

PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
12490 Ulmerton Road, Rooms 130/132
Largo, FL 33774

EMS LEADERSHIP GROUP MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2023

The Pinellas County EMS Leadership Group (EMS LG) met on this date at this location with the following agencies marked present:

- Airport
- Clearwater
- Dunedin
- East Lake
- EMS & Fire Administration
 - Director
 - Data Systems Coordinator
 - EMS Academy Coordinator
 - Logistics Coordinator
 - Protocol and Equipment Coordinator
 - Quality Assurance Coordinator
- Gulfport
- Largo
- Lealman
- Madeira Beach
- Medical Director
- Oldsmar
- Palm Harbor
- Pinellas Park
- Pinellas Suncoast
- Safety Harbor
- Seminole
- South Pasadena
- St. Pete Beach
- St. Petersburg
- Sunstar
- Tarpon Springs
- Treasure Island

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chief Terry Tokarz called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon presentation, the minutes from the February 21, 2023, EMS Leadership Group meeting were unanimously approved. (Clearwater/St. Pete Beach)

SYSTEM UPDATE

Craig Hare presented the following system update on the following topics:

- Staffing
 - The Credentialing Coordinator position post has closed, and interviews are in process.
 - The Administrative Assistant post is now closed, and interviews to start soon.
 - Now recruiting for a dedicated ImageTrend Administrator. Position is posted.
 - Received approval for the hiring of a Clinical Manager to replace the former Training Coordinator position. Soon to be posted.

- Welcomed Ken Grimes, the new EMS & Fire Administration Operations Manager, and provided background information, noting an employment history.
- Lynn Abbott has undertaken the duties of Greg Woodrum, who recently retired from Pinellas County.
- Budget
 - 7 percent increase to the baseline budget.
 - 17 enhancement requests to work through and \$10 million in recurring costs.
- EKG
 - On final approach with Physio. Planning for item to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in April. Working to have 50 LifePak 15 monitors within 30 days, remaining monitors to be delivered by 60 days. Expecting a summertime rollout.
 - Discussed plans for ACLS, EKG peak renewals, and agency-level training. Working on an instructional video and having a clinical loaner for a detailed training plan.
 - David Hudak to handle battery chargers, accessories, cables, etc. Device is similar to the MRx.
- ImageTrend
 - Site is up and running. Working on training for administration and configuration. Dr. Michael Lozano and Michelle Slawinski are working on the data sets.
 - Plans for a mid-April 3-day workshop with ImageTrend committees regarding cleanup, feedback, and training power users.
 - Online CME training in October on tablets.
 - Ken Grimes and the temps completed the training and certification record cleanup for a clean data set for ImageTrend.
 - Working to connect LifePak 15 to Zoll.
 - David Hudak indicated there may be a potential protocol change regarding defibrillation.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

Dr. Angus Jameson provided clinical updates on the following topics:

- Staffing
 - Congratulated Dr. Andrew Kropp, current EMS Fellow, who graduates at the end of June.
 - Announced that Dr. Ken Dumas, Chief Resident at Tampa General Hospital, has been selected as next year's EMS Fellow.
 - Discussed Emergency Medicine matches, noting that USF Emergency Medicine did receive many applications and has a great pool of candidates.
- PCEMSOMD Website
 - Check out the new Patient Resource page for information on dental, housing, and food resources for patients.
 - Plans for a resources page containing information regarding patient advocacy, COSSAP, and *Leave Behind Narcan* programs.
 - Plans for a virtual office Zoom meeting where anyone can reach out and talk to Dr. Jameson.
- Push Dose Presser
 - Device has been used 15 times in the last month with apparent good effect, and no adverse events have been reported.
- Leave Behind Narcan
 - Noted that all patients may receive Narcan, even refusals. Please encourage clinicians to give Narcan to patients, friends, and family. The purpose of the program is to keep the patient alive and get to treatment.

- Operations
 - Plans to sunset the Pandemic Plan Code Green, noting the federal pandemic plan expires in May.
 - Freestanding ER Protocol Sub-Committee met in February to discuss improving freestanding ER utilization, and Dr. Jameson has crafted a baseline set of metrics to follow implementation, noting clinicians/ transports are encouraged to utilize freestanding ERs for patients without exclusions.
 - Please contact David Hudak regarding LUCAS device and Glucagon questions/information.
 - Shelly Childers is working to schedule station visits.
- Dr. Donna Dooley requested that IRs and QARs be submitted at the same time to Chris Jordan.
- Dr. Lozano briefed members on his continuing EMS research project, and the item will be discussed at the next Quality Meeting, noting there are 13 active projects. He is soliciting input from the system to participate in or craft a project of their own.

