

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES
June 21, 2024**

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met in person at the John Morroni EMS & Fire Administration Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Conference Room 130/132, Largo, Florida, at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Commissioner Kevin Kenney, Independent Fire District Elected Official – Chair
Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Mayors' Council (Pinellas Park) – Vice-Chair
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department – Secretary
Christopher Markham, Citizen Representative (District 1)
Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Tina Ambrose, Citizen Representative (District 4)
Becca Tieder, Citizen Representative (District 5)
Chief Scott Ehlers, City of Clearwater Fire Chief
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Chief Terry Tokarz, EMS Coordinator
Mayor Dan Saracki, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Dr. Zachary Zimko, PEMHS, Mental Health Professional
Chief Scott Young, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Alternate)
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Capt. Mike Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Chief Lindsay Judah, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics

Absent:

Doreen Caudell, Citizen Representative (District 2)
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7)
Ty Dougherty, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Mayor Dave Gattis, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Siomara Bridges-Mata, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Pinellas
Dr. Matthew Liao-Troth, St. Petersburg College

Staff Present:

Patrick Allman, County Attorney's Office
Dr. Angus Jameson, Medical Director
Dr. Ken Dumas, Office of the Medical Director
James Fogarty, Bureau Director, Safety & Emergency Services
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration
Katie Bower, EMS & Fire Administration
Jennyfer Peters, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Chaplain Chris Ireland, Largo Fire Rescue and All First Responders Matter
Chief Tony Tedesco, Clearwater Fire Rescue (Alternate)
Chief Doug Zimmerman, EMS Coordinator (Alternate)
Chief Brett Schlatterer, Pinellas Park
Chief Jeffrey Davidson, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics (Alternate)
Jazmin Soloman, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Kevin Kenney called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. Roll call was taken, and Lynn Abbott confirmed that a quorum was met. There were 17 voting members in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Invocation by Chaplain Chris Ireland, All First Responders Matter.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2024 MEETING - APPROVED

Upon presentation by Chairman Kenney, a motion was made by Mayor Sandra Bradbury, seconded by Dr. Anthony Ottaviano and unanimously approved, that the minutes of the March 22, 2024 EMS Advisory Council meeting be approved.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

INTRODUCTIONS

There were no new introductions at this time.

RECOGNITION: LEAVE BEHIND NARCAN, DAN ZSIDO, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRUG DIVERSION INVESTIGATORS

Craig Hare and Dr. Angus Jameson presented a certificate of appreciation to Dan Zsido for his work with the *Leave Behind Narcan* (LBN) program, and Mr. Zsido expressed thanks to the Board and provided background information and statistical data regarding LBN successes and accomplishments.

ALS FIRST RESPONDER ENHANCEMENTS

Referring to a document titled *EMS Advisory Council Briefing on EMS System Enhancements FY24-25*, Craig Hare brief members on the following topics:

- Projects & Initiatives – In Progress.
- EMS Advisory Council Mission.
- ALS First Responder Budget.
- FY24-25 EMS System Enhancements.
- FY23-24 EMS System Enhancements.
- FY24-25 EMS System Recommendations.
- FY24-25 Proposed Pilot Projects.
- Deferred EMS System Enhancements.
- Recommendation to the EMS Authority.

Following discussion and upon presentation by Mr. Hare, a motion was made by Mayor Dan Saracki, seconded by Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, to approve the FY24-25 EMS System Enhancement recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Upon call for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hare to prepare a BCC recommendation letter.

EMS DIRECTOR REPORT

Craig Hare presented the EMS Director's Report and briefed members on the following items:

- Staffing:
 - Jeff See has been hired as Quality Assurance Coordinator with EMS & Fire Administration.

