

**PINELLAS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES  
March 28, 2025**

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  
Erin Bates, Pinellas County Health Department (Alternate)  
Christina Snoots, Citizen Representative (District 3)  
Tina Ambrose, Citizen Representative (District 4)  
Becca Tieder, Citizen Representative (District 5)  
Chief Tony Tedesco, City of Clearwater Fire Chief (Alternate)  
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter  
Chief Terry Tokarz, EMS Coordinator  
Mayor Dave Gattis, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)  
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)  
Camille Hebling, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Pinellas (Alternate)  
Chief William Schobel, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Chief William Barrs, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Alternate)  
Capt. Jose Camacho, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Dr. Matthew Liao-Troth, St. Petersburg College  
Chief Lindsay Judah, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue  
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics

**Absent:**

Christopher Markham, Citizen Representative (District 1)  
Doreen Caudell, Citizen Representative (District 2)  
Ty Dougherty, Citizen Representative (District 6)  
Commissioner Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7)  
Mayor Dan Saracki, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)  
Dr. Zachary Zimko, PEMHS, Mental Health Professional  
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society

**Staff Present:**

James Fogarty, Bureau Director, Safety & Emergency Services  
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration  
Dr. Angus Jameson, Medical Director  
Dr. Ken Dumas, Office of the Medical Director  
Dr. Jeffrey Darko, Office of the Medical Director  
Patrick Allman, County Attorney's Office  
Jessica McGlothlin, SES  
Thomas Hund, SES  
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration  
Marianne Merola, EMS & Fire Administration

**Also Present:**

Fire Chaplain Rev. Milton Smith, All First Responders Matter  
Robbie Smither, Labor – Ambulance Contractor, President Local 247  
Chief Randy Burr, East Lake Fire Rescue  
Chief Scott Sanford, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District  
Chief Doug Zimmerman, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District  
Chief Ken Grimes, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue  
Chief David Karpinecz, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue  
Chief Jacob Knighton, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue  
Chief Mark Keenan, Seminole Fire Rescue  
Jazmin Soloman, Sunstar Paramedics

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Kevin Kenney called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. Roll call was taken, and Lynn Abbott confirmed that a quorum was met. There were 14 voting members in attendance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****INVOCATION**

Invocation by Fire Chaplain Rev. Milton Smith, All First Responders Matter.

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2024 MEETING - APPROVED**

Upon presentation by Chairman Kenney, a motion was made by Mayor Sandra Bradbury, seconded by Mayor Woody Brown and unanimously approved, that the minutes of the December 20, 2024 EMS Advisory Council meeting be approved.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- Appointment of Chair – Following brief discussion, Nancy Hopkins moved, seconded by Mayor Dave Gattis, that Comm. Kevin Kenney be reappointed Chair of the EMS Advisory Council, for a one-year term ending March 2026. Upon call for the vote, the motion was approved unanimously.
- Appointment of Vice-Chair – Upon call for nominations, Mayor Sandra Bradbury volunteered for another term as Vice-Chair and moved, seconded by Comm. Kevin Kenney, that she, Mayor Sandra Bradbury, be reappointed Vice-Chair of the EMS Advisory Council, for a one-year term ending March 2026. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
- Appointment of Secretary – Upon call for nominations, Chief Lindsay Judah moved, seconded by Mayor Woody Brown, that Richard Schomp be appointed Secretary of the EMS Advisory Council, for a one-year term ending March 2026. Upon call for the vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Following brief discussion, Comm. Kevin Kenney, Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Chief Terry Tokarz and Mayor Woody Brown agreed to remain on as members of the Executive Committee. Richard Schomp as Secretary volunteered to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

Chief Terry Tokarz moved, seconded by Mayor Dave Gattis, that the following members will serve as the Executive Committee: Comm. Kevin Kenney, Chairman; Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Vice-Chair; Richard Schomp, Secretary; Chief Terry Tokarz; and Mayor Woody Brown. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Comm. Kevin Kenney, as Chair, volunteered to remain on the Selection Committee, and Richard Schomp, as Secretary, agreed to serve on the Selection Committee. Comm. Kevin Kenney nominated Comm. Jorge Mercado to serve on the Selection Committee and, pending Comm. Jorge Mercado's acceptance, will serve on the Selection Committee. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Lynn Abbott made the following introductions and announcements:

- Capt. Jose Camacho, Commander of Communications, appointed Pinellas County Sheriff's Office representative.
- Dr. Ulyee Choe, Director of Florida Department of Health - Pinellas, appointed Pinellas County Health Department primary representative.
- Christina Snoots, appointed Citizen Representative for District 3.
- Chiefs William Schobel and William Barrs, appointed Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association primary and alternate representatives.
- Camille Hebling, appointed National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-Pinellas) alternate representative.

### **ALS FIRST RESPONDER ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following presentations were given for Agency FY25-26 enhancement recommendations:

- Clearwater Fire & Rescue, Chief Tony Tedesco.
- Dunedin Fire Department, Craig Hare.
- Largo Fire Rescue, Chief Terry Tokarz.
- Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District, Chief Scott Sanford.
- Safety Harbor Fire Department, Craig Hare.
- Seminole Fire Rescue, Chief William Schobel.
- St. Petersburg Fire Rescue, Chief Lindsay Judah.

Craig Hare indicated that he plans to meet with agencies regarding Fire and EMS budgets and will come back to this Board in June with staff recommendations. Referring to the Enhancements discussion, meetings are similar to a huddle with 10 working groups consisting of EMS Chiefs and Equipment and Training Committees to come up with a plan to go back to their agency for budget preparations and operation support.

### **EMS DIRECTOR REPORT**

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

- Introductions  
Welcomed Tom Hund, new Safety & Emergency Services QA Associate; and Marianne Merola, new EMS & Fire Administrative Support Specialist 1. Ken Grimes, former Operations Manager, has taken the position of Fire Chief for Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue in Indian Rocks, will soon be posting for his replacement. Derek Schauer has returned to the County in his previous role as EMS Logistics Coordinator.

- Active Assailant  
Currently conducting field training. Over 500 police officers and 500 Fire and EMS personnel have been trained, noting 25-plus disaster drills performed at ICOT complex. Effort is ongoing. County is meeting and exceeding all national benchmarks. Working on training to rapidly triage and transport. Discussed the roll out of the new RAMP Triage protocol on April 2, noting that the Nurse Managers/STEMI/Stroke Workgroup and Medical Control Board have been briefed on the program. Provided a demonstration of the new color-coded slap band and RAMP Triage Flowchart. Paramedic and EMT triage training has just been completed.
- Traffic Preemption Project  
Shared that Traffic Preemption has resulted in the reduced response times. The \$2.5 million project's aim is to improve traffic flow and citizen/roadway safety. Equipment has been delivered and is being installed in fire trucks and ambulances. Should have equipment within a week or 2 to place at over 270 intersections and 200 vehicles. Add-on next year, if the budget passes, is to add another 250 intersections. Presented a summary of the Traffic Preemption process.
- Budget  
Fire, ALS First Responder, and Capital budgets are all in. Provided an overview of the budget process for new members and discussed sustainable core services, salary/benefit cost increases, adequate reserves, keeping tax rates low, and conducting a 6-year financial forecast to see what enhancements can be made to improve the EMS system. Enhancements to be presented at the June EMS Advisory Council meeting.

### **MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

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

- RAMP Triage
  - Announced that the recently conducted RAMP Triage study on how best to perform triage using this method will be presented at an international conference later this spring. A few doctors from the Office of the Medical Director will be attending to share the results of the study.
- Medical Control Board
  - It's been a very productive last few months: the Medical Control Board approved four new treatment protocols, two major treatment addition updates, and about two dozen updates at yesterday's meeting. Pinellas County is continuing to move forward quickly and aggressively to ensure we are on the cutting edge.
- First Responder Wellness
  - Continuing to focus on First Responder wellness, making sure that our system is fully supported with the increased call volume and call severity.
- Upcoming Projects
  - Looking at the deployment of whole blood in the field, new equipment for managing airways.
- Staff
  - Dr. Darko is graduating soon, finishing his year of EMS Fellowship training.
  - New EMS Fellow to start July 1.

### **FIRE CHIEFS' REPORT**

Chief William Schobel shared that he has no news to report at this time and is looking forward to serving on the EMS Advisory Council.

### **SUNSTAR REPORT**

Richard Schomp related that he has a short video introducing a new Sunstar ambulance into the system that is going to support the hospital and interfacility program. The video was unable to be displayed due to technical difficulties. Mr. Schomp provided an overview of the video.

See link to video: <https://www.sunstarems.com/new-firststar-ambulances-join-the-fleet/>.

### **AFFILIATES & STAKEHOLDERS – None.**

### **OPEN FORUM – None.**

### **MEETING**

The next EMSAC meeting to be held in person on June 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the John Morroni EMS & Fire Administration Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Conference Room 130/132, Largo, Florida 33774.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Kenney adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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