AIR MEDICAL UPDATE

No Air Medical Update was given.

SUNSTAR UPDATE

Richard Schomp presented an operational update and shared statistical information regarding transport volume and year-over-year trends, noting that February saw an increase of 3.5 percent in transports, and January experienced a 3 percent rise as well. February had a decrease in hospital delays.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY/LOGISTICS UPDATES

Please contact Derek Schauer regarding any questions, (727) 582-2133.

David Hudak relayed that Glucagon GVO product is not available in the volume the system needs and is looking into an alternative similar to the current product. There will be a Medical Control Directive (MCD) sent out today regarding awareness of LUCAS device deployment, noting that the device has been deployed to Stations 25 and 46. Look for an In-Service assignment regarding LUCAS device field awareness within the next 30 days.

EMS ACADEMY/EMS TRAINING/CME UPDATE

Mark Eggers provided information on the following topics:

- CME
 - 2 clinicians have not completed February CME. February is 98 percent unfinished.
 - 1,028 people scheduled for March face-to-face CME.
 - Filming almost complete for April CME.
 - Discussed ACLS expirations and recertification process and timeline.
 - Reminder that if agencies are hiring between now and the ACLS June start date, be sure to research ACLS status and enroll before September. Noted ACLS classes offered on April 18 and June 10. Contact site coordinators to lock down dates.
 - There are 28 new CME instructors.
 - Thanks to all for helping out with CME content and filming.
- EMS Academy
 - Surface Gos are in use. No plans to print MOMs manuals. Workbooks continue to be available. Working to move to an online format.
 - Changes implemented to narcotics box exchange and usage.
 - Plans to return to the Medical Director's office for Week 2.
 - Capstone has moved to Center for Pre-Hospital Medicine (CPM), noting a schedule change to Thursdays for Capstone Prep and Capstone, alternating Thursdays to allow for a work study before Capstone. Tests to be given in the Immersion Room environment.

- IPD started today. Format to change in the next month. Implementing the use of I-simulate monitors in scenarios and testing. PowerPoints have been updated, adding a narcotics exchange component with embedded action slides. Plans to return to the Medical Director's Office next month for Week 2 only.
- Starting the Immersive light pre-roll for scenarios next month, a recorded pre-briefing. Plans to do a recording of dispatch and a drive/walk up for clinicians, where a victim will do initial scene stuff. The new process will remove instructors from having to read that part of the scenario component and will give the same view for every single person.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Steve Fravel provided new and updated information on the following topics:

- Developing new process to get the Surface Gos out faster.
- There are 100 to 200 tablets out in the field that are out of warranty. Contact Steve for a different tablet.
- Discussed issues and fixes for the Surface Go keyboard.
- Call Steve for assistance with ZDMC cleanup. It is critical to clean up hanging records.

QUALITY ASSURANCE UPDATE

Chris Jordan provided statistical information pertaining to the following topics:

- Baldrige Patient Satisfaction Surveys for February 2023 and overall Pinellas County EMS engagement results.
- February QARs.
- Case tracking.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PCEMS Supply and Equipment Committee

- Nothing new to report.

PCEMS Controlled Substances Subcommittee

- Nothing new to report.

EMS Training Group – Chief Mark Zipeto

- Nothing new to report.

EMS Quality Committee – Jeremy Tinter

- Nothing new to report.

ePCR Committee Update – On hold.

Complex Case Management – Dr. Angus Jameson

- Nothing new to report. Meeting later today.

First Pass Group – Chief Bill Gorham

- Repopulation of information by Ryan Mitchell.

AROUND THE TABLE: POSITIVES, PROJECTS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Clearwater: Starting the hiring process again. Just had a recruit class for 5 people last week.

Dunedin: Rescue 60 to go in service April 5. Everyone is welcome to come to the push in on the morning of April 5.

Gulfport: Hired 1 person to start on April 4 and another person to start in late April.

Largo: Have a few people starting in the next couple months.

Lealman: Hired 3 people and coordinating with the County to put them through EMS Academy.

Palm Harbor: Valspar Golf Tournament went well, and weather was nice. Event worked out well.

Pinellas Park: Hired some new people.

South Pasadena: Working on a new station build, doing bi-monthly meetings on site, moving on schedule. Looking to hire.

