

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES
June 23, 2023**

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met in person at the John Morroni EMS & Fire Administration Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Conference Room 130/132, Largo, Florida, at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7) – Chair
Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Mayors' Council (Pinellas Park) – Vice-Chair
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department - Secretary
Tina Ambrose, Citizen Representative (District 4)
Ty Dougherty, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Chief Anthony Tedesco, City of Clearwater Fire Chief (Alternate)
Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Mayors' Council (Pinellas Park)
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Chief Terry Tokarz, EMS Coordinator
Commissioner Kevin Kenney, Independent Fire District Elected Official
Siomara Bridges-Mata, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Pinellas
Dr. Zachary Zimko, PEMHS, Mental Health Professional
Chief Chad Pittman, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Capt. Michael Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College
Chief Ian Womack, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics (Alternate)

Absent:

Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Becca Tieder, Citizen Representative (District 5)
Mayor Dave Gattis, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)
Mayor Dan Saracki, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)

Staff Present:

Cody Ward, County Attorney's Office
Dr. Angus Jameson, Medical Director
James Fogarty, Bureau Director, Safety & Emergency Services
Jeremy Capes, Safety & Emergency Services
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Ken Grimes, EMS & Fire Administration
Mark Eggers, EMS & Fire Administration
Chris Jordan, EMS & Fire Administration
Leyna Lacognata, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration
Jennifer Peters, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Commissioner Casey Cane, Independent Fire District Elected Official (Alternate)
Capt. Thomas Kras, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue (Alternate)
Chief Douglas Zimmerman, EMS Coordinator (Alternate)
Chaplain Danny Champagne, Clearwater Fire & Rescue
Michael Crispino, HCA
Chief Brett Schlatterer, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Chief Jeffrey Davidson, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue
Jazmin Soloman, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Jorge Mercado called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll call was taken, and Lynn Abbott confirmed that a quorum was met. There were 18 voting members in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Invocation by Chaplain Danny Champagne, Clearwater Fire & Rescue.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2023 MEETING - APPROVED

Upon presentation by Chairman Mercado, a motion was made by Mayor Woody Brown, seconded by Mayor Sandra Bradbury and unanimously approved, that the minutes of the March 17, 2023 EMS Advisory Council meeting be approved.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

Ken Grimes presented Lynn Abbott with a certificate recognizing her 10 years of dedicated service with Pinellas County.

SELECTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Mercado related that the Selection Committee met earlier today and reviewed the applicants to fill the citizen vacancies for Commission Districts 1 and 2. The Selection Committee rank-ordered and recommended the following candidates for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners: For District 1 - No. 1, Christopher Markham, and No. 2, Michael DiBuono; and for District 2 - No. 1, Doreen Caudell, and No. 2, Heather Vernillo.

Following discussion, Mayor Woody Brown moved, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Kenney, that Christopher Markham as primary representative and Michael DiBuono as secondary be recommended to serve District 1. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Following further discussion, Ty Dougherty moved, seconded by Gayle Guidash, that Doreen Caudell as primary representative and Heather Vernillo as secondary be recommended to serve District 2. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

WATER RESCUE UPDATE

Ken Grimes provided background information regarding the Water Rescue Grant Program, marine operations, and resources needed to support and improve capabilities across Pinellas

County; whereupon, he referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration Marine Report* and discussed the following:

- Overview, Risk Involved in the Marine Environment.
- Resources Type.
- Resources Locations.
- Incident Location.
- Fish and Wildlife Data.
- Marine Response by Month.
- Day of Week.
- Time of Day.
- Memorial Day Weekend.
- Predictability of Marine Incidents.
- Marine Rescue Operational Committee.
- Joint Training with USCG.
- Grant Funds.
- Hexagon and ImageTrend.
- Future Goals.
- Summary.

Throughout the presentation, Mr. Grimes responded to queries by the members and, with input by Jim Fogarty and Craig Hare, discussed rescue operations, average marine response times, strategic distribution of resources, and program sustainment.

ALS FIRST RESPONDER ENHANCEMENTS

Craig Hare, referring to a PowerPoint titled *EMS Advisory Council Briefing on EMS System Enhancements FY23-24*, discussed the following projects and initiatives and presented information regarding the FY23-24 EMS System ALS First Responder Enhancement recommendations:

- Hexagon - The CAD project is currently underway throughout the entire county, with an anticipated implementation date of mid-2024. The project's progress has been promising thus far. A demonstration is scheduled for this autumn, organized by the P.R.I.M.E Team (Pinellas Regional Information Management Enterprise), which aims to unite and support all stakeholders involved in the system. The ultimate goal is to achieve full integration, enabling seamless collaboration among the Police, Fire, and EMS agencies, thereby significantly enhancing situational awareness for all parties involved.
- ImageTrend - The process of configuring Hexagon is currently underway, which will serve as our centralized platform for EMS/Fire reports, fire inspections, pre-plans, and as a health information hub with a seamless data connection to hospitals. Dedicated configuration committees are diligently working throughout June and July to facilitate the involvement of power users to gain proficiency with the system. This will allow the start of offline testing and provide valuable feedback regarding necessary enhancements.

The testing and feedback phase is scheduled to occur from July to September, followed by a comprehensive systemwide review in September. This review ensures its readiness for training purposes in October. If all progresses as planned, the system is scheduled to

go live in November. Mr. Hare provided examples that offered a glimpse into the enhanced functionalities of the new system, including the redesigned EMS/Fire reports and other exciting features. These examples demonstrated the improved user experience and showcased the anticipated benefits of the upcoming system.

- LifePak 15 - Unfortunately, there was a setback in the initial collaboration with Philips, as they were unable to fulfill the order and ship the units within the upcoming year. Consequently, the Board of County Commissioners made the decision to approve a new agreement with Physio for the acquisition of LifePak 15 units. The month of July will be dedicated to "Train the Trainer" sessions, focusing on empowering designated power users within the organization. Subsequently, in August and September, comprehensive training programs will be conducted for all EMTs and Paramedics. The go-live phase will be initiated on a per-agency basis, allowing each chief to activate the system once they feel ready. By October, we anticipate complete deployment and operational readiness across all agencies.

This project, valued at approximately \$10 million, encompasses the procurement of 160-plus monitors for Fire Rescue, along with approximately 80 monitors for Sunstar. Notably, the company has graciously accepted trade-ins for all the old equipment, further facilitating the transition process. A short question and answer session ensued.

- Budget - The allocation of resources, particularly in relation to the First Responder and Ambulance budgets, holds great significance in our annual considerations. Our funding model operates on a per-transport basis, ensuring a straightforward approach to regular operational expenses. The primary focus of our discussion with stakeholders is the First Responder budgets. We prioritize addressing funding adjustments to maintain the current level of service.

Among the 18 departments, 16 are projected to exceed the 3% cap due to our commitment to keeping pace with inflation and escalating costs. Covering the currently funded positions takes precedence over considering additional resources to avoid any gaps in coverage. The budget is projected to increase from \$64.8 to \$70.7 million, reflecting an overall growth of 9.1%. Additionally, taxable values have experienced favorable growth, reaching a 12% increase. To ensure long-term financial sustainability without burdening taxpayers through frequent tax rate adjustments, we engage in a six-year financial forecast. This proactive approach allows us to evaluate the feasibility of our financial plans and anticipate future costs such as salaries, benefits, and significant expenses like the rising prices of rescue trucks, which now average around \$300,000. The EMS Authority may do a partial rollback to give taxpayer relief.

- Fire Rescue Transport Update – Diligently working to resolve continued staffing issues experienced across the system. On May 11, the Medical Control Board transitioned to post-pandemic operations. As a result, COVID-19 response plans were turned off, and normal clinical procedures as per the Medical Operations Manual were resumed. However, to maintain staffing standards, the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and BLS 9-1-1 response components were retained.

The system coordinators met with the Medical Director, chiefs, and Sunstar to devise improvements that included the introduction of a new medical control directive that utilizes BLS ambulances for transportation and matches patients to ambulances according to their need. The goal is to reduce the use of fire department units in pre-pandemic levels during ambulance transport. In North and South County, new Rescue units have been added to enhance geographical coverage.

