

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

December 19, 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:

Kelly Cullen, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter (Chair)  
Chief Joseph Connors, Clearwater Fire Department  
Chief Joe Accetta, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Major Sean Jowell, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department  
Mayor Travis Palladeno, Mayors' Council (Madeira Beach)  
Mayor Patricia Gerard, Mayors' Council (Largo)  
William Israel, Citizen Representative  
Ray Neri, Citizen Representative (Secretary)  
Joy Lewis, Citizen Representative  
Dr. Scott Kuebler, Citizen Representative  
George McCarthy, Citizen Representative  
Chief William Scott, Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Assoc.  
Mark Postma, Sunstar Paramedics  
Dr. David Weiland Jr., Pinellas County Medical Association

Absent:

Capt. Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue  
Mayor Chris Arbutine, Mayors' Council (Belleair Bluffs)  
Mayor Doug Bevis, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)  
Blake MacPherson, Citizen Representative  
Carl Lavender, Citizen Representative  
Anne Scofield, Citizen Representative  
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, St. Petersburg College, Health Education Programs  
Dr. Kenneth Webster, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society  
James Terry, Independent Fire District Elected Official  
Kathleen Litton, Independent Fire District Elected Official

Also Present:

Dr. Bruce Moeller, Safety & Emergency Services  
Craig Hare, Emergency Medical Services  
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director  
Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office  
Carl Brody, County Attorney's Office  
Greg Woodrum, Emergency Medical Services  
Shawn Tatham, Emergency Medical Services  
Dr. Steven Epstein, Bayfront Medical Center  
Chief Guy Keirn, Pinellas Park Fire Department  
Susan Byrd, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter  
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics  
Vicki Glenn, Sunstar Paramedics  
Kimberly Pickett, Sunstar Paramedics

## **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 15 voting members in attendance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 24, 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 Director:**

Mr. Hare briefed that all fire departments were now on electronic patient care reporting and that it was implemented very smoothly.

Mr. Hare stated that the ALS First Responder Agreement was being renewed in two phases. The first phase has been completed and involved meeting with all fire chiefs to develop a service agreement that all were comfortable with. Phase two will involve Dr. Moeller working with city managers to develop a sustainable financial platform to adequately support the first responder program.

Mr. Hare said that staff would recommend to the EMS Authority to extend the current ambulance agreement with Paramedics Plus for one-year and that this would then be the last extension offered before the contract must go to bid per County Purchasing ordinance.

Mr. Hare said that staff would recommend to the EMS Medical Control Board in January that Dr. Angus Jameson be nominated as the Pinellas County EMS Medical Director. Dr. Jameson has received all of the required Florida certifications and has been the Associate Medical Director for the past year.

The 2014 Medical Operations Manual will go before the EMS Medical Control Board in January to be reviewed and approved. If approved, the protocols will take effect in early February.

Staff is working on a narcotic improvement project. This would allow web-based tracking of narcotics through an electronic lock system as narcotics are passed from paramedic to paramedic. The project is in the design phase now with an expected roll out in April or May 2014.

The County will be receiving two ambulance conversions kits through a Metropolitan Medical Response System grant. These conversion kits will be used to convert a standard School Board or PSTA bus into a multi-patient transport unit that would support mass casualty incidents.

Dr. Moeller briefed the Council that the new Public Safety Complex is nearing completion and that April 15<sup>th</sup> was the timeframe that staff anticipates moving the 9-1-1 Communications to the new facility and combining with the Sheriff's Office. The Sunstar Communications Center would move to the new facility a couple months after 9-1-1. Dr. Moeller stated that this would allow for more critical information sharing and increased safety for first responders and law enforcement officers.

Dr. Moeller also informed the Council that he would be meeting with the Board of County Commissioners in February to conduct a workshop referred to as a "deep dive." This workshop is designed to talk about the relationship between Safety & Emergency Services and law enforcement and how to strengthen, from a community perspective, the element of a healthy and safe community.

### **EMS Medical Director:**

Dr. Dooley briefed the Council on a new hire orientation program being implemented that would give all new hires five days of classroom clinical training. They would then go to their agency for further training and then come back and have a final testing day. This program will begin in January for all new hires.

### **Sunstar:**

Mr. Postma briefed that Sunstar is focused on the coordination necessary to move its communication center to the new facility and working with the County to make that go smoothly.

Mr. Postma stated that there has been about a two percent increase in transport volume over last calendar year and he anticipates there will be days coming up in February thru April where there will be 500+ transports a day.

### **First Responders:**

Chief Accetta briefed the first responder incident statistics for 2013. The statistics were broken down by response level, age range, air transport and EMD determinant.

Chief Accetta also shared some figures taken from the Florida State annual report on fire incidents by County. Using these figures, the Chief discussed civilian fire casualties, civilian fire deaths and total fire damage as compared to other large metropolitan areas in the state.

Chief Accetta concluded that the Fire Chiefs are working with the Police Council to enhance their operations during events that require a unified command structure.

### **EMS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chief Accetta is the Chair of the EMS Management Committee. He briefed that the Committee has met once and is making good progress toward updating the EMS Rules & Regulations. Another meeting has been scheduled for late January 2014.

## **VICE-CHAIR NOMINATION / VACANCIES**

The position of Vice-Chair was vacated with the retirement of Chief James Angle. Chief Accetta and Dr. Weiland were both nominated to fill this officer position. Both nominees told a little about their background and why they wanted to serve in this position.

Chairman Cullen requested that those members who wanted to vote for Chief Accetta raise their hand. Thirteen members raised their hand which was a clear majority so Chief Accetta was selected as the Vice-Chair.

Chairman Cullen stated that there was a vacancy on the Executive Committee and asked if there were any nominations to fill the position.

Mr. Postma nominated Mayor Palladeno but the Mayor respectfully declined as he was unable to commit at this time.

Chief Accetta nominated Chief Scott and Dr. Weiland seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Palladeno stated that it has been a great experience sitting on the EMS Advisory Council and he appreciates the Mayors' Council nominating him and the EMS Authority appointing him. On behalf of the City of Madeira Beach, the Mayor thanked the first responders, ambulance contractor and County officials for working together to provide such outstanding service to the citizens of his city.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on March 20, 2014 at 10 A.M. That will be an annual meeting that will be held at the Public Safety Services Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Cullen adjourned the meeting at 10:45 A.M.

An audio recording of this meeting as well as any correspondence received is on file at Emergency Medical Services Division.