

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

**MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2026**

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
Brent Burish, HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital (Primary) – Vice Chair
Dr. Meghan Martin, Pediatric Physician - Secretary
Dr. Matthew Smith, AdventHealth North Pinellas (Primary)
Dr. Jacob Eastman, C.W. Bill Young V.A. Medical Center (Alternate)
Dr. Sebastian Strom, HCA Largo Medical Center (Primary)
Dr. Craig Kizewic, Mease Countryside Hospital (Alternate)
Dr. Hasan Rasheed, Morton Plant Hospital (Alternate)
Nancy Hopkins, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare (Alternate)
Dr. Robyn Ache, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society (Primary)

Members Not Present:

Dr. Krista Gillis, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Primary)
Dr. Siddarth Goyal, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Alternate)

Staff Present:

David Hare, Interim Bureau Director
Craig Hare, EMS Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Brett Schlatterer, Fire Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Dr. Angus Jameson, Medical Director
Dr. Michael Lozano, MD2
Dr. Kenneth Dumas, MD3
Dr. Morgan Uebelacker, MD4
Jason Ester, County Attorney's Office
Sean Davenport, EMS & Fire Administration
Josh Harrington, EMS & Fire Administration
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration
Tom Hund, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration
Marianne Merola, EMS & Fire Administration
Jennifer Peters, EMS & Fire Administration
Ashley Giovannetti, Communications

Also Present:

Todd Sheridan, Ryde Central
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Jazmin Soloman, 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 MARCH 26, 2026 MEETING – APPROVED

Upon presentation, Mr. Brent Burish moved, seconded by Dr. Meghan Martin and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the March 26, 2026 EMS Medical Control Board meeting be approved.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

INTRODUCTIONS

Craig Hare shared the following introductions:

- Dr. Jacob Eastman joins as the VA representative.
- Dr. Robyn Ache welcomed as primary representative for the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society. Dr. Ottaviani stands as alternate.

RECOGNITION OF DR. MICHAEL LOZANO, JR.

Dr. Jameson recognized Dr. Michael Lozano, Jr., for his more than 30 years of service and leadership within Pinellas County EMS and the Tampa Bay region, highlighting Dr. Lozano's extensive contributions, mentorship, and long-standing involvement in EMS operations. Dr. Jameson announced that Dr. Lozano will be transitioning to the University of South Florida's Florida Center for EMS as the Director of Research and Informatics.

Dr. Jameson and Mr. Craig Hare presented Dr. Lozano with plaques in appreciation of his service. Dr. Lozano will retain an emeritus role as MD20 for continued support during major events.

RYDE CENTRAL PRESENTATION

Todd Sheridan, Ryde Central Vice-President of Operations, described the company's origins, noting its evolution from addressing non-emergency transport workflow challenges to becoming a national platform now operating in 29 states and over 1,000 acute-care facilities. He outlined successful large-scale implementations, and highlighted ongoing expansions into nursing homes and clinics through integration with common platforms; whereupon, he referred to a PowerPoint and provided information about Ryde Central, Sunstar's new system for automating interfacility transport requests.

Following the presentation, questions from Board members addressed rollout across numerous skilled nursing facilities, impacts on clinical staff workflows, and adoption by hospitals and community partners. Mr. Sheridan explained that the platform allows broad, rapid deployment and can integrate with varied workflows depending on hospital practice.

Mr. Hare concluded that, as part of the ambulance service contract, Sunstar will provide the platform at no cost for countywide use, with hospitals and nursing homes opting in as system partners.

CLINICAL UPDATES – DR. JAMESON

Referring to a document titled *June 2026 Medical Operations Manual Protocol Updates Executive Summary Volume 1 Clinical Operating Guidelines and Volume 2 Administrative*, Dr. Jameson provided the following protocol updates:

a. Approval Items

- **Protocols - APPROVED**
 - U1 Universal Approach to Patient Care.
 - U3 Universal Approach to Airway Management.
 - U4 Acute Pain Management.
 - U6 LTO+WB Administration - Pilot program underway nationally; expected 150 units per year; rollout in August. Eligible patients include children and women. Units will be placed on

critical care and paramedic trucks. Upon query by Mr. Burish regarding a note in the pearls section indicating that blood transfusions are contraindicated in GI bleeds per the HALT-IT Trial, noting it conflicted with the listed indications. Dr. Jameson confirmed this was a typo and clarified that the reference was meant for TXA, not blood transfusion. He thanked Mr. Burish for identifying the error and stated the correction would be made.