The system coordinators are considering recommendations to improve the system's paramedic training, coaching, and support. However, they have held back on requests for supervisory positions due to paramedic staffing shortages. A workforce roundtable is planned for July or August.

Fiscal Year 23-24 EMS System Enhancements

- Traffic Preemption – Work has been progressing on the implementation of traffic preemption technology to enhance emergency response times. With a capital of \$2.5 million, all First Responder units and ambulances will be equipped with traffic preemption boxes, allowing them to hold green lights or change red lights before arriving at an intersection while responding with lights and sirens, to not only ensure the safety of emergency crews but also reduce stress for the motoring public. It is estimated to save 10 to 15 seconds per intersection and up to a minute in regular response time, with the possibility of improving service levels across the system.

The pilot project along the East Lake Road corridor recorded an increase in emergency response time compliance from 85% to 91% in only a year, affirming the effectiveness of the technology. The Highway Department will work with traffic systems in Clearwater and St. Petersburg to bring the technology to 250 to 300 intersections, ultimately improving emergency response times and saving lives. Video link to be sent to members.

- Water Rescue Grant Resolution Update - An improvement in the system suggests the need to update the Water Rescue Grant Resolution, which is funded by EMS funds according to a County resolution. The proposed update to the Water Rescue EMS Grant Resolution 17-47 would allow for the use of budgeted funds to reimburse for personnel to staff marine units during peak periods like summer holiday weekends and is a no-cost recommendation. If the Authority approves the resolution update, the change may happen within a month, and the first trial is expected to be on Labor Day weekend.
- Largo Medic 42 Peak/Civilian Unit; Mid-Year.
- Pinellas Park Squad 36; Full Year. Fire Station 36 and Squad 36 as Contractor Funded x 3 Years.
- Safety Harbor Medic 53 Peak Unit +1 and 40-Hour Pilot Project.
- St. Petersburg +6 Staffing Positions.
- Tarpon Springs Rescue 69 +1 24/7 Position; Mid-Year.

Upon request to speak by Chief Jeffrey Davidson to Chair Mercado, Chief Davidson handed out a document related to Rescue 27, stepped up to the podium, and discussed his concerns regarding an area within his district that he perceived as inadequate response times, lack of resources, and additional funding, questioning the accuracy of the data used at Data Driven Focus Group (DDFG) meetings supporting requested system additions for his agency. He related that a new fire station between existing Stations 27 and 44 has been put forward. Lengthy discussion ensued and various inquiries were raised and addressed concerning the data.

Craig Hare noted that the DDFG convenes monthly to deliberate on budgetary planning and determine the feasibility and priority levels of various items, noting other upgrades that are scheduled or have already taken place at specific agencies. Mr. Hare, with input by Jim Fogarty, presented the County's position and referenced a slide regarding Rescue 27, reviewed a Quality Assurance Review case requested by Chairman Mercado, and provided two slides with the incident analysis. Mr. Hare noted that he will meet with Chief Davidson to discuss his concerns and look further into the data.

Following discussion and upon presentation by Craig Hare, a motion was made by Gayle Guidash, seconded by Mayor Woody Brown, to approve the FY23-24 EMS System Enhancement recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Upon call for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

EMS DIRECTOR REPORT

Craig Hare presented an EMS operations report and briefed the members on the following topics (combined with last agenda item):

Jim Fogarty provided an overview of the Live 9-1-1 project, noting that the item was presented to the BCC yesterday. He discussed the successes and difficulties that the pilot has had so far, adding that more testing needs to be done to determine if this will be something that EMS & Fire will actually use.

Craig Hare introduced Commissioner Kevin Kenny as the new primary seat representing the Independent Fire Districts and Commissioner Casey Cane as the alternate. Commissioner Cane is the Palm Harbor Fire Commissioner. Dr. Zachary Zimko has joined the EMS Advisory Council representing mental health facilities and is the Medical Director of PEMHS.

Mr. Hare welcomed Jeremy Capes as the new IT Manager for Safety and Emergency Services, overseeing all things technology-wise for Safety and Emergency Services under Dave Hare; Bob Crandall as the new Applications Analyst, overseeing the ImageTrend System; Leyna Lacognata as the new EMS Data Systems Coordinator; and Jennyfer Peters as the new EMS Administrative Assistant. One last position to be filled is the Clinical Manager.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Angus Jameson presented the Medical Director's Report and briefed the members on the following topics:

- Personnel
 - Dr. Andrew Kropp has finished his training year and graduates from his EMS Fellowship tomorrow.

- Dr. Kenneth Dumas has been selected as the new EMS Fellow. He is currently one of the chief residents in the ER at Tampa General.
- Dr. Donna Dooley has stepped back from her role as Associate Medical Director and will continue on with Online Medical Control. We appreciate her dedication and value the ongoing contributions she will make in this revised capacity. Dr. Dooley was recognized at yesterday's Medical Control Board meeting and presented with an award celebrating her decade of service to the system.
- Protocols
 - Following the successful rollout of our new protocols in January, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from hospitals, acknowledging the significant impact of these protocols. The Medical Control Board has approved the updates to our cardiac arrest and cardiac dysrhythmia protocols, along with the establishment of a dedicated Critical Care Team.
- Clinical Operations
 - Dr. Jameson recently attended the quarterly State EMS meeting and the Gathering of the Eagles, which is a group comprised of medical directors from some of the largest EMS systems in the country, where he learned our recent ROSC (Return of Spontaneous Circulation) rates have been outstanding. Overall, we achieved a 32.8% rate for patients in cardiac arrest, with a remarkable 39.1% for those in shockable rhythms. These numbers exceed the averages of agencies in Florida (29%) and nationwide (26.7%). Considering the age demographic and prevalence of chronic medical conditions in our community, our performance speaks volumes about our capabilities.
 - Continuing to actively look at the utilization of Freestanding Emergency Departments (FSEDs). These facilities possess comparable capabilities to hospital-based emergency rooms, offering a wide range of services and often experience high levels of activity. Therefore, our focus is on optimizing resource utilization within communities to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of care. By leveraging these facilities, we can enhance overall healthcare efficiency while maintaining the same level of quality and expertise.
- Substance Use Disorder Programs
 - We have a strong focus on addressing substance abuse disorders, specifically Opioid Use Disorder. As part of our efforts, we have established partnership programs that aim to break the cycle of this chronic, relapsing disease. One such program is our *Leave Behind Narcan* initiative. Our ambulances, fire trucks, and fire stations are equipped with opioid overdose rescue kits, including instructions, community resources, and multiple doses of Narcan. This program enables members of the public to effectively reverse an overdose and save lives.
 - Under the federal grant program called COSSAP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program), our paramedics and EMTs can refer patients from the ambulance to long-term care for Opioid Use Disorder. Over the past year and a half, we have successfully facilitated numerous individuals' entry

into long-term treatment. This achievement is made possible by the paramedics engaging in meaningful discussions with patients in the back of the ambulance, educating them about the disease, and ultimately making valuable referrals for their continued care.

- Through a partnership program, Pinellas Matters, we collaborate with County employees and Human Services to provide comprehensive care for individuals with substance abuse disorders. Professionals from Dr. Jameson's office assist patients to get successful treatment pathways in emergency rooms, ensuring not only acute expertise but also long-term care, wraparound services, and necessary support systems.
- Closely monitoring advancements in trauma care, specifically in the areas of transfusion of whole blood products and the use of TXA (Tranexamic Acid) medication. These developments hold significant importance for individuals experiencing hemorrhage from trauma, injuries, stabbings, or shootings. We maintain strong partnerships with our colleagues at trauma centers to ensure that we are collectively aligned and up to date with the latest advances in these critical aspects of care.

FIRE CHIEFS' REPORT

Chief Chad Pittman related that the most recent meeting of the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association included discussion about BLS transport units, noting that the topic was covered earlier, and the system will continue to be monitored. Chief Pittman expressed appreciation that Craig Hare attended the Fire Chiefs' meeting and answered questions.

