

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD

August 21, 2014

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

Dr. Stephen Haire, Morton Plant Hospital (Chair)
Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital
Dr. Stephen Feilinger, St. Anthony's Hospital
Mr. Anthony Degina, Largo Medical Center
Dr. Dominique Thuriere, C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
Ms. Sharon Hayes, Palms of Pasadena Hospital
Dr. Paula Pell, All Children's Hospital (Secretary)
Mr. Kris Hoce, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare
Dr. Raj Mathur, Florida Hospital North Pinellas

Members Absent:

Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Jeremy Ingram, Bayfront Medical Center

Also Present:

Craig Hare, Emergency Medical Services
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director
Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office
Greg Woodrum, Emergency Medical Services
Kelly Cullen, Morton Plant Mease
David Hudak, Emergency Medical Services
Shawn Tatham, Emergency Medical Services
Debbie Vass, Sunstar Paramedics
Kim Lacina, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Haire called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. A roll call was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were nine voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Degina motioned for approval. Dr. Bellini seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Jameson provided an update on the implementation of the Handtevy pediatric care system.

Dr. Jameson briefed new protocols P18 Foreign Body Airway Obstruction, CP21 Pediatric Airway Management and CP20 Pediatric Needle Cricothyroidotomy. After discussion Chairman Haire called for a motion. Mr. Hoce motioned to approve the new protocols and Dr. Feilinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jameson described changes to protocols P15 Seizures – Midazolam Pediatric Dosage, C7 Post Medical Cardiac Arrest Care and updated the Medical Control Board on new protocol T8 Extremity Trauma. After discussion Chairman Haire called for a motion. Dr. Pell motioned to approve the changes as well as the new protocol and Dr. Thuriere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jameson then briefed a change to the Critical Care Team protocol involving deletion of the drug Vecuronium due to a national shortage. After discussion Chairman Haire called for a motion. Dr. Feilinger motioned to approve the change and Ms. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jameson announced the opening of the Center for Prehospital Medicine. The Center provides high fidelity simulation mannequins that have drug recognition capability and high tech, state of the art adult and pediatric simulators.

EMS DIRECTOR

Mr. Hare welcomed new members Dr. Raj Mathur from Florida Hospital North Pinellas and Ms. Sharon Hayes from Palms of Pasadena Hospital.

Mr. Hare reported that the EMS Authority had approved a five year agreement with all cities and fire districts for first responder services. The agreement would be for an initial term of three years with a two year extension.

Mr. Hare said that the first responder level of service would be enhanced going into the new year because of two additional units that would be funded by the Authority. The first would be Truck 71 of Tarpon Springs Fire Department and that would cover the Anclote area. The second will be Squad 65 from Palm Harbor Fire Rescue and that covers the US 19/Tampa Road corridor.

Mr. Hare described the recent call taking problems experienced at the Regional 9-1-1 Center and Sunstar Communications Center due to a power surge combined with a lightning strike and the actions taken to transfer calls to a backup operations plan.

Mr. Hare advised that the current Ambulance Service Agreement will end September 30, 2015 and that there are no more extensions available on that contract. County Purchasing procedures require the contract to go out for bid and a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent out in the next month. The RFP will be open for a period of 60 days. After this time, an Evaluation Committee will evaluate the bids and make a rank order recommendation to the EMS Authority.

Mr. Hare stated that the EMS Authority will be recruiting for a Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program Director.

Dr. Jameson briefed the MCB on a new software called FirstPass that will be used to run a series of tests on every patient care record to determine if patient care was conducted according to protocol and will flag calls that require clinical review. Dr. Jameson said this product will eventually allow us to benchmark against systems across the country and will greatly enhance clinical performance.

Mr. Hare provided a report requested from the last meeting that showed the distribution of transports to all area hospitals. There was a brief discussion of the report.

Dr. Jameson praised the efforts of the hospital emergency departments in managing the flow of patients and getting the ambulances turned around. Dr. Jameson said that he was able to report at the State level that Pinellas County gets 98% of its ambulances turned around in fifteen minutes or less.

Ms. Hayes commented that this success is due largely to a hospital-wide approach to Emergency Department saturation. In contrast to prior years, the ER has become the "front door", in fact, "the door", that patients come through.

Chairman Haire requested that staff provide the transport distribution report on an annual basis going forward.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Hare suggested that as part of the next meeting the Medical Control Board take a tour of the Center for Prehospital Medicine.

Dr. Jameson stated that a goal over the next few months is to focus on an update of the Trauma Transport Protocols to be included in the 2015 Medical Operations Manual. These updates will incorporate State Trauma Protocol as well as local trauma criteria.

Mr. Crowell discussed Sunshine Law considerations involved with taking the Medical Control Board on a tour of multiple locations.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 10 A.M. in Conference Room 130 at the Emergency Medical Services Center, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Haire called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hoce motioned to adjourn and Dr. Feilinger seconded the motion. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:50 A.M.

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