradbury has replaced Mayor Wanda Dudley. Mayor Woody Brown, John Peterson, Jorge Mercado, Karen Mullins, and Larri Gerson have agreed to remain on as members of the Selection Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

OPEN FORUM

Karen Mullins raised concerns about the standard of care given to her son by a respectable, established agency when he was involved in an accident in March of this year.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2021, format to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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