

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 27, 2013

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met 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:

Ray Neri, Citizen Representative
William Israel, Citizen Representative
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)
Chief Robert Weiss, Clearwater Fire Department
Chief Steve Knight, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Chief James Angle, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association
Chief Donald Sayre, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Assoc. (Vice-Chair)
Mark Postma, Sunstar Paramedics
Capt. Glenn Luben, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Sharlene Edwards, Pinellas County Health Department
Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter (Chair)
Anissa Raiford, Pinellas County Medical Association
Kathleen Litton, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Absent:

Julie Baker, Citizen Representative
Blake MacPherson, Citizen Representative (Secretary)
Carl Lavender, Citizen Representative
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)
Mayor Patricia Gerard, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society

Also Present:

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Public Safety Services
Craig Hare, Public Safety Services
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director
Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office
Greg Woodrum, Public Safety Services
Shawn Tatham, Public Safety Services
Chief Joe Accetta, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association
Chief William Scott, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Assoc.
Vicki Glenn, Sunstar Paramedics
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Rob Smith, Sunstar Paramedics
Philip Young, Sunstar Paramedics
Susan Byrd, All Children's Hospital

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Cullen 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 16 voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 28, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Neri made a motion to accept the minutes and Mayor Palladeno seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

EMS Administration: Mr. Hare welcomed new members Ms. Kathleen Litton of Lealman, Mayor Doug Bevis of Oldsmar and citizen representative Mr. George McCarthy.

Mr. Hare introduced Mr. Shawn Tatham, the new EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator.

Mr. Hare updated the Advisory Council on Quality Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (Q-CPR) fielding.

Mr. Hare briefed that a State approved grant would allow the remaining sixteen fire departments to come online with the electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) system as well as allow improvement of the narcotic control program.

Dr. Moeller updated the Advisory Council on the study conducted by Fitch & Associates.

EMS Medical Director: Dr. Dooley briefed the Advisory Council on pit crew training, Q-CPR fielding, hospital bed delay protocol update, Quality Improvement (QI) data sharing and new medic orientation.

Sunstar: Mr. Postma briefed that transport volume was actually lower which is unusual for this time of the year and that he anticipates two Sunstar employees being recognized as the State EMT of the Year as well as the State Dispatcher of the Year.

First Responders: Chief Angle briefed the first responder statistics for the year-to-date and thanked the 9-1-1 staff, specifically, Ms. Jackie Weinreich for her support.

OPEN FORUM

Chief Angle recommended that the Advisory Council send a letter of thanks to Dr. Adam Berko for his service and Chairman Cullen agreed and requested that staff prepare the letter.

Chief Angle gave additional detail concerning discussions between Fire Chiefs and Fitch & Associates. Chief Angle stated that there was a two-hour conference call between them and that it had been very productive and they were able to identify some areas that would provide more clarity to the final report.

Chief Angle provided a summary of key components of the Fitch report from his perspective and stated that there seemed to be opportunity in the future for increased involvement in community healthcare outreach and that Priority Dispatch as recommended by the Fitch report seemed to lay the groundwork for that involvement.

Chief Knight shared his observation concerning the Fitch report that the potential \$6.3 million suggested savings is an aggregate of city, fire district and EMS funds. As such, Chief Knight stated that this was not necessarily EMS savings and felt that this savings was not delineated in the report.

Mayor Palladeno posed the following three questions:

- Will the CARES model recommendation of going to off- peak shifts of 14 hours affect ISO ratings?
- Will mutual aid be affected by the CARES model recommendation?
- Will the plan for implementing Phase 3 of Priority Dispatch be cancelled due to a lack of cost savings?

Chief Knight responded that it was different for each community but speaking for St. Petersburg, any negative impact in staffing would have a negative impact on ISO rating.

Chief Angle agreed that ISO could be negatively impacted on an individual agency basis but more importantly it could be negatively impacted from an operational perspective when you remove so many firefighters from the system countywide.

Chief Knight stated that not only would there be a functional impact to mutual aid but also as resources are reduced within a city there will be a desire to be more territorial as to what resources are dedicated outside of that city.

Dr. Moeller replied to the Phase 3 question by briefing that a letter had been sent from the Chair of the EMS Advisory Council to the EMS Authority recommending delaying implementation of Phase 3 Priority Dispatch until 45 days after the completion of the Fitch study. Dr. Moeller said he did not anticipate that changing.

Dr. Moeller said that although Fitch recommended a different approach to Priority Dispatch, the principle is still the same in that we do not need to send two resources to low priority calls and that will be the starting point of future discussion on the topic.

Mr. Postma informed the Advisory Council that Paramedics Plus had been successful in defending against a lawsuit brought by a competitor in Alameda County, CA. The jury ruled unanimously in favor of Paramedics Plus.

Chief Sayre, who will be retiring in the next month and stepping down from his seat on the EMS Advisory Council, provided some departing remarks.

Chairman Cullen thanked Chief Sayre for his service to the system.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on August 29, 2013 at 10 A.M. That meeting will be held at the Public Safety Services Center, 1st Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neri made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Litton seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

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