

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 1, 2020

Zoom Conference Call
COVID-19

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board met virtually via the Zoom platform at 9:02 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Dr. Stephen Haire, Morton Plant Hospital - Chairman
Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital (late arrival)
Dr. Stephen Feilinger, St. Anthony's Hospital
Mr. Lou Galdieri, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Christos Politis, Largo Medical Center
Dr. Jeremy White (Alternate)

Members Not Present:

Dr. Jose Barquin, AdventHealth North Pinellas
Dr. Jennifer Pearson, C.W. Bill Young V.A. Medical Center – Vice Chairman
Dr. Steven Epstein, Pinellas County Medical Association
Mr. Jake Fisher, Palms of Pasadena Hospital
Dr. Krista Gillis, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg
Dr. Andrea Apple, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Alternate)
Mr. Jonathan Ashford, Palms of Pasadena Hospital (Alternate)
Dr. Brian Charity, Morton Plant Hospital (Alternate)

Staff Present:

Jason Ester, County Attorney's Office
Jim Fogarty, Director, Safety and Emergency Services
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Greg Woodrum, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration
Brooke Coslett, EMS & Fire Administration
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Ms. Larri Gerson, EMS Advisory Council
Ms. Nancy Hopkins, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare (Alternate)
Dr. Matt Nelson, St. Anthony's Hospital (Alternate)
Scott Seibert, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital
John Peterson, Sunstar
Richard Schomp, Sunstar
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Stephen Haire called the special meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Roll call was taken, and it was determined that there was a quorum. There were 6 voting members in attendance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

COVID-19 SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE

Dr. Jameson presented a clinical status regarding COVID-19 data trends, including exponential case growth, increased percent positivity, and continual rise of hospital and ICU bed occupancy, relating that there has been a significant increase of the spread of the virus throughout our community. He discussed call volume, workforce impacts, system strain, and strategic measures implemented to avoid overwhelming local hospitals.

Referring to a document titled *MCB and EMSAC COVID Briefing 07-01-20*, Craig Hare presented a COVID-19 system status update and provided an overview of the recommended changes and updates to the following items:

- Current Situation
- Universal Masking
- Booties
- Response Configuration
- COVID-19+ Long Distance Transports
- Surge Capacity – Fire Rescue Transport
- Hospital Divert System

During discussion, Mr. Hare and Dr. Jameson responded to queries and comments by the members, and John Peterson and Richard Schomp provided input. Topics included the following:

- COVID-19 testing, hospital discharge, and transfer of care criteria
- Alternative methods for long-distance transports
- Local placement and appropriate care of COVID-positive patients
- Hospital staffing capabilities
- Increased PPE protocol for clinician safety
- Nursing home compliance to 911 call protocol
- Actively working on improving access to rapid testing and results

HOSPITAL BYPASS DISCUSSION

During the presentation, Mr. Hare, with input by Dr. Jameson, briefed the members on the following topics:

- EMS Hospital Plan: Updated on June 4 to return the transfer of patient care to normal operations, except for suspected or COVID-positive patients, who are being transferred at the ER ramp.
- System Status Management: A protocol used to equitably distribute patients to avoid overwhelming any one particular hospital.
- COVID Divert: A specialty divert mechanism for lab-confirmed COVID patients instituted on June 20 for ALF and nursing home transfers.

PANDEMIC PLAN AND PROTOCOL UPDATES – APPROVED

Following the presentation and discussion of Board consensus, Dr. Feilinger moved, seconded by Dr. Namey, that the Medical Control Board approve the Pandemic Plan Protocol Updates. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2020, format to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Haire adjourned the meeting at 9:52 A.M.

*Audio and any correspondence received for this meeting is on file at the
Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration.*