SUNSTAR REPORT

Jeremy Tinter provided statistical information regarding call and transport volumes, recruiting efforts, and staffing challenges. Sunstar now offers a \$30,000 relocation bonus for out-of-state paramedics in order to attract more candidates. Currently there are 4 paramedics in their pipeline, 27 EMTs in training, and 18 paramedics and 9 EMRs currently graduating from the program. Using the Earn to Learn Program in July, they are shooting for 24 EMRs to be put through the program. 26 paramedics are currently in a scholarship for any program of their choice. Mr. Tinter gave kudos to Jazmin Soloman for assisting with Narcan and CPR training for 340 Pinellas County school administrative staff.

AFFILIATES & STAKEHOLDERS

No discussion had from affiliates and stakeholders.

OPEN FORUM

Jim Fogarty highlighted that our financial services group has achieved remarkable success in ambulance collections. Currently, they are projected to collect over \$13 million more than the budgeted amount. This accomplishment is particularly noteworthy considering the challenging environment in the industry and the need for careful coordination with County employees. The financial services team, led by Jodie Sechler, deserves recognition for her team's exceptional effort in securing these additional funds. This financial achievement is significant as it supports non-tax-supported initiatives and services.

Mr. Fogarty also acknowledged Regional 9-1-1's impressive 10-second answer times, highlighting that despite handling over 2000 calls daily, on some days 9-1-1 approaches 100% 10-second answer times and is consistently in the high 90s. He noted that this exceptional level of responsiveness is a testament to the efficiency and dedication of the Regional 9-1-1 Center in promptly addressing emergency calls.

Siomara Bridges-Mata introduced herself as the newly appointed Executive Director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and sits as an EMS Advisory Council member representative for NAMI-Pinellas.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2023, format to be in person.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kevin Kenney, seconded by Dr. Eric Carver and carried unanimously, Chairman Mercado adjourned the meeting at 12:13 P.M.

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

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2023**

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council met in person at the John Morroni EMS & Fire Administration Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Conference Room 130, Largo, Florida, at 10:00 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Commissioner Julie Peluso, Independent Fire District Elected Official – Chair
Jorge Mercado, Citizen Representative (District 7) – Vice-Chair
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics - Secretary
Tina Ambrose, Citizen Representative (District 4)
Becca Tieder, Citizen Representative (District 5)
Ty Dougherty, Citizen Representative (District 6)
Mayor Dave Gattis, Mayors' Council (Belleair Beach)
Mayor Dan Saracki, Mayors' Council (Oldsmar)
Mayor Sandra Bradbury, Mayors' Council (Pinellas Park)
Gayle Guidash, Pinellas County Health Department
Chief Scott Young, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association (Alternate)
Chief Anthony Tedesco, City of Clearwater Fire Chief (Alternate)
Chief Terry Tokarz, EMS Coordinator
Capt. Michael Leiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Nancy Hopkins, Emergency Nurses' Association West Coast Florida Chapter
Capt. Thomas Kras, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue (Alternate)
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society
Dr. Zachary Zimko, PEMHS, Mental Health Professional

Absent:

Mayor Woody Brown, Mayors' Council (Largo)
Karen Mullins, Citizen Representative (District 1)
Larri Gerson, Citizen Representative (District 2)
Jeri Reed, Citizen Representative (District 3)
Dr. Eric Carver, St. Petersburg College
Jo Dee Nicosia, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Denise Whitfield, National Alliance on Mental Illness (Alternate)

Staff Present:

Lourdes Benedict, Assistant County Administrator
Cody Ward, County Attorney's Office
Dr. Angus Jameson, Medical Director
Dr. Donna Dooley, Associate Medical Director
James Fogarty, Bureau Director, Safety and Emergency Services
Dave Hare, Safety and Emergency Services
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Ken Grimes, EMS & Fire Administration
Mark Eggers, EMS & Fire Administration
Chris Jordan, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Fire Chaplain Rev. Milton Smith, All First Responders Matter, LLC
Chaplain Chris Ireland, Palm Harbor Fire & Rescue/All First Responders Matter
Commissioner Kevin Kenney, Independent Fire District Elected Official (Alternate)
Chief John Mortellite, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue
Chief Douglas Higley, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue
Chief Scott Sanford, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District
Chief Alex Bowlby, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Chief Douglas Zimmerman, EMS Coordinator (Alternate)
Jeremy Tinter, Sunstar Paramedics (Alternate)
Jasmin Soloman, Sunstar Paramedics
Siomara Bridges-Mata, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Pinellas
Kelly Cisarik, Citizen
Dan Mynsberge, Citizen
Sarah Kochen, SPC Student

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Julie Peluso called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. Roll call was taken, and Lynn Abbott confirmed that a quorum was met. There were 18 voting members in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Invocation by Chaplain Chris Ireland, Palm Harbor Fire and Rescue, All First Responders Matter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Appointment of Chair – Following discussion regarding nominations for Chair, Commissioner Kevin Kenney moved, seconded by Mayor Dan Saracki, that Jorge Mercado be appointed Chairman of the EMS Advisory Council. Upon call for the vote, the motion was approved unanimously.
- Appointment of Vice-Chair – Following discussion regarding nominations for Vice-Chair, Mayor Dan Saracki moved, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Kenney, that Mayor Sandra Bradbury be appointed Vice-Chair of the EMS Advisory Council. Upon call for the vote, the motion was approved unanimously.
- Appointment of Secretary – Following discussion regarding nominations for Secretary, Mayor Dan Saracki moved, seconded by Mayor Sandra Bradbury, that Gayle Guidash be appointed Secretary of the EMS Advisory Council. Upon call for the vote, the motion was approved unanimously.
- Refreshing/Confirmation of Executive Committee – Jorge Mercado and Chief Terry Tokarz agreed to remain on as members of the EMS Advisory Council Executive Committee.

Following discussion, Mayor Sandra Bradbury and Gayle Guidash volunteered to serve as members of the EMS Advisory Council Executive Committee. Follow up to be conducted with Dr. Eric Carver regarding refreshing his membership on the Executive Committee.

- Refreshing/Confirmation of Selection Committee – Jorge Mercado and Gayle Guidash agreed to remain on as members of the EMS Advisory Council Selection Committee. Follow up to be conducted with Mayor Woody Brown and Larri Gerson regarding refreshing their membership on the Selection Committee.

Commissioner Peluso passed the gavel to Jorge Mercado, who chaired the remainder of the EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC) meeting. Craig Hare thanked Commissioner Peluso for her dedicated service to EMSAC over the years.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2022 MEETING - APPROVED

Upon presentation by Chair Jorge Mercado, a motion was made by Mayor Sandra Bradbury, seconded by Mayor Dan Saracki and unanimously approved, that the minutes of the December 16, 2022 EMS Advisory Council meeting be approved.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Chair Mercado called for citizens wishing to be heard, and Kelly Cisarek provided commentary on Sunstar's response time regarding a 9-1-1 call made in February and commented that a review of how the Growth Management program is working systemwide be conducted at the next EMSAC meeting in June.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF FIRST RESPONDER ENHANCEMENTS

Craig Hare provided an overview of the budget recommendation/approval processes, cost increases, sustainable funding, and system operation complexities, noting that call volume jumped 7 percent from 2021 and was 4 percent higher from January to January.

Referring to a draft document titled *Pinellas County EMS – ALS First Responder Program Enhancement Request Summary FY23-24*, Mr. Hare discussed various countywide projects, and the following agencies presented their FY23-24 enhancement recommendations:

- Clearwater Fire & Rescue, Chief Tony Tedesco.
- Largo Fire Rescue, Chief Terry Tokarz.
- Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District, Chief Scott Sanford.
- Pinellas Park Fire Department, Chief Alex Bowlby.
- Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue, Chief Douglas Higley (gave PowerPoint presentation).
- Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue, Chief Scott Young.