- Medical Control Board (MCB):
 - The MCB Board recognized Dr. Stephen Haire with a plaque, noting his retirement from Morton Plant Hospital after 27 years and cycled off of the Board with 19 years as a member and 12 years as Chair.
 - During in June of 2024, Dr. Matt Nelson was appointed as St. Anthony's Hospital primary representative and Dr. Stephen Feilinger as alternate. Dr. Nelson's March 21 election as Chairman to the EMS Medical Control Board followed meeting protocol. The BCC approved the appointment changes on June 11, 2024.
- Budget:
 - Jim Fogarty briefed the BCC on the 9-1-1, Ambulance Billing/Financial Service, and Fire Rescue budgets.
 - The budget packet includes the Ambulance agreement and ALS First Responder Enhancements.
- Active Assailant:
 - Provided an overview of the EMS and Fire Working Group's creation of a new Countywide Active Assailant Response Plan has combined approximately 12 different Active Assailant SOPs into one comprehensive countywide Mass Casualty plan for Sheriff, local law enforcement, County staff, Fire Chiefs, 9-1-1, and hospital training.
 - Presented information regarding an upcoming workshop and joint field training exercise.
- Operations:
 - Future County Headquarters to be located on property near Ulmerton and Icot Boulevard.
 - Rehab Unit is under construction.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Angus Jameson presented the Medical Director's Report and briefed the members on the following topics:

- Medical Control Board:
 - Provided an overview of the Board's approval of *Clinical Standard – Medical Operations in Unusual and Austere Environments/Leave Behind Narcan protocol updates and the addition of Shock Index and TXA for Assessment/Treatment of Hemorrhagic Shock* protocols at yesterday's meeting.
- State Statute Updates:
 - Safe Haven for Babies, to allow 30 days for infant surrender at a safe haven with no questions asked, can call 9-1-1 for assistance.
 - Freestanding Birthing Centers, making provision to allow C-sections to be performed outside of hospital setting. Discussed concerns, working to collaborate with local facilities.
- Office of the Medical Director (OMD) Staffing
 - Congratulated Dr. Kenneth Dumas on his upcoming graduation, noting plans to pass State Boards to become an EMS physician and to stay on full-time with OMD, to transition to MD4 on July 1; primary contact for education, training, and QA.
 - Dr. Jeffrey Darko has completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at Vassar and is scheduled to start with OMD on July 1.
- Clinical Operations:
 - Storm season is here and expected to be busy.
 - COVID is making a resurgence. There have been several ER-level sick patients recently.

- Thanked Dan Zsido for his work with *Leave Behind Narcan*, equipping law enforcement and helping the EMS community and civilians from a safety standpoint.
- Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) Registry:
 - Provided information pertaining to the CARES Registry, noting the program was created to assist communities in establishing standard outcome measures for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest by connecting 9-1-1 dispatch, EMS providers, and receiving hospitals in the emergency cardiac care process.
 - Introduced Tom DiBernardo, Florida Department of Health CARES Director, who presented background information and discussed statistical data and the measures adopted through CARES to improve the resuscitation level of patients that experience cardiac arrest, through discharge.
 - Dr. Jameson indicated that the CARES program is working to reunite cardiac arrest survivors with 9-1-1 dispatchers, EMS crews, and hospital staff who assisted in their chain of survival.

In response to query by Rebecca Tieder regarding HB 7021, Dr. Jameson indicated that he has no current information on the status of work on the Baker/Marchman Acts, and Dr. Zachary Zimko provided input related to the impact and care coordination within the Acts. Ms. Tieder shared that the Juvenile Welfare Board is expecting positive results with HB 7021.

FIRE CHIEFS' REPORT

Chief Scott Young noted there is no new information to report at this time.

SUNSTAR REPORT

Richard Schomp presented statistical data related to ambulance transports and provided updated information regarding the Ambulance Service contract to start October 1, to include upcoming infrastructure improvements, ambulance replacements, and a collective bargaining agreement with the ambulance union, noting that Sunstar experienced a record number of 38,000 unit hours on the road; and that employment headcounts are improving.

AFFILIATES & STAKEHOLDERS

Upon call for the Affiliates and Stakeholders report, Chairman Kenney indicated there is no report to be given at this time.

OPEN FORUM

- Rebecca Tieder shared that the Juvenile Welfare Board is working to fill the gaps for hungry children in Pinellas County over the summer by providing fresh food and meat at various JWB facilities and at the St. Petersburg Free Clinic.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Noting an upcoming scheduling conflict with the American Heart Association ECC Committee, Dr. Jameson requested that the next EMS Advisory meeting, scheduled for September 20, 2024, to be changed to September 27. No objections were noted.

The next EMSAC meeting to be held in person on September 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the John Morroni EMS & Fire Administration Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Conference Room 130/132, Largo, Florida 33774.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Richard Schomp, seconded by Christopher Markham and carried unanimously, Chairman Kenney adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

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