

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 24, 2013

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met in a regular session at Public Safety Services, First Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida, at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Dr. Adam Berko, Citizen Representative (Chair)  
Chief Donald Sayre, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Assoc. (Vice-Chair)  
Chief Robert Weiss, Clearwater Fire Department  
Chief Steve Girk, St Petersburg Fire & Rescue  
Chief James Angle, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Major Sean Jowell, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department  
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)  
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)  
William Israel, Citizen Representative  
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative  
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative  
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative  
Vicki Glenn, Sunstar Paramedics  
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs  
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society  
Dr. David Weiland, Pinellas County Medical Association

### Absent:

Mayor Kathleen Mortensen, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)  
Mayor Gary Katica, Mayors' Council (Belleair)  
Blake MacPherson, Citizen Representative (Secretary)  
Julie Baker, Citizen Representative  
Carl Lavender, Citizen Representative  
Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter

### Also Present:

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Public Safety Services  
Craig Hare, Public Safety Services  
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office  
Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office  
Greg Woodrum, Public Safety Services  
Chief Joe Accetta, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Cpt. Glenn Luben, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Commissioner Norm Atherton, Palm Harbor Fire District  
Commissioner Kathleen Litton, Lealman Fire District  
Chief Bob Markford, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue  
Shelby Rivera, Bayfront Medical Center  
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics  
Rob Smith, Sunstar Paramedics  
Susan Byrd, All Children's Hospital

## **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Berko called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum present. There were 17 voting members in attendance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 7, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

**EMS Administration:** Mr. Hare briefed that the Medical Director physicians were attending State EMS meetings and that the EMS Division was now moved into Suite 134 on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Public Safety Services Center – Largo Campus.

Mr. Hare stated that the EMS Division would be looking to fill some Coordinator positions in the near future. This will assist to streamline Quality Assurance, Equipment and Protocol activities.

Mr. Hare informed the group that EMS would go out to bid soon for the laptops that will support electronic patient care reporting for the remaining First Responder agencies.

Mr. Hare reported that new protocols going into effect very soon will streamline reducing the number of times that field paramedics need to call online physicians. This will allow the paramedic to continue working on the patient and the physician to be utilized in more of a medical advice command role.

Dr. Moeller reported that the Board of County Commissioners had approved staff moving forward with the implementation of Phase 3 of Emergency Medical Dispatch but that it was going to be held off until June 1, 2013 to allow time to address some concerns that were raised by cities and districts and also to allow time for the completion of the study by Fitch & Associates.

Dr. Moeller stated that the Fitch study is moving along quite well and that a draft report will be coming in April 2013 with a final report coming out in May 2013.

**Sunstar:** Ms. Glenn briefed that in December 2012 there were 17 out of 31 days where there were 400+ transports and that on December 17<sup>th</sup> a record of 455 transports was set. Transports were up by more than 630 from December 2011 totals.

Ms. Glenn said that in January 2013, there were 15 out of 23 days so far where transports were over 400 and on January 10<sup>th</sup> Sunstar set an all-time record of 486 transports.

Ms. Glenn reported that already in the State of Florida, 203 deaths had been reported from the flu and that most of these deaths were from patients 75 yrs and older.

Ms. Glenn said that this outbreak has contributed to high transport numbers and bed delays. Sunstar has added another supervisor in the field to help with these delays. Ms. Glenn said that these supervisors are also paramedics and can assist in treating patients until they are assigned a bed and that effort is helping to mitigate the effect of bed delays.

Ms. Glenn also reported that Sunstar now has two instructors certified by the International Academy of Medical Dispatchers. These instructors are conducting classes to train Sunstar dispatchers as well as Pinellas County 9-1-1 dispatchers.

**First Responders:** Chief Angle reported on the final first responder statistics for calendar year 2012 broken down by categories such as Determinants, Fire Incidents, Medical Incidents & By Department.

Chief Angle briefed that it has also been a very busy season for First Responders and that they have been working closely with Pinellas County staff and local Boards to address some of the issues mentioned earlier by Dr. Moeller.

### **NOMINATION TO FILL THE POSITION OF INDEPENDENT FIRE DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICIAL**

Mr. Hare reported that staff had received a nomination on consensus from the four independent fire districts to nominate Fire Commissioner James Terry of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District as primary representative and Fire Commissioner Kathleen Litton of the Lealman Fire District as alternate representative.

Mr. Hare introduced Commissioner Litton and welcomed her to the meeting.

Chairman Berko called for a motion on this item.

Chief Angle made a motion that Commissioner Terry be nominated as the primary representative and Commissioner Litton be nominated as the alternate representative. Mr. Neri seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **MARCH 2013 MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATIONS**

Mr. Woodrum identified the following members whose representation expires in March 2013.

Mayor Katica - Mr. Woodrum stated that he had been informed by Mayor Katica's office that a replacement would be selected at the next Mayors Council meeting in February.

Mr. Neri - Mr. Neri stated that he would be willing to serve another two year term as Citizen Representative.

Chief Weiss - Chief Weiss stated that he would be willing to serve another two year term representing the City of Clearwater Fire Chief with Assistant Chief Todd Connors as his alternate representative.

Ms. Glenn stated that Mr. Postma would be willing to serve another two year term representing Sunstar Paramedics and that she would serve as alternate representative.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Berko asked Mr. Brody to explain the process of how the EMS Advisory Council officers would be selected at the annual meeting in March 2013.

Mr. Brody explained that if anyone is interested in nominating themselves or someone else for a one-year term as Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary that they should contact Mr. Woodrum prior to the next meeting and he would present a slate of nominees to be voted upon at the annual meeting.

Mr. Brody stated that the bylaws also allowed for nominations to be received from the floor at the annual meeting.

Mr. Hare made a recommendation that Dr. David Bowden and Dr. Angus Jameson be appointed to the EMS Management Committee.

Chairman Berko proposed appointment of Dr. David Bowden and Dr. Angus Jameson to the EMS Management Committee. Dr. Kuebler moved to approve the appointment and on call for a vote the appointment passed unanimously.

Chief Sayre asked if there would be any deviation in regards to Priority Dispatch from what had already been reviewed and approved by the EMS Management Committee as it is prepared for public education and would the EMS Management Committee need to be reconvened to review the changes.

Dr. Moeller stated that during the BCC Workshop the Commission was presented with the documents that had been previously prepared and reviewed by the EMS Management Committee.

Dr. Moeller said that these would form the base of the public education piece and that there may be some adjustment on the technical procedure used to dispatch but the intent is to use the previous documents as the base.

Mr. Hare added that the technical aspects would be discussed with the Medical Dispatch Review Committee and the Fire Chiefs and if anything changed significantly that it would be brought back to the EMS Management Committee for review.

Dr. Moeller concluded that from a public education perspective he does not see much deviation from the plan that was already reviewed by the EMS Management Committee.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on March 28, 2013 at 10 A.M. That meeting will be the annual meeting and will be held at the Public Safety Services Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Neri made a motion to adjourn. Capt. Luben seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

An audio recording of this meeting as well as any correspondence received is on file at Public Safety Services – EMS Division.