Discussion ensued regarding the following topics:

- Levrum – Rolling out of the Levrum system workload and response times. It was developed by a retired fire chief out of Oregon, and 15 of our fire chiefs have been trained as power users and plan to meet this afternoon to finalize some of the modules.
- Community Paramedic Program – Our new Growth Management Coordinator will be assisting with program. One of the core takeaways from models across the country is that you really need to identify a specific gap in your community and bring in a resource to address that gap.
- Fire Academy – Discussed the lack of a regionally available fire training facility and upcoming plans to conduct a fire training center assessment, with an eye to restoring our aging Fire Academy.

EMS DIRECTOR REPORT

Craig Hare presented an EMS operations report and briefed the members on the following topics:

- Staffing
 - Welcomed Ken Grimes, the new EMS & Fire Operations Manager, and provided background information and a brief employment history.
 - Craig Queen is retiring, and the Credentials Coordinator position to be posted soon.
 - Looking to have a dedicated coordinator position for ImageTrend, the new Fire and EMS records system.

- Plans to upgrade the previous Training Coordinator position to a Clinical Manager.
- Brenda Dixon has retired, and recruitment is ongoing to replace her position.
- Membership Updates
 - The Pinellas County Medical Society has dissolved. Plans to update the MCB Ordinance to amend MCB Bylaws to include a pediatrician from All Children's Hospital, Dr. Meghan Martin, and the EMSAC Bylaws to include a mental health professional, Dr. Zachary Zimko.
- Appointment/Reappointments
 - The reappointments of Becca Tieder, Jorge Mercado, Chief Chad Pittman, Chief Scott Young and Commissioner Kevin Kenney and the appointment of Commissioner Casey Cane to be presented for approval to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on April 11.
- EKG Project Restart
 - Philips is on a continued FDA hold. Discussed plans to move forward with second vendor, Stryker Physio's LifePak 15, and estimated time frame for training and equipment deployment.
 - EMS Training Committee to have agency-by-agency cardiac training with American Heart Association standards.
- ImageTrend
 - Project is well underway on this new integrated medical records system. There are about 45 people on ten different committees who will undergo workshops over the spring and early summer. The link to the CAD system, Hexagon, will likely occur Spring 2024.
- Pandemic Condition Plan
 - Pinellas County plans to follow rescinding the National Public Health Emergency declaration on May 11 and turning off Pandemic Condition Green, with two exceptions. By resolution from the Medical Control Board, we will keep the Emergency Medical Responder component as well as a the BLS ambulance to 9-1-1 program.
- EMS Academy
 - Mark Eggers, EMS Academy Coordinator, spoke briefly about the implementation of a new immersion room that provides real-life scenarios for trainees. Further discussion ensued over financial support for prospective students.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Angus Jameson presented the Medical Director's Report and briefed the members on the following topics:

- Protocols
 - Reminded the Board of the new Pinellas County Office of the Medical Director's website, <https://pcemsomd.com/>, a one-stop repository for all system stakeholders.
- Personnel
 - Noted that the current EMS fellow, Dr. Andrew Kropp, will be graduating in June and that for next year, Dr. Ken Dumas, one of our chief residents at Tampa General, has been matched as next year's Fellow.
 - Indicated that today is Match Day across the country and encouraged anyone who knows of a student in medical school to find out where they are going for their residency.
- Clinical Operations
 - Increased Freestanding Emergency Department utilization, as approved by the Medical Control Board, that will help balance the workload across available resources in the community.

- Substance Use Disorder Programs
 - Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP), a federal grant program that Pinellas County has been using for about a year and a half that provides for direct referrals from the back of the ambulance to an opioid treatment provider in the community. In two years, hundreds of patients have been referred to treatment, and state funding from the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Program (CORP) has recently been secured that will allow us to make the program available on weekends.
 - Leave Behind Narcan, a program that went live in January authorizing EMS agencies who have either responded to an individual experiencing an opioid-related overdose or someone they believe may be otherwise at risk of opioid overdose to leave behind an overdose response kit. Kits are being distributed during calls, at special events, or at fire stations. About 50 kits have been given out to date.
 - ED Bridge to Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT) Pathways to Care, a Pinellas County Human Services partnership with Bayfront, a replication of a program started by Dr. Heather Henderson at Tampa General, who along with Dr. Andrew Smith, is providing another pathway of care to avoid opioid overdoses. Program was implemented 8 months ago. Looking forward to expansion to more hospitals.

FIRE CHIEFS' REPORT

Chief Scott Young provided statistical information regarding Fire Rescue Core CAD responses, including structure fires, extrications, and Hazmat calls. He also announced that there will be a Fire Ops 101 event coming up in May.

SUNSTAR REPORT

Richard Schomp discussed the system's increased call volume, noting that Sunstar was able to respond to the recent shooting of a deputy with a level of service that led to a positive outcome. He provided statistical information regarding transport volume, recruiting efforts, and staffing challenges. Sunstar has graduated nine EMTs into the system through a fully paid program and just started its fourth EMR hiring class. It takes two years to grow a paramedic, but he emphasized that the BLS to 9-1-1 program is working as designed and provides a great outlet when the system gets overwhelmed.

AFFILIATES & STAKEHOLDERS

Craig Hare shared that Jo Dee Nicosia has been promoted to a larger role within NAMI-Pinellas. NAMI's Board meeting is today, and we will be advised of her replacement.

OPEN FORUM

There was no Open Forum discussion.

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

June 23, September 29, and December 15, 2023.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2023, format to be in person.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Dan Saracki, seconded by Mayor Sandra Bradbury and carried unanimously, Chair Mercado adjourned the meeting at 12:03 P.M.

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



Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

June 26, 2023

Chairman Janet C. Long
Vice-Chairman Kathleen Peters
Commissioner Dave Eggers
Commissioner Renee Flowers
Commissioner Charlie Justice
Commissioner Chris Latvala
Commissioner Brian Scott

Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners,

The Pinellas County EMS Advisory Council would like to nominate Mr. Christopher Markham to fill the vacant District 1 Citizen Representative position. Should Mr. Markham become unavailable to serve, then we would like to nominate Mr. Michael DiBuono. This is a two-year term.

The Pinellas County EMS Advisory Council would like to nominate Ms. Doreen Caudell to fill the vacant District 2 Citizen Representative position. Should Ms. Caudell become unavailable to serve, then we would like to nominate Ms. Heather Vernillo. This is a two-year term.

The EMSAC Selection Committee met on June 23, 2023, and reviewed all applications received and rank ordered these four citizens to fill the position. The position had been duly advertised and six (6) citizens had submitted applications.

Respectfully,

Jorge Mercado, Chairman
Pinellas County EMS Advisory Council

cc: Mr. Barry A. Burton, County Administrator
Ms. Lourdes Benedict, Assistant County Administrator
Mr. James G. Fogarty, Director, Safety and Emergency Services
Mr. Craig A. Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration



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Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
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Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners,

On June 23, 2023, the EMS Advisory Council met in session to review and provide feedback on the Fiscal Year 2023 ALS First Responder Enhancements. The proposed enhancements were presented by the EMS & Fire Administration staff as well as various city and fire district officials.

Specific enhancements include:

Largo Fire Rescue – Medic 42 Peak / Civilian Unit
Pinellas Park Fire Department – Squad 36
Safety Harbor Fire Department – Medic 53 Pilot Project
Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue - Rescue 69
Traffic Preemption Project

After thorough review and consideration, the EMS Advisory Council voted to unanimously support the enhancements as presented.