- C2 Post Medical Cardiac Arrest - Presented by Dr. Morgan Uebelacker.
- C4 Bradycardia.
- C6 Cardiogenic Shock.
- T1 General Trauma Care.
- CP1 Adult Airway Management & Advanced Airway Placement.
- CP3 Pediatric Airway Management & Advanced Airway Management.
- CT33 Advanced Airway Checklist.
- CT34 3-2-1 GO Facilitated Intubation.
- F30 Tranexamic Acid.
- ADxx Blood Program.

Referring to the Executive Summary and pages 9 through 64 of the agenda packet, Dr. Jameson summarized the U1 Universal Approach to Patient Care, U3 Universal Approach to Airway Management, U4 Acute Pain Management, U6 LTO+WB Administration, C2 Post Medical Cardiac Arrest, C4 Bradycardia, C6 Cardiogenic Shock, T1 General Trauma Care, CP1 Adult Airway Management & Advanced Airway Placement, CP3 Pediatric Airway Management & Advanced Airway Management, CT33 Advanced Airway Checklist, CT34 3-2-1 GO Facilitated Intubation, F30 Tranexamic Acid, and ADxx Blood Program protocol updates.

Following discussion, Dr. Matthew Smith moved, seconded by Dr. Sebastian Strom, that the U1 Universal Approach to Patient Care, U3 Universal Approach to Airway Management, U4 Acute Pain Management, U6 LTO+WB Administration, C2 Post Medical Cardiac Arrest, C4 Bradycardia, C6 Cardiogenic Shock, T1 General Trauma Care, CP1 Adult Airway Management & Advanced Airway Placement, CP3 Pediatric Airway Management & Advanced Airway Management, CT33 Advanced Airway Checklist, CT34 3-2-1 GO Facilitated Intubation, F30 Tranexamic Acid, and ADxx Blood Program protocol updates be approved. Upon call for the vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Jameson reported that the EMS system was recently awarded Gold Tier status as a Pediatric Ready agency by the Florida State EMS for Children Association. He recognized EMS Coordinator Justin Sconza for leading the effort and noted that hospitals can pursue similar recognition if they designate pediatric champions. Dr. Jameson highlighted that the designation reflects strong pediatric protocols, policies, equipment, and training and thanked Dr. Martin for sharing a related post.

EMS SYSTEM UPDATE

Craig Hare provided an overview of the following highlights:

- Recognized EMS crews for their hard work on system improvements.
- Construction underway for the Redington Beaches EMS Station.
- On final landing for the Seminole Bay Pines Station.
- Major Incident Response Unit assigned to Dunedin's Station 62.
- Hexagon - Project discontinued. PRIME group to reboot. Plans for an integrated countywide solution targeted within two years.
- Traffic Preemption Project - Phase 2 ongoing; Phase 3 has been budgeted. System includes 500 intersections and 250 vehicles.
- Pinellas County EMS system was recently awarded Gold Tier status as a Pediatric Ready EMS System.

- The American Heart Association has awarded 15 agencies the Gold Level Mission Lifeline award. Also, the EMS System was recognized with the Medical Oversight award
- EMS Advisory Council - Enhancements discussion included tax reform impacts on the EMS budget, noting a strong 6-year forecast. The Board of County Commissioners has been briefed on the following EMSAC recommendations:
 - Video laryngoscopes (200 units).
 - Prehospital Blood pilot program funding.
 - First Due, a new learning management system.
 - Additional ALS units in Clearwater, Dunedin, Pinellas Suncoast area, Seminole, and St. Pete.
- Budget - Overview included system enhancements, funding needs, and anticipated significant impacts from tentative Florida tax reform. Budget work session scheduled for August.
- Whole Blood administration cost remains \$1,300 per patient. Startup cost per vehicle for the blood program is \$20,000.
- Peregrine - Dashboards and indicators are being used for Fire/EMS data and Quality Assurance.
- ER Nurse Managers/Systems of Care - Workgroup briefed on the blood program.
- Health Information Hub - All major hospital systems have signed data-sharing agreements; HCA integration is active.

OPEN FORUM

- Hospitals will receive pre-notifications for prehospital blood.
- Hamilton ventilator high-flow pediatric capability under review; awaiting new device release.

NEXT MEETING

The next MCB meeting will be held in person on September 17, 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

Dr. Matt Nelson moved, seconded by Dr. Matthew Smith and carried unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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