

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 29, 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 (Secretary)
William Israel, Citizen Representative
Blake MacPherson, Citizen Representative
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)
Chief Robert Weiss, Clearwater Fire Department
Chief James Angle, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Vice-Chair)
Chief William Scott, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Assoc.
Mark Postma, Sunstar Paramedics
Capt. Glenn Luben, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter (Chair)
Dr. David Weiland Jr., Pinellas County Medical Association
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
James Terry, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Absent:

Julie Baker, Citizen Representative
Carl Lavender, Citizen Representative
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Mayor Patricia Gerard, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Chief Steve Knight, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Capt. Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs

Also Present:

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Public Safety Services
Dr. Angus Jameson, 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 Robert Polk, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District
Chief Bob Markford, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue
Chief Joseph Connors, Clearwater Fire Department
Debbie Vass, Sunstar Paramedics
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics
Kimberly Pickett, Sunstar Paramedics
Shelby Rivera, Bayfront Medical Center

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 June 27, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Chief Scott made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Israel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

EMS Administration: Dr. Moeller briefed that staff is in the process of finalizing the ALS First Responder Agreement Extensions.

Dr. Moeller reported that the final Fitch report had been presented to the Board of County Commissioners and that the Board had directed that staff take the lead and go out and work with the individual fire departments and districts to develop multi-year agreements.

Dr. Moeller said that the electronic patient care reporting system was in the process of being expanded to all fire agencies and he anticipates it going live within the next couple months.

Chief Weiss asked Dr. Moeller if there was a timeframe for when discussions would begin with the departments and when a recommendation would be made to the County Commission. Dr. Moeller replied that the Board requested an update by the end of the calendar year and that his intent was to begin reaching out to the cities in the next 30-45 days.

EMS Medical Director: Dr. Jameson briefed that a complete update of the Medical Operations Manual was nearing completion and that we are still on track for implementation of the new manual in January 2014.

Dr. Jameson informed the Council that a new hospital destination protocol would go into effect prior to January that would give field clinicians more authority to make destination decisions based on their assessment of the severity of the patient. Additionally, a hospital bed delay protocol has been put in place to reduce the amount of time patients wait for a bed upon arrival at an emergency room.

Dr. Jameson briefed the Council on other clinical improvements such as QCPR and King Airway that are being brought to the EMS Medical Control Board for review and approval.

Dr. Jameson informed the Council of a data sharing initiative that would be aggressively pursued over the next couple months. This would allow hospitals to receive complete data from EMS providers and in return EMS would be able to receive complete outcome data on patients brought to the hospitals. This data sharing will improve patient care.

Sunstar: Mr. Postma reported that transport volume was up 1.7% year-to-date.

Mr. Postma stated that “Falls” is the number one category of EMD determinant nationwide and is not unique to Pinellas County.

Mr. Postma clarified the ambulance standby policy for high school sporting events.

First Responders: Chief Angle briefed the Council on fire and medical incidents dispatched thru July 2013 by EMD determinant and by department.

Mr. Israel requested that future reports related to incident statistics by determinant be ordered by highest count to lowest.

Mr. Neri asked whether veterans were taken to the VA hospital upon request. Dr. Jameson replied that there was a specific piece in the destination policy that instructs crews, if at all possible, to honor the veterans request to go to the VA hospital as long as the appropriate specialty service is available and they are not experiencing a heart attack or stroke in which case they would be taken to the nearest appropriate facility and then transferred to the VA once they have been stabilized.

REAPPOINTMENT OF EMS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Woodrum briefed that the EMS Management Committee is appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the Council. Since there was a recent appointment of a new Chair, it is necessary to reappoint and confirm this Committee.

After discussion, Chairman Cullen appointed the following individuals and called for a motion to confirm. Mr. Neri motioned to confirm and Dr. Weiland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS Authority	Mr. Craig Hare
Medical Director	Dr. David Bowden
Medical Director	Dr. Angus Jameson
Fire Chiefs' Association	Chief James Angle
Fire Chiefs' Association	Chief Joe Accetta
PALS Representative	Chief Bill Scott
CME Steering	Dr. Phil Nicotera
Emergency Nurses	Chairman Cullen
Ambulance Contractor	Mr. Mark Postma
9-1-1 Representative	Ms. Ruthie Doles
Labor – First Responder	Recommendation to be provided by Chief Angle
Labor – Ambulance	Recommendation to be provided by Mr. Postma

RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

Mr. Woodrum informed the Council that Ms. Julie Baker had elected not to seek another term and this has created a Citizen Representative vacancy in the membership.

After discussion, Chairman Cullen called for volunteers to serve on a Selection Committee and then appointed the following members: Chairman Cullen, Dr. Weiland, Mr. Israel, Ms. Guidash and Ms. Scofield.

Chairman Cullen requested that staff contact the existing pool of candidates from the last selection process to see if they are still interested in serving. Chairman Cullen also requested that the Selection Committee meet prior to the next EMS Advisory Council meeting to review the pool of candidates and make a recommendation as to who should be nominated to fill the position.

OPEN FORUM

Chief Angle raised the issue of Priority Dispatch – Phase 3 and requested that the Council discuss its' current position on this issue given the findings of the Fitch report.

After discussion, Chief Angle made a motion that staff write a letter on behalf of the EMS Advisory Council advising the EMS Medical Control Board that the Council has reviewed and concurs with the Fitch report's findings that Priority Dispatch Phase 3 should not be implemented in its present form and that the subject of Priority Dispatch should be taken up by the EMS Management Committee for further discussion. Following discussions the EMS Management Committee will provide a recommendation back to the EMS Medical Control Board. Mayor Palladeno seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Angle invited everyone to attend the 9-1-1 Memorial Event being held at Curlew Hills on September 11th at 10 A.M.

Chief Angle and Chief Weiss announced that the City of Clearwater will be hosting the North American Vehicle Rescue Association competition the last week of October.

Mr. Postma thanked all the organizations that supported Sunstar after the recent deaths of two of their employees.

Mr. Neri voiced his concern that the EMS Advisory Council does not advise as much as it should.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on October 24, 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. Scofield seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

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