Respectfully,

Jorge Mercado, Chairman
Pinellas County EMS Advisory Council

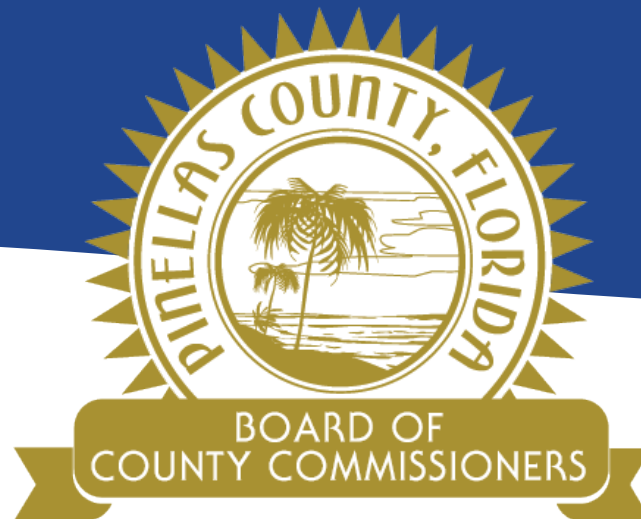
cc: Mr. Barry A. Burton, County Administrator
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EMS Advisory Council

Briefing on EMS System Enhancements FY23-24

Craig A. Hare

EMS & Fire Administration Director



Our Vision:
To Be the Standard for
Public Service in America

017

Projects & Initiatives



- In Progress
 - PRIME – Pinellas Regional Information Management Enterprise
 - Hexagon Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)
 - 911, Sheriff/Police, Fire/EMS, Ambulance Countywide
 - Mid 2024

Projects & Initiatives



Units Fire Events ... Fire Combo **Fire Calltaker** Broadcasts Messages My Event

Command Line...

Call Taking

Form Type Dispatch Event Schedule Event Accept Closed Event

* Location

* Type Sub-type Alarm Level
Select... Select... 1

Remarks

AGENCY RESPONSE

Launch ProQA

ProQA Case Number ProQA Case Type Phone Type
Select One

Caller Information

Caller Name Phone Number Source
Select One

Caller Location

Additional Caller Info

My Eve

Projects & Initiatives



Units Fire Events ... Fire Combo Fire Calltaker Broadcasts Messages My Event

Command Line...

Ending Fire (3) All Pending (489)

Search Events... Showing 3 events based on tab filters: Agency: CLFD, DUFD, ELFD, GUFD, LAFD, LEFD, MBFD, OLFD, PAFD, PHFD, PSFD, R911... + More

Priority	M-	Type	Event ID	Subtype	Updates	Location	Units	Timer	S	Primary	D-Group	Created I	Updated By	Geofence
P2		FD-RQST	FD23000448			10700 GULF BLVD, ST PETERSBURG			P		FTAC-DSP	100063	0	
P2		FD-RQST	FD23000449			8 GULF BLVD, INDIAN ROCKS BEACH			P	IR1ASO	FTAC-DSP	100063	100063	
P3		53_SERVICE	FD23000452	ALPHA		900 N MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE, CLE...		-02d 21h	P		FTAC-DSP	100031	0	

Cravo Assigned (2) Gulf Assigned (1) Echo Assigned (0) All Fire Assigned (6) Charlie Assigned (0) Delta Assigned (0) Foxtrot Assigned (0) All (508)

Search Events... Showing 2 events based on tab filters: Agency: CLFD, DUFD, ELFD, GUFD, LAFD, LEFD, MBFD, OLFD, PAFD, PHFD, PPFD, PSFD, R911, SBFD, SEFD, SHFD, SPFD, TIFD, TSFD, DispatchGroup: FTAC-B, ... + More

Priority	M-	Type	Event ID	Subtype	Updates	Location	Units	Timer	S	Primary	D-Group	Created I	Updated By	Geofence
P1		69_STRUCTURE_FIRE	FD23000446	WF_Com		7150 US HIGHWAY 19 N, PINELLAS PARK	D16 D34 D35 E16 R16		A	D16	FTAC-B	100066	100008	
P1		14_DROWNING	FD23000451	ALPHA		245 PLUMOSA DR, LARGO	LR35 R42		A	R42	FTAC-B	100015	100008	

Projects & Initiatives

- In Progress
 - Image Trend Fire/EMS Records Management System
 - EMS Reports, Fire Reports, Fire Inspections, Pre-Plans
 - Health Information Hub with Hospitals
 - Configuration Committees - June/July
 - Power Users - July/August/September
 - Systemwide Review - September
 - Systemwide Training - October
 - Live - November 2023

Projects & Initiatives

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the "Rapid Entry" form. The browser address bar shows the URL: pinellascountry.imagetrendelite.com/Elite/Organizationpinellascountry/Agencyimagetrend/EmsRunForm#/Incident126/Form17. The form has a left sidebar with a search bar and a list of menu items: Rapid Entry, CAD Info/Dispatch, On Scene, Patient Info, Patient History, Patient Assessment, Activities, Narrative, Outcome/Disposition, Community Outreach, Billing Info, Signatures, File Attachments, and NFIRS. The main content area is titled "Rapid Entry" and contains a yellow notification bar at the top stating "7 patient records match the information entered. Click Find a Repeat Patient to add the patient." Below this, the form fields include: First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Age, Age Units (Days, Hours, Minutes, Months, Years), Gender (Female, Male, Unknown, Transgender options), Social Security Number, Patient's Home Address, Patient's Home ZIP Code, Patient Address Postal Code Lookup, and Patient's Home City. A bottom status bar shows "100 Validation", "Status: Draft", and "No Patient Name Entered".

Projects & Initiatives



Projects & Initiatives

- In Progress
 - Physio Lifepak 15 EKG Monitors
 - July – Train the Trainer /Power User Training
 - August/September – Training All EMTs/Paramedics
 - Go Live by Agency
 - October – Fully Deployed
 - 160 Fire Rescue; 80 Sunstar
 - \$10M Total Project



EMS Advisory Council



Mission

Study and analyze the procedures and protocols of Emergency Medical Services throughout Pinellas County.

Recommend to the EMS Authority (Board of County Commissioners) and staff such actions as deemed necessary to ensure high quality emergency medical services throughout Pinellas County.

Review and comment upon all rules, regulations and procedures that are adopted by the Medical Control Board which do not require emergency action by the Pinellas County EMS Medical Director.

ALS First Responder Budget



- Baseline Budget Increase FY22-23 to FY23-24
 - Funding Adjustments 16 of 18 Departments over 3% Cap
 - Budget Increasing from \$64.8M to \$70.7M or \$5.9M (9.1% increase)
 - 6-Year Financial Forecast – Balanced with Adequate Reserves
 - EMS Authority may do a partial rollback to give some relief to taxpayers

■ FY23-24 EMS System Enhancements

■ **Temple Glance Traffic Preemption**

- \$2.5M Capital Project with County Highway Department
- ALS First Responder Units and Ambulances
- Approximately 250-300 Intersections – will need a Traffic Engineering Review
- Will be working on Governance/Policy
- System will enhance safety and decrease emergency response times for every unit on every emergency response
- Will be working on partnerships with Clearwater and St. Pete Traffic Systems

■ FY23-24 EMS System Enhancements

■ Temple Glance Traffic Preemption

- Pilot Project - East Lake Road Corridor and East Lake Fire Rescue
 - May 2022 Emergency Response Times - 85%
 - May 2023 Emergency Response Times – 91%
 - Saving 10-15 Seconds per Intersection
 - Crews feel safer and less stress as they respond
 - Traffic is clearing consistently ahead of them
 - Crews aren't breaking through intersections a lane a time hoping that motorists stop
 - [Temple Glance Video](#)

■ FY23-24 EMS System Enhancements

■ **Water Rescue Staffing for Holidays**

- Will recommend update to County EMS Water Rescue Grant to allow reimbursement for Marine Unit staffing on Holiday weekends
- Funding within the existing funding cap to start
- May be able to have this in place for Labor Day Weekend

■ FY23-24 EMS System Enhancements

- **Largo Medic 42 Peak/Civilian Unit; Mid-Year**
- **Pinellas Park Squad 36; Full Year**
 - Fire Station 36 and Squad 36 as Contractor Funded x 3 Years
- **Safety Harbor Medic 53 Peak Unit +1 40 Hour Pilot Project**
 - Peak Unit will be flexibly deployed; 1 Year Pilot; Existing Vehicle
- **Tarpon Springs Rescue 69 +1 24/7 Position; Mid-Year**
 - City will Contactor Fund Squad 69; Rescue Unit arriving mid 2024

■ Fire Rescue Transport Update

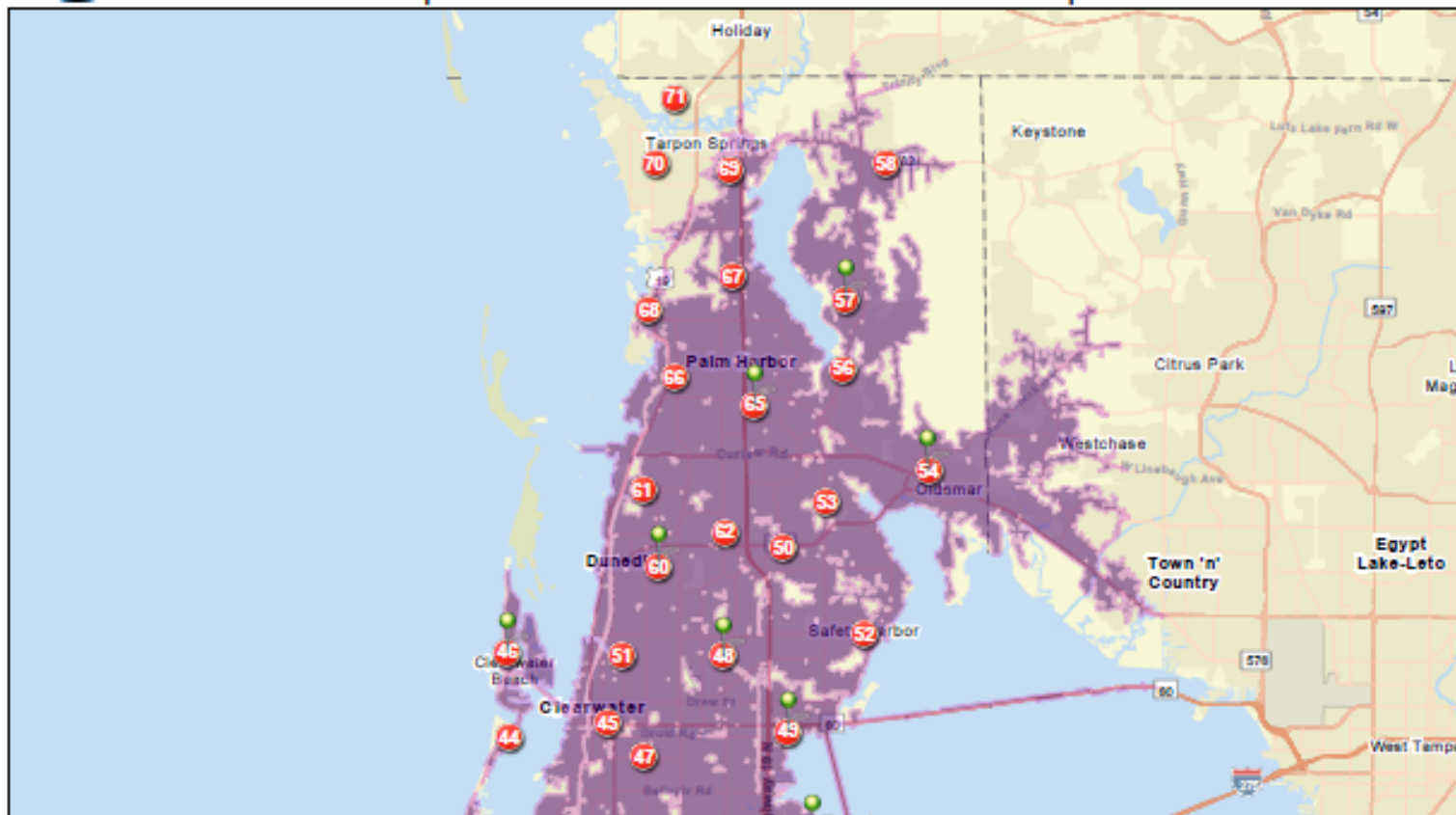
- Medical Control Board Resolution 23-01 to continue BLS 911 and EMR BLS Interfacility effective May 11, 2023
- Updated Medical Control Directive to encourage Transport by Rescue Unit if BLS 911 Ambulance Assigned
- MCD encourages matching BLS Patients to BLS Ambulances and ALS Patients to ALS Ambulances
- Goal to reduce FD Ride In – Pre-Pandemic was 10% and currently about 12%
- Collaborative discussion with Fire Chiefs, Medical Director and Sunstar
- May 2023 – 30 Fire Rescue Transports
- Over the last 5 years, System has built geographic coverage of Rescue Units within a 10-minute drive time for “surge capacity”

■ Fire Rescue Transport Update

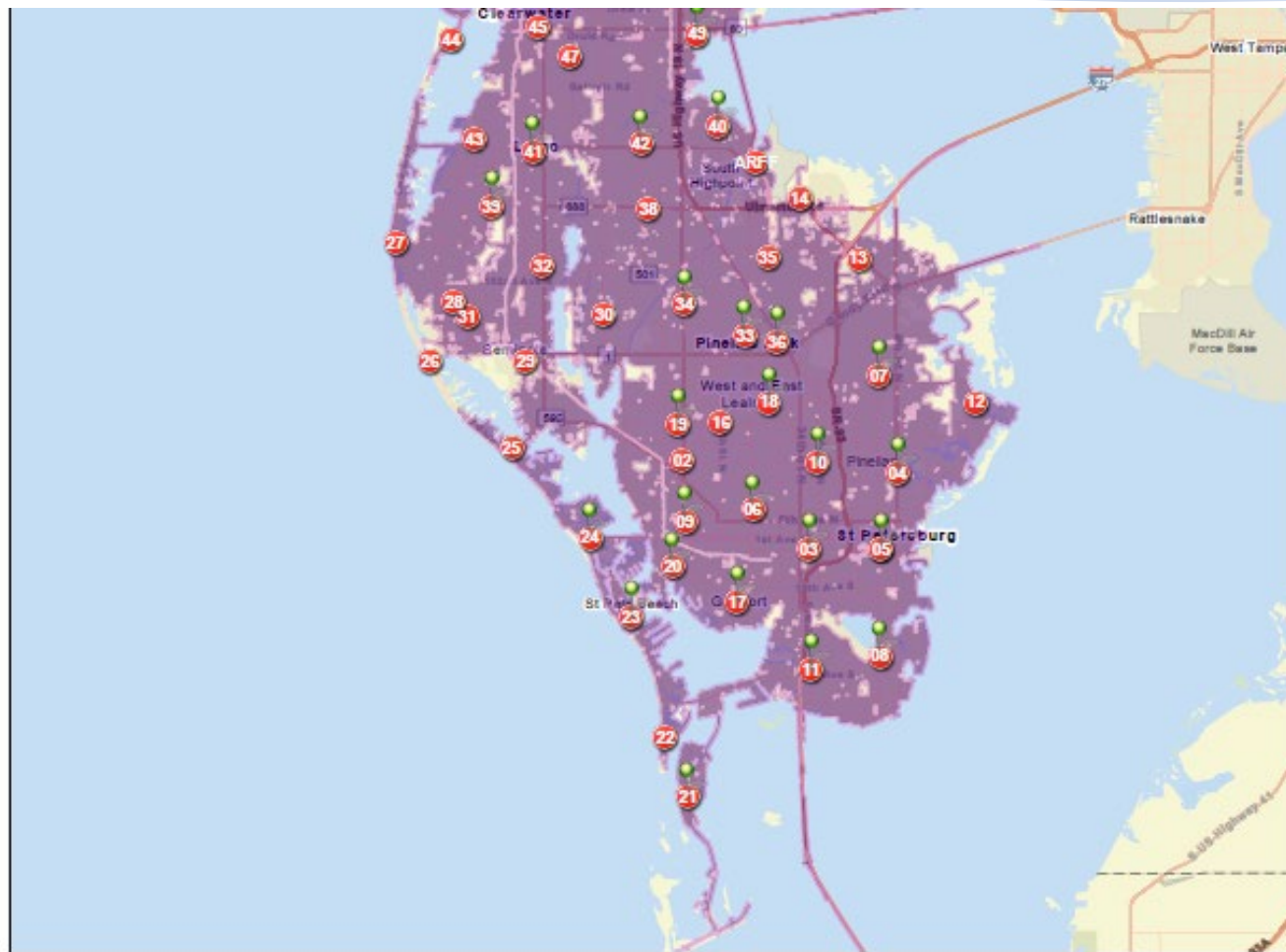


Pinellas County Safety and Emergency Services

Transport Units 10 Minute Drivetimes Full No Proposed



■ Fire Rescue Transport Update



■ Deferred EMS System Enhancements

■ **Holding off on Supervisory Position Additions due to Systemwide Paramedic Staffing Issues**

- Clearwater LR49; Dunedin LR62; Largo LA502; Oldsmar OL500; Palm Harbor LR65; Pinellas Park PP501; St Pete Beach District Chief 23
- Workforce Roundtable to be planned for July or August – focus on Paramedic Training

■ **Rescue Units not indicated**

- Clearwater Rescue 49A; Pinellas Suncoast Rescue 27

Recommendation to the EMS Authority



- Recommend to the EMS Authority through formal action of the Advisory Council and correspondence from the Chairman on the following:
 - **FY23-24 EMS System Enhancements**

 - **Other Recommendations?**

Thank you for your support

Rescue 27



- Request from Pinellas Suncoast for +2 24/7 Positions and a Rescue Unit.
- No compromise for phased-in approach for vehicle/staffing or to coincide with a new station. All other Enhancements have been collaborative City/District and County projects.
- Response Zone 27 has an average of 5 EMS calls/day – justification for a geographic ALS Engine per Level of Service Resolution 09-37; Engine 27 is already funded by the EMS Authority.
- Transport Unit geographic coverage not indicated.
- Belleair Beach and Belleair Shore are being covered by 1st Clearwater Engine 44; 2nd Largo Engine 43; and 3rd Pinellas Suncoast Engine 27 – solid coverage of for these municipalities.
- EMS System responds closest unit without regard to jurisdiction; District would be responsible for adding or moving a Fire Station if they want to improve coverage– Station 27 has been there for 50 years.
- Belleair Beach and Belleair Shore 172 EMS Calls in 2022; 131 Emergency Responses – 87.9% within 7:30; 90% at 7 minutes 40 seconds. Level of Service is comparable to other service areas.

Incident #3096832 on 06/11/23 at 17:59 - 2300 GULF BL-IR:

Fire Rescue

- 18:07 Engine 27 At Patient – 6 Minute Response; 8 Minutes Elapsed
- 18:07 District Chief 27 In Command
- 18:07 40-Year-Old Male – Bicycle Accident - Trauma Alert Declared
- 18:10 Rescue 47 Dispatched for FD Transport
- 18:15 Bayflite Reporting 15 Minute ETA; Cancelled by Command (Faster by Ground)
- 18:21 Rescue 47 On Scene – 13 Minute Response; 22 Minutes Elapsed
- 18:23 Rescue 47 Transporting to Bayfront
- 18:55 Rescue 47 Arrival at Bayfront Trauma Center – 56 Minutes Elapsed

**Reviewed Dispatch Report and Patient Care Reports – Response and Care looks appropriate.
Fire/EMS System Responded as Designed.**

Sunstar

18:04 Sunstar 184 BLS Ambulance Responding; Cancelled Enroute when Rescue 47 Assigned.

495 Patients Transported – 3 Fire Rescue Transports

50 Ambulances on the Street in the Hour of 18:00

33 911 EMS Incidents with Transport and 4 Non-Emergency Transports

Fire/EMS System Activity

33 911 EMS Incidents Working in the 18:00 Hour

System very busy with several significant calls:

- Gulf Blvd St Pete Beach – Trauma Alert x1
- Central/49th – Trauma Alert x2
- Gulf Blvd Indian Rocks – Trauma Alert x1 (Call Noted Above)
- Meadowood Drive Clearwater – Trauma Alert x1
- Palmetto St Clearwater – Cardiac Arrest

Research on the Mental Health Detrimental Effects of Live911 on Firefighters

Increased Exposure to Traumatic Events: The Live911 system provides live audio feeds from emergency dispatch calls, allowing firefighters to listen to incoming calls and communications in real time. This continuous exposure to distressing and potentially traumatic incidents can have a cumulative impact on the mental well-being of firefighters. Hearing distressing calls repeatedly may lead to increased stress, anxiety, and potentially contribute to the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other mental health issues.

Bowers, C. A., Beidel, D. C., & Marks, M. R. (Eds.). (2019). *Mental health intervention and treatment of first responders and emergency workers*. IGI Global.

Foa, E. B., Zinbarg, R., & Rothbaum, B. O. (1992). Uncontrollability and unpredictability in post-traumatic stress disorder: an animal model. *Psychological Bulletin*, 112(2), 218-238.

Hancock, L., & Bryant, R. A. (2018). Posttraumatic stress, uncontrollability, and emotional distress tolerance. *Depression and Anxiety*, 35(11), 1040-1047.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2018). *First responders: Behavioral health concerns, emergency response, and trauma*. Washington, DC: SAMHSA.

Emotional Toll: Listening to distressing or challenging emergency calls through the Live911 system can evoke strong emotional responses among firefighters. They may be exposed to traumatic details, the sounds of people in distress, or critical incidents involving loss of life or severe injuries. This emotional toll can lead to increased psychological distress, compassion fatigue, or emotional exhaustion among firefighters.

Kim, R., Ha, J. H., & Jue, J. (2020). The moderating effect of compassion fatigue in the relationship between firefighters' burnout and risk factors in working environment. *Journal of Risk Research*, 23(11), 1491-1503.

Jahnke, S. A., Poston, W. S. C., Haddock, C. K., & Murphy, B. (2016). Firefighting and mental health: Experiences of repeated exposure to trauma. *Work*, 53(4), 737-744.

Information Overload: The Live911 system provides a constant stream of audio information, which can contribute to information overload. Firefighters may need to process and prioritize multiple incidents simultaneously, leading to increased cognitive load and potential stress. This constant exposure to emergency communications and the need to process and respond to incoming information quickly can impact mental well-being and decision-making abilities.

Hall, A., & Walton, G. (2004). Information overload within the health care system: a literature review. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 21(2), 102-108.

Misra, S., Roberts, P., & Rhodes, M. (2020). Information overload, stress, and emergency managerial thinking. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 51, 101762.

Lack of Psychological Support: While the Live911 system facilitates the dissemination of incident information, it does not inherently address the mental health support needs of firefighters. Fire departments should ensure that they have appropriate mental health support systems in place to address the potential psychological impact of using the Live911 system. Access to critical incident stress debriefing, counseling services, and ongoing mental health resources is essential for mitigating the negative mental health consequences associated with exposure to traumatic events.

Bowers, C. A., Beidel, D. C., & Marks, M. R. (Eds.). (2019). *Mental health intervention and treatment of first responders and emergency workers*. IGI Global.

Vujanovic, A. A., & Tran, J. K. (2021). Providing psychological services to firefighters. *Journal of Health Service Psychology, 47*(3), 137-148.

Disruptive Sleep Patterns: The Live911 system operates in real time and provides continuous updates on emergency incidents. Firefighters may be required to remain alert and responsive during their shifts, even during nighttime hours. This can lead to disrupted sleep patterns, as they may be awakened by incoming calls or incidents, causing fragmented sleep and reducing the overall quality of their rest. Even minimal sleep disruption affected cognitive processes leading to decreased cognitive processing speed, poor visual-motor coordination, and decreased reaction times, increasing the likelihood of poor work performance and injury. Furthermore, sleep deprivation leads to increases in negative emotions (stress, depression, anger) and decreases in positive emotions (happiness, relaxation), with some evidence for greater decrements in positive emotions.

Palmer, C.A., & Alfano, C.A. (2017). Sleep and emotion regulation: An organizing, integrative review. *Sleep Medicine Reviews, 31*, 6-16.

Banks, S., & Dinges, D. F. (2007). Behavioral and physiological consequences of sleep restriction. *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, 3*(5), 519-528.

Stout, J.S., Beidel, D.C., Brush, D., & Bowers, C.A. (2021). Sleep disturbance and cognitive functioning among firefighters. *Journal of Health Psychology, 26*, 2248-2259.

Haddock, C. K., Poston, W. S., Jitnarin, N., & Jahnke, S. A. (2013). Excessive daytime sleepiness in firefighters in the central United States. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, 55*(4), 416-423.

Increased Fatigue: Firefighters who are consistently exposed to the Live911 system may experience increased fatigue due to disrupted sleep patterns. Lack of adequate rest can lead to physical and cognitive fatigue, reducing their overall alertness, performance, and decision-making abilities. Prolonged fatigue can also contribute to an increased risk of accidents and injuries during emergency response operations.

Banks, S., & Dinges, D. F. (2007). Behavioral and physiological consequences of sleep restriction. *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*, 3(5), 519-528.

Haddock, C. K., Poston, W. S., Jitnarin, N., & Jahnke, S. A. (2013). Excessive daytime sleepiness in firefighters in the central United States. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 55(4), 416-423.

Difficulty in Obtaining Sufficient Rest: The nature of emergency response work often involves irregular schedules and long shifts, which can make it challenging for firefighters to obtain sufficient restorative sleep. The Live911 system, by providing real-time incident updates, may contribute to heightened levels of arousal and difficulty winding down for sleep, further exacerbating the challenge of obtaining restful sleep.

Haddock, C. K., Poston, W. S., Jitnarin, N., & Jahnke, S. A. (2013). Excessive daytime sleepiness in firefighters in the central United States. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 55(4), 416-423.

Stout, J.S., Beidel, D.C., Brush, D., & Bowers, C.A. (2021). Sleep disturbance and cognitive functioning among firefighters. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 26, 2248-2259.

Sleep Disruptions During Off-Duty Hours: Firefighters may have the Live911 system activated on their personal devices or receive notifications even when they are off-duty. This can lead to interruptions during their non-working hours, potentially impacting their ability to relax, unwind, and achieve uninterrupted sleep. Sleep disruptions during off-duty periods can accumulate over time, contributing to chronic sleep deprivation and associated health consequences.

Banks, S., & Dinges, D. F. (2007). Behavioral and physiological consequences of sleep restriction. *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*, 3(5), 519-528.

Grupe, D. W., & Nitschke, J. B. (2013). Uncertainty and anticipation in anxiety: an integrated neurobiological and psychological perspective. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 14(7), 488-501.

Haddock, C. K., Poston, W. S., Jitnarin, N., & Jahnke, S. A. (2013). Excessive daytime sleepiness in firefighters in the central United States. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 55(4), 416-423.

Medic, G., Wille, M., & Hemels, M. E. (2017). Short-and long-term health consequences of sleep disruption. *Nature and Science of Sleep*, 151-161.

Increased Stress and Anxiety: The nature of emergency calls and the real-time updates provided by the Live911 system can create a heightened sense of vigilance and stress among firefighters. The anticipation of potential incidents during sleep periods can increase anxiety levels and make it more

difficult to relax and fall asleep. This chronic state of heightened alertness can further contribute to sleep difficulties and impact overall well-being.

Foa, E. B., Zinbarg, R., & Rothbaum, B. O. (1992). Uncontrollability and unpredictability in post-traumatic stress disorder: an animal model. *Psychological Bulletin*, *112*(2), 218-238.

Grupe, D. W., & Nitschke, J. B. (2013). Uncertainty and anticipation in anxiety: an integrated neurobiological and psychological perspective. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, *14*(7), 488-501.

Miller, S. M. (1979). Controllability and human stress: Method, evidence and theory. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, *17*(4), 287-304.

Pervin, L. A. (1963). The need to predict and control under conditions of threat. *Journal of Personality*.

“Noise” Habituation: A common response to the heightened sense of distress that can come from the real time updates, is that individuals begin to “tune out” the messages as most are irrelevant. In other words, the individual tunes out what is distressing in order to decrease their personal stress. One simple example is habituation to city noises. It becomes white noise or background noise and loses its impact.

Banbury, S., & Berry, D. C. (1997). Habituation and dishabituation to speech and office noise. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, *3*(3), 181.

Namba, S., & Kuwano, S. (1988). Measurement of habituation to noise using the method of continuous judgment by category. *Journal of Sound and Vibration*, *127*(3), 507-511.

Öhström, E., & Björkman, M. (1988). Effects of noise-disturbed sleep—A laboratory study on habituation and subjective noise sensitivity. *Journal of Sound and Vibration*, *122*(2), 277-290.

Schroeder, B. L., Whitmer, D. E., & Sims, V. K. (2017). Toward a user-centered approach for emergency warning distribution. *Ergonomics in Design*, *25*(1), 4-10.

Kopel, D. E., Sims, V. K., & Chin, M. G. (2014, September). Taking emergency warnings seriously. In *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting* (Vol. 58, No. 1, pp. 1129-1133). Sage CA: Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications.

Kawada, T. (2011). Noise and health—Sleep disturbance in adults. *Journal of Occupational Health*, *53*(6), 413-416.

AS THE EMSAC COMMITTEE, YOU HAVE THE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AUTHORITY ON NEEDS, PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITES RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO INSURE THE DELIVERY OF GOOD, COUNTY-WIDE EMS AT A REASONABLE COST.

- EMS ENHANCEMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE A SOLUTION TO THE LONG-TIME EXISTING ISSUE OF RESPONSES INTO EMS RESPONSE AREAS PS43 AND PS44. THIS ISSUE WAS POINTED OUT BY THE COUNTY IN 2009, YET FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THESE AREA HAS NEVER BEEN PROVIDED.
- RESPONSE TIME COMPLIANCE TO THESE AREAS IS AT 72% COLLECTIVELY, WITH THE 90TH PERCENTILE AT 8-MINUTES AND 40-SECONDS. THIS IS THE ACTUAL DATA UTILIZING A ONE-YEAR PERIOD OF JUNE 2022 THROUGH JUNE 2023. DATA PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.
- THIS ENHANCEMENT IS NOT BEING REQUESTED FOR EMS AREA PS27 AS LISTED IN THE RESPONSE FROM SAFETY SERVICES. The enhancement is requested for a transport capable unit, which will provide an additional EMS unit on the beaches, and help the surrounding areas.
- PER RESOLUTION 09-37, SECTION IV, DETERMINATION OF STAFFING: VOLUME OF RESPONSES PER RESPONSE ZONE. Response zones PS43 and PS44 do not have a unit assigned to those areas, and the data proves the responses are not meeting the standards. The taxpayers of response zones PS27, PS43 and PS44, paid \$2.3M to the EMS Fund in 2022, and in return only received funding for one unit at \$689,000. Only 34% of what is paid by these residents to the County to provide services is provided, and there is a demonstrated need for improvement in those areas.
- PSFRD IS FUNDING THE ADDITIONAL FIRE STATION IN THE NORTHERN END OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, TO BETTER SERVE INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, BELLEAIR BEACH AND BELLEAIR SHORE. WE ARE ONLY ASKING FOR THE FUNDING TO PROVIDE THE PERSONNEL TO STAFF AN ADDITIONAL EMS UNIT.
- PSFRD RESIDENTS ARE SUFFERING DUE TO THE LACK OF RESOURCES. FIRE DEPARTMENT RIDE INS: PSFRD paramedics have continued patient care to the hospital with their patients **370 times since October 1, 2022**, and is on track to have 540 by September 30, 2023. This is a 200% increase from the previous year, and due to the lack of paramedics at the ambulance company. This leaves the district and its residents wide open.
- PSFRD HAS A 22% CALL CONCURENCY RATE, AT THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHERE THERE ARE UP TO 5 EMERGENCYS OCCURING AT ONE TIME.
- NEW MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE ALLOWS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO TRANSPORT PATIENTS UNDER REDUCED RESTRICTIONS PREVIOUSLY HELD. PSFRD CANNOT MEET THIS LEVEL OF CARE,