St. Pete Beach: Have 2 people in preemployment testing and an interview scheduled on Thursday for 1 additional firefighter paramedic.

St. Petersburg: Rescue 13 going into service next month. Been busy with special events. The Grand Prix, Skyway 10K, and Reggae Rise Up went well. First peak paramedic will graduate from Fire Academy on April 4.

Tarpon Springs: Looking to hire.

Treasure Island: Advertising for 1 vacancy. Have 2 paramedics finishing up County certification. In the beginning stages of station design.

OLD BUSINESS

All Old Business continues to be on hold.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

No Action Items were discussed.

NEXT MEETING

The next quarterly Leadership Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., to be held via Zoom due to ImageTrend Training.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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

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CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chief Tony Tedesco called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., noting Chief Terry Tokarz is attending today's Levrum Power Users training class. Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon presentation of the minutes from the January 31, 2023, EMS Leadership Group meeting, held face to face, the minutes were unanimously approved. (Sunstar/Palm Harbor)

SYSTEM UPDATE

Craig Hare presented the following system update on the following topics:

- Budget process is underway, with a long list of enhancements to work through.
- Restarting the EKG monitor replacement process. Have a draft agreement with No. 2 vendor, Physio, noting existing contract with Stryker. Plans for item to be presented to BCC within 60 days, hoping for a summer rollout.

- Master Medical to handle repair of existing devices. Members asked to double-down on cleaning and maintaining stock and refresher on training.
- Final approach on ImageTrend site buildout. Discussion had regarding tentative time frame, needs, transition, training, and implementation.
- Staffing (later in the meeting)
 - Craig Queen has been placed on inactive service, and the Credentials Coordinator position to be posted soon. Ken Grimes to oversee certifications until the position is filled.
 - Zoe Kieta and Taylor Rhoades, two new temporary office staff, are assisting with the cleanup of certification and training records, allowing for a smooth transition to the ImageTrend License module, which has been delivered and in the configuration stage. He thanked everybody for their patience as administrative staff has been short-staffed for a while now, but positions are being placed as quickly as possible.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

Dr. Donna Dooley provided a clinical update on the following topics:

- The LUCAS Device has deployed for use to Madeira Beach and Clearwater. A short awareness In-Service video assignment in Target Solutions will be available soon. Dr. Andrew Smith relayed that connectivity issues are being resolved.
- Encouraged members to subscribe to the website's newsfeed for valuable updates and provide important feedback. Please relay any feedback, questions, or concerns to Dr. Jameson via email.
- *Leave Behind Narcan* program is live, and kit distribution is going well. No issues have been reported. Please relay any feedback, questions, or concerns.
- Shelly Childers, Executive Assistant for the Office of the Medical Director (OMD), handles OMD scheduling and business functions. Shelly's contact information is (727) 582-5699 and schilders@pinellas.gov.
- All certification packets are to be sent to the Certification website at emscertificationrequest@co.pinellas.fl.us. Liz Fogo and John Murphy are handling certs. Please do not send to directly to MDs.

AIR MEDICAL UPDATE

Julie Bacon referred to a document titled *Air Medical – Dispatch – January 2023* and provided statistical information regarding air support requests, pending program information, and LifeLine dispatch.

SUNSTAR UPDATE

Richard Schomp presented an operational update and shared statistical information regarding year-over-year trends, January transports, and improving hospital delays.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY/LOGISTICS UPDATES

David Hudak conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *February 2023 Protocols, Medical Supplies & Equipment, Pharmaceuticals & Logistics*.

Derek Schauer thanked everyone for using the PSTrax alerts and provided an update regarding medical equipment asset tracking via PSTrax.

EMS ACADEMY/EMS TRAINING/CME UPDATE

Mark Eggers expressed thanks to all who assisted over the last 3-4 weeks with the February online content, and work is beginning in April online; whereupon he provided information on the following topics:

- EMS Academy
 - IPD started today. Format to change in the next month. Implementing the use of I-

simulate monitors in scenarios and testing. PowerPoints have been updated, adding a narcotics exchange component with embedded action slides. Plans to return to the Medical Director's Office next month for Week 2 only.

- Starting the Immersive light pre-roll for scenarios next month, a recorded pre-briefing. Plans to do a recording of dispatch and a drive/walk up for clinicians, where a victim will do initial scene stuff. The new process will remove instructors from having to read that part of the scenario component and will give the same view for every single person.
- CME
 - 3 IPDs this week, 1 next week. February CME is out. March IPDs are completed. April is in progress.
 - There are several new instructors in EMS Academy as well as CME. Thanks to all for the great recruitment work.
 - Equipment is ready to be deployed to each site. Please be patient. There are only six sets of equipment.
 - Reports show 17 people who still have not completed the December In-Service, noting some are admin/clinical staff. Discussed concerns whether some of the people remaining on the list are employed or retired and whether certain current staff really need CME, user management in Vector/Target Solutions, and how best to identify clinicians that do not need CME to be taken off the list. Mark noted that Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Sunstar make up the biggest chunk of the group. Discussion had regarding extenuating circumstances where people remain on the list because they are not officially retired, have time off the books, or are on extended FMLA. Craig and Mark to get together and talk about resolving the issue. Schedule and format for March 2023 CME, June ACLS, CME, July ACLS, CME, August ACLS, CME, and November CME.
 - The Credentials Coordinator position will be posted soon. Ken Grimes will oversee certification records and clean training records in preparation for ImageTrend.
 - Craig thanked Mark for this work with the March CME and IPD. It went well and was well prepared.
 - Chief Mark Zipeto provided updates on EMS Academy as well as other training.
 - In April, there will be five video parts: an introduction video with Dr. Jameson regarding system changes, a roundtable with Dr. Jameson and other physicians to discuss substance use disorders, mental health problems in the field, patient and provider safety, as well as restraints, and chemical sedation.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Steve Fravel provided new and updated information on the following topics:

- Working to get the Surface Gos up to speed.
- Still collecting CF20s for the Grand Prix.
- First Watch was working on the BLS, which was put under Sunstar. Trying to get it broken out by agency.
- Still working with people to clear up ZDMCs. Reminder to check workflows. Chief Zipeto asked if the Physio monitors are uploading to a cloud or right to the monitor. Craig Hare advised the need to go to the monitor because the LifeNet station is separate. They are compatible with Windows tablets. Need to discuss wi-fi versus Bluetooth.

QUALITY ASSURANCE UPDATE

Chris Jordan referred to a document titled *Quality Assurance Update* and provided statistical information pertaining to the following topics:

- Baldrige Patient Satisfaction Surveys for January 2023 and overall Pinellas County EMS engagement results.
- January QARs.

- Case tracking.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PCEMS Supply and Equipment Committee – Chief Tony Tedesco

- The Equipment and Supplies Subcommittee will be ramping up slowly.

PCEMS Controlled Substances Subcommittee – Chief Tony Tedesco – On hold.

EMS Training Group – Chief Mark Zipeto

- EMS Quality is being chaired by Chris Jordan. Dr. Lozano is adding a research component to it.

EMS Quality Committee – Jeremy Tinter

- Nothing new to report. Continuing to work on the protocol and plan to get the Austere Environment project up and running. Chief Bill Gorham is taking the lead.
- Upcoming meeting scheduled for next week via Zoom.

ePCR Committee Update – On hold.

Complex Case Management – Dr. Angus Jameson

- Complex Case Management was addressed by Craig Hare, who advised we can process the cases but need to determine how and what cases we can refer.

First Pass Group – Chief Bill Gorham

- First Pass has some member changes due to Lt. Johnson's retirement. We talked about strokes so please look at the stroke in the First Pass test queue and advise of any issues. It was noted that ImageTrend character count was changed from 300 to 500. We are considering two First Pass classes, one for the admin side on QA and one for the user side.
- Working with Ryan to make sure the correct items are being uploaded to the MRxes. Caleb Hudak is going to look at our new protocols for this year.
- Next meeting is scheduled for March 7 at 1:00 pm. Capt. Thomas Kras recommended a content review of what is being written to be sure we are capturing the correct information in the refusals. It will be added as a bullet point for the next QA class.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chief Tedesco asked about refusals. Craig Hare added this will be built into forms on ImageTrend.
- HIPAA compliant coordinator and portal was raised. Chief Zipeto advised he doesn't think this needs to be kept it on as old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

AROUND THE TABLE: POSITIVES, PROJECTS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dunedin: Workfront Baseball is kicking off this week. We have a successful Mari Gras with an estimated 30,000 downtown. The new rescue is being delivered today. Baseball kicks off on

Monday.

East Lake: Special events are certainly in high gear. East Lake is very busy.

Gulfport: Working on some promotional testing. Interviews were conducted last week, noting upcoming retirements. Hoping to hire three personnel.

Lealman: The first annual Honey & Arts Festival, held last Saturday, went off well. Looking to hire 3 new personnel.

Oldsmar: Busy with the BMX racing event.

Palm Harbor: Valspar Golf Tournament is coming up on the week of March 13. Recently hired a couple individuals.

Pinellas Park: Working on getting new hires through the process. The Chili Blaze is coming up in March.

Pinellas Suncoast: Busy with the hiring process.

Safety Harbor: Chief Saavedra is still out on medical leave. The Art and Seafood Festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday, expecting approximately 10,000 attendees.

Seminole: Bringing on 5 personnel and a couple more in the near future, as well as a Fire Chief.

St. Pete Beach: Hiring new personnel. Upcoming events: The Grand Prix, Skyway 10K, and Reggae Rise Up, a 4-day event from March 16 through 19. Rays home opener scheduled for the end of the month.

Tarpon Springs: Hired 2 people and looking to bring on 3 more.

Treasure Island: Ordered a rescue with a letter of intent to lock in today's price. RAB is 28 months out.

Clearwater: Spring break is right around the corner.

ACTION ITEMS

- Reminder of the First Pass meeting on March 7 at 1:00 pm to review the stroke data, give feedback, and an upcoming QA class. Send an email for input.
- Chief Mark Zipeto requested that the HIPAA Complaint/Coordinator Portal Discussion be removed from Old Business. Steve Fravel to get with Mark to figure out a HIPAA coordinator portal.

NEXT MEETING

The next Leadership Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., to be held via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



March 2023
EMS
Leadership
Group

CME Status

- ▶ January CME
 - ▶ 15 clinicians suspended
- ▶ February CME
 - ▶ 98 still incomplete
- ▶ March CME
 - ▶ 1028 completed

Updates in EMSA

- ▶ Surface GOs!
 - ▶ No printed MOM or textbooks
 - ▶ Workbooks will still be printed (for now)
- ▶ Narcotics Exchange and Use
 - ▶ PSTRax sandbox
 - ▶ Several events throughout both week 1 and week 2
- ▶ Returning to the ME office (Week 2 only)

Current and Future Changes

- ▶ Capstone Prep (Formally known as phase day)
 - ▶ Moved to the Thursday in between Capstone testing (Starting next week)
 - ▶ Didactic portion in the AM still at EMS & Fire Admin
 - ▶ Scenario portion in PM moved to the CPM (immersion room)
 - ▶ Still optional attendance
- ▶ Capstone
 - ▶ Moved to the CPM (immersion room)
 - ▶ Split AM/PM scheduled attendance for greater than 6
 - ▶ Written exam in the theater

Is Your ACLS Expiring before September?

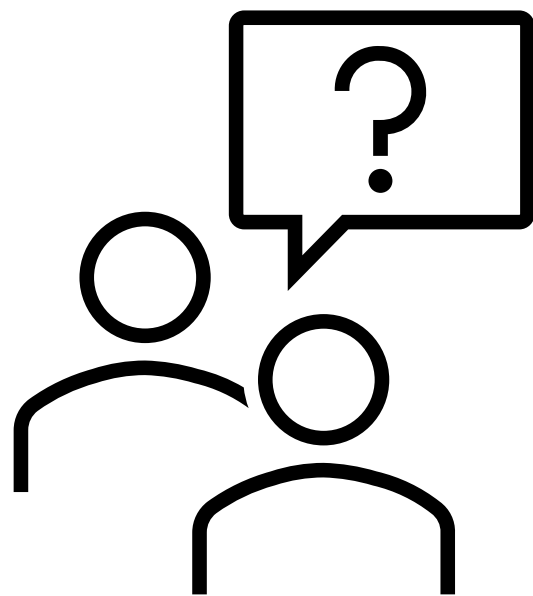
- ▶ Is your ACLS expiring before the beginning of the County recertification?
 - ▶ Attend the ACLS class on April 18th (The date may be changing)
 - ▶ Complete a HeartCode class and test skills on your time
 - ▶ 13 people in this category.
- ▶ Is your ACLS expiring during the County recertification?
 - ▶ Make sure you attend a class before your expiration date.
 - ▶ We will recertify you at the time of the class, and you will get a card with everyone else.
 - ▶ 17 people in this category.
- ▶ Please double-check anyone being hired now or before the June start.

ACLS County Recertification

- ▶ June – North County
- ▶ July – Mid County
- ▶ August – South County



Thank you!



Questions?

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!