

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2025**

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

Dr. Matt Nelson, St. Anthony's Hospital (Primary) – Chair
Dr. Matthew Smith, AdventHealth North Pinellas (Primary) – Secretary
Dr. Siddarth Goyal, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Alternate)
Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital (Primary)
Mr. Brent Burish, HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital (Primary)
Dr. Sebastian Strom, HCA Largo Medical Center (Primary)
Dr. Brian Charity, Morton Plant Hospital (Primary)
Mr. Matthew Novak, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare (Primary)
Ms. Nancy Hopkins, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare (Alternate)
Dr. Meghan Martin, Pediatric Physician
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – (Primary)
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – (Alternate)

Members Not Present:

Dr. Jennifer Pearson, C.W. Bill Young V.A. Medical Center

Staff Present:

Jim Fogarty, Bureau Director, SES
David Hare, Deputy Director, SES
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Dr. Angus Jameson, Medical Director
Dr. Morgan Uebelacker, OMD
Patrick Allman, County Attorney's Office
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration
Marianne Merola, EMS & Fire Administration
Tom Hund

Also Present:

Glenn Davis, Citizen
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Jazmin Soloman, Sunstar Paramedics
Gabrielle Rodriguez, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Matt Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and Lynn Abbott determined that a quorum was present. There were ten (10) voting members in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 MEETING – APPROVED

Upon presentation by Dr. Nelson, Dr. Matthew Smith moved, seconded by Dr. Roberto Bellini and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the September 18, 2025 EMS Medical Control Board meeting be approved.

RECOGNITION OF DR. JOSEPH NAMEY – Craig Hare

Craig Hare announced that Dr. Joseph Namey is retiring after 30 years with the Medical Control Board (MCB) and the Pinellas County Community; whereupon, Mr. Hare presented Dr. Namey with a plaque and, with input by Dr. Jameson, recognized his dedication and service to the MCB, noting his instrumental support to the EMS and Largo Hospital Academic Program, for years he had a team of residents and physicians that provided on-site ACLA training in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. Dr. Namey thanked the Board for its support over the years.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Glenn Davis, eTMS Florida, presented information on EEG-guided Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (ETMS) for PTSD, anxiety, sleep issues or depression and highlighted benefits for First Responders.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following members were welcomed and introduced:

- EMS Chief John Ryan Mitchell from Pinellas Park Fire Rescue.
- EMS & Fire Administration Fire Manager Brett Schlatterer.

CLINICAL UPDATES – DR. JAMESON

Dr. Jameson displayed documents titled *2025 Medical Operations Manual Protocol Updates Executive Summary, Volume 1 Clinical Operating Guidelines (Effective Quarter 1 – 2026)*, and *Volume 1 Clinical Operating Guidelines (Effective Quarter 2 – 2026)* and provided the following clinical updates:

a. Approval Items

- **Protocols to go-live Q1 2026 - APPROVED**
 - CP14 Transcutaneous Pacing – Stryker LifePack15
 - CP18 Wound Packing – Hemostatic Gauze and Emergency Trauma Dressing

Dr. Jameson referred to the Executive Summary and pages 9 through 14 of the protocol packet and provided information regarding the updates to the *CP14 Transcutaneous Pacing – Stryker LifePack15* protocol.

Referring to the Executive Summary and pages 15 and 16 of the protocol packet, Dr. Jameson presented an outline of the changes to the *CP18 Wound Packing – Hemostatic Gauze and Emergency Trauma Dressing* protocol.

Following discussion, Dr. Roberto Bellini moved, seconded by Nancy Hopkins, that the updates to *CP14 Transcutaneous Pacing – Stryker LifePack15* and *CP18 Wound Packing – Hemostatic Gauze and Emergency Trauma Dressing* protocols be approved. Upon call for the vote, the motions were approved unanimously.

- **Protocols to go-live Q2/3 2026 - APPROVED**
 - CS1 – Definition of a Patient (updated language from previous meeting approval)
 - CS16 - DNRO/MOLST/POLST
 - P6 – Pediatric Bradycardia (updated language from previous meeting approval)
 - CP27- Normal Childbirth Procedure
 - CP24 - Patient Restraint for Transport

Dr. Jameson referred to the Executive Summary and pages 17 through 29 of the protocol packet and summarized the updates to the CS1 – Definition of a Patient (updated language from previous meeting approval), CS16 - DNRO/MOLST/POLST, P6 – Pediatric Bradycardia (updated language from previous meeting approval), CP27- Normal Childbirth Procedure, and CP24 - Patient Restraint for Transport protocols.

Following discussion, Dr. Roberto Bellini moved, seconded by Dr. Brian Charity, that the updates to the CS1 – Definition of a Patient (updated language from previous meeting approval), CS16 - DNRO/MOLST/POLST, P6 – Pediatric Bradycardia (updated language from previous meeting approval), CP27- Normal Childbirth Procedure, and CP24 - Patient Restraint for Transport protocols be approved. Upon call for the vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

b. Report/Discussion Items

- **Whole Blood Rollout Plan Update**

Dr. Jameson provided background information regarding the Critical Care Transport Team and its implementation of the Whole Blood Rollout Plan to the field, noting that the protocol framework was discussed at the September 18, 2025 MCB meeting. OneBlood and Bayfront are in logistics discussions for rollout by Q2 2026.

- **CCT Equipment Updates**

Jazmin Soloman, with input by Dr. Jameson and Craig Hare, conducted a presentation of the following new equipment:

- External Pacemaker
- GlideScope Go2
- Fetal Monitor

ACQUISITION OF PARAMEDICS LOGISTICS FLORIDA

Craig Hare provided an overview of the acquisition of Paramedics Logistics Florida by Grant Avenue Capital and discussed Pinellas County's completed due diligence and recommended approval of the agreement, noting there will be no changes in the local management team, contract terms, labor agreement, or insurance.

EMS SYSTEM UPDATE

Craig Hare provided an overview of the following highlights:

Medical Control Board

- Dr. Robyn Ache is joining the MCB as the primary Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society representative. Dr. Anthony Ottaviani will remain the alternate.

Upcoming Awards

- Florida EMT of the Year to be presented to Philip Tavano.
- The State of Florida will present Pinellas County with the Quality Management System of the Year award to be given in the January State EMS meeting in Orlando in January.

December In-Service

- Protocol exam will be open book.
- Recent classes have received positive feedback.

Technology

- AI Assist in ImageTrend, utilizing *voice to text* to read narrative on cases.
- Zoll Billing Pro contract signed; Ambulance Billing implementation planned for April 2026.
- Learning Management System (LMS) vendor evaluations being conducted.
- Peregrine software analytics integration for performance indicators and dashboards/reports.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Jameson briefed the members on the following topics:

Personnel

- Current EMS Fellow Dr. Morgan Uebelacker is scheduled to graduate.
- Dr. Zach Gilberts has been matched as the new EMS Fellow, starting July 1.
- Congratulations to Dr. Ken Dumas on passing his EMS Boards.

Patient and Provider Safety Focus for 2026

- Refining patient and provider safety will be a central focus in the coming year.

- Firefighter rehabilitation protocols.

Upcoming Events

- The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) Scientific Assembly conference is being held in Tampa January 2026. Pinellas County to be recognized as the top Quality Program in the state.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Brent Burish requested a discussion around the upcoming March 2026 implementation of Pinellas County Pre-Authorization requirement for non-emergency ambulance transportation, noting that the start date listed by the County would be before the next EMS Medical Control Board Meeting. Members added that the County held a virtual meeting with all healthcare organizations over the past few weeks on the topic, with next steps still to be presented. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the implementation of Sunstar's Pre-Authorization requirement and working group to continue to meet and share information. Several members expressed concern with the impact of the implementation and stated that there remained open data requests to Pinellas County EMS. Pinellas County presented the reason for the Pre-Authorization implementation including impact to reimbursement and noted that the implementation date had already been delayed. The Committee also discussed CMS and payor-specific rules around closest available destination for emergency transport with the recommendation for Pinellas County to review the impact on denials. The discussion concluded that the Pre-Authorization requirement would continue towards the current stated March implementation.

2026 MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE - APPROVED

Following discussion, Dr. Matt Nelson moved, seconded by Dr. Meghan Martin and carried unanimously, that the 2026 EMS Advisory Council meeting schedule be approved: March 26, June 18, September 17, and December 17.

NEXT MEETING

The next EMSAC meeting to be held in person on March 26, 2026, 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 Dr. Brian Charity, seconded by Nancy Hopkins and carried unanimously, Dr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

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