

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 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:

Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Mayors' Council (Pinellas Park) – Vice Chair
Christopher Markham, Citizen Representative (District 1)
Anthony Degina, Citizen Representative (District 2)
Commissioner Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7)
Chief Tony Tedesco, City of Clearwater Fire Chief (Primary)
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Chief Doug Zimmerman, EMS Coordinator (Primary)
Mayor Dave Gattis, Mayors' Council (Belleaire Beach)
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Mayor Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)
Camille Hebling, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Pinellas (Alternate)
Chief William Schobel, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Primary)
Chief William Barrs, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Alternate)
Erin Bates, Pinellas County Health Department (Alternate)
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Deanna Stentiford, St. Petersburg College (Primary)
Chief Lindsay Judah, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue (Primary)
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics (Primary)
Shalisha Preston, Sunstar Paramedics (Alternate)

Absent:

Commissioner Kevin Kenney, Independent Fire District Elected Official – Chair
Commissioner Casey Cane, Independent Fire District Elected Official (Alternate)
Christina Snoots, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Tina Ambrose, Citizen Representative (District 4)
Becca Tieder, Citizen Representative (District 5)
Ty Dougherty, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Dr. Zachary Zimko, PEMHS, Mental Health Professional
Capt. Jose Camacho, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Capt. Jason Schmittendorf, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Staff Present:

James Fogarty, Bureau Director, Safety & Emergency Services
Dave Hare, Deputy Director, Safety & Emergency Services
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration

Dr. Angus Jameson, Medical Director
Dr. Morgan Uebelacker, Office of the Medical Director
Patrick Allman, County Attorney's Office
Thomas Hund, Safety & Emergency Services
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration
Marianne Merola, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Fire Chaplain Milton Smith, All First Responders Matter
Linda Ruble, Citizen
Glenn Davis, eTMS Florida
Chief Jason Gennaro, Oldsmar Fire and Rescue
Chief Scott Sanford, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District
Chief Andrew Hughes, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Commissioner Jacob Knighton, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue
Chief Mark Keenan, Seminole Fire Rescue
Jazmin Soloman, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Secretary Richard Schomp 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 16 voting members in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Invocation by Fire Chaplain Milton Smith, All First Responders Matter. Chaplain Smith delivered a prayer intention for two injured Lealman Fire Rescue firefighters.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 MEETING - APPROVED

Upon presentation by Secretary Schomp, a motion was made by Comm. Jorge Mercado, seconded by Christopher Markham and unanimously approved, that the minutes of the September 19, 2025 EMS Advisory Council meeting be approved.

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 the potential benefits for First Responders.
- Fire Chaplain Milton Smith shared an *All First Responders Matter* update. He expressed thanks to Board members for their support and reported on the positive impacts his organization has had on the First Responder community.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following members were welcomed and introduced:

- Camille Hebting, representing the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Pinellas, alternate.

- Dr. Deanna Stentiford, representing St. Petersburg College, alternate.
- Anthony Degina, representing Citizen Representative for BCC District 2.
- Capt. Jason Schmittendorf has been appointed to represent the Pinellas County Sheriff (not present), to replace Capt. Jose Camacho.
- Dr. Deanna Stentiford, representing St. Petersburg College, alternate.

Mr. Schomp passed the gavel to Vice Chair Mayor Sandra Bradbury, who chaired the remainder of the EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC) meeting.

RECOGNITION OF DR. JAMESON

Commissioner Jorge Mercado recognized Dr. Jameson for his assistance during Lealman Fire Rescue structure fire incident, presented him with a challenge coin, and expressed thanks for going above and beyond.

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. Mr. Schomp shared information on the new CEO of PatientCare, Jeff Shullaw.

EMS DIRECTOR REPORT

Craig Hare provided an overview of the following highlights:

Fire Stations

- Seminole Rescue 29 is now operational.
- Bay Pines Fire Station design is underway.

Medical Control Board

- Recognized Dr. Joseph Namey for 30 years of dedicated service.
- Dr. Robyn Ache is joining MCB as the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society primary representative.

Upcoming Awards

- Florida EMT of the Year award 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.

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.

Clinical Advancements

- Clinical supervision study is in progress.
- Pre-hospital blood administration program to be launched in mid-2026.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Jameson shared that 2026 is the time to reset priorities and move forward; whereupon, he presented the Medical Director's Report and briefed the members on the following topics:

Protocol Improvements

- Currently in an improvement cycle.
- Development of a pre-hospital blood program.
- Implementation of new American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines for choking, newborn resuscitation, and stroke victims.

Patient and Provider Safety Focus for 2026

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

Personnel

- Current EMS Fellow Dr. Morgan Uebelacker is scheduled to graduate.
- Dr. Zach Gilberts has been matched as our new EMS Fellow, starting July 1.
- Congratulations to Dr. Kenneth Dumas on passing his EMS Boards. There are now seven Associate Medical Directors.

Upcoming Events

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

FIRE CHIEFS' REPORT

Chief William Schobel discussed the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association collaborative effort with EMS regarding call load and training hours and employing face-to-face training with the LMS system.

SUNSTAR REPORT

Richard Schomp provided an operational update, highlighting key performance metrics, system improvements, and community service activities:

System Performance & Volume

- Year-to-date figures include approximately 236,000 calls, 55,000 non-emergency calls, and 195,000 transports.

Ambulance Contract & Fleet Upgrades

- Ended the first year of the new Ambulance agreement.
- 16 new ambulances, 1 interfacility First Star and 10 Hawk vehicles delivered.
- \$5M in capital expenses.

Recognitions

- Philip Tavano is being nominated for the Florida EMT of the Year award.

Programs

- Supported 30 students in paramedic school.
- 18 EMR new hires.
- Noted a 9-for-9 EMT pass rate.

Community Service

- Collected 1,800 pounds of food for the Food Drive.

- 60 people participated in Sunstar's Blood Drive, noting 10 people were accepted for donation.
- Clinical Team participated in Triad of Life, Narcan, Bleeding Control, and Bystander CPR in local High Schools.
- Sunstar has collaborated with many community partners: ARC of Tampa Bay, CASA, Clearwater Free Clinic, Leadership Pinellas, PALS, and 211 Tampa Bay Cares, to name a few.

AFFILIATES & STAKEHOLDERS

Chief Lindsay Judah provided information regarding St. Petersburg Fire Rescue's nursing home outreach pilot program to reduce call volume and improve collaboration.

OPEN FORUM

- Christopher Markham shared information on an EMS history book recommendation: *American Sirens*.
- Chief Anthony Tedesco relayed that the Florida Fire Chief and EMS Conferences are set for January 6 through 9, 2026, in Orlando. St. Petersburg and Clearwater are participating in the ALS Competition.
- Chief Tedesco congratulated Chief Lindsay Judah for her representation on the State EMS Advisory Council and related that Dr. Jameson also sits on the State EMSAC.
- 2026 Clinical Supervision classes are being held for 24 people, two classes of 12.
- St. Pete College and Animal Services will be hosting the Vet Tech building for EMS Academy Lectures.

2026 EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE - APPROVED

Following discussion, Richard Schomp moved, seconded by Mayor Woody Brown and carried unanimously, that the 2026 EMS Advisory Council meeting schedule be approved: March 27, June 12, September 18, and December 18.

NEXT MEETING

The next EMSAC meeting to be held in person on March 27, 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 Richard Schomp, seconded by Commissioner Mercado and carried unanimously, Mayor Bradbury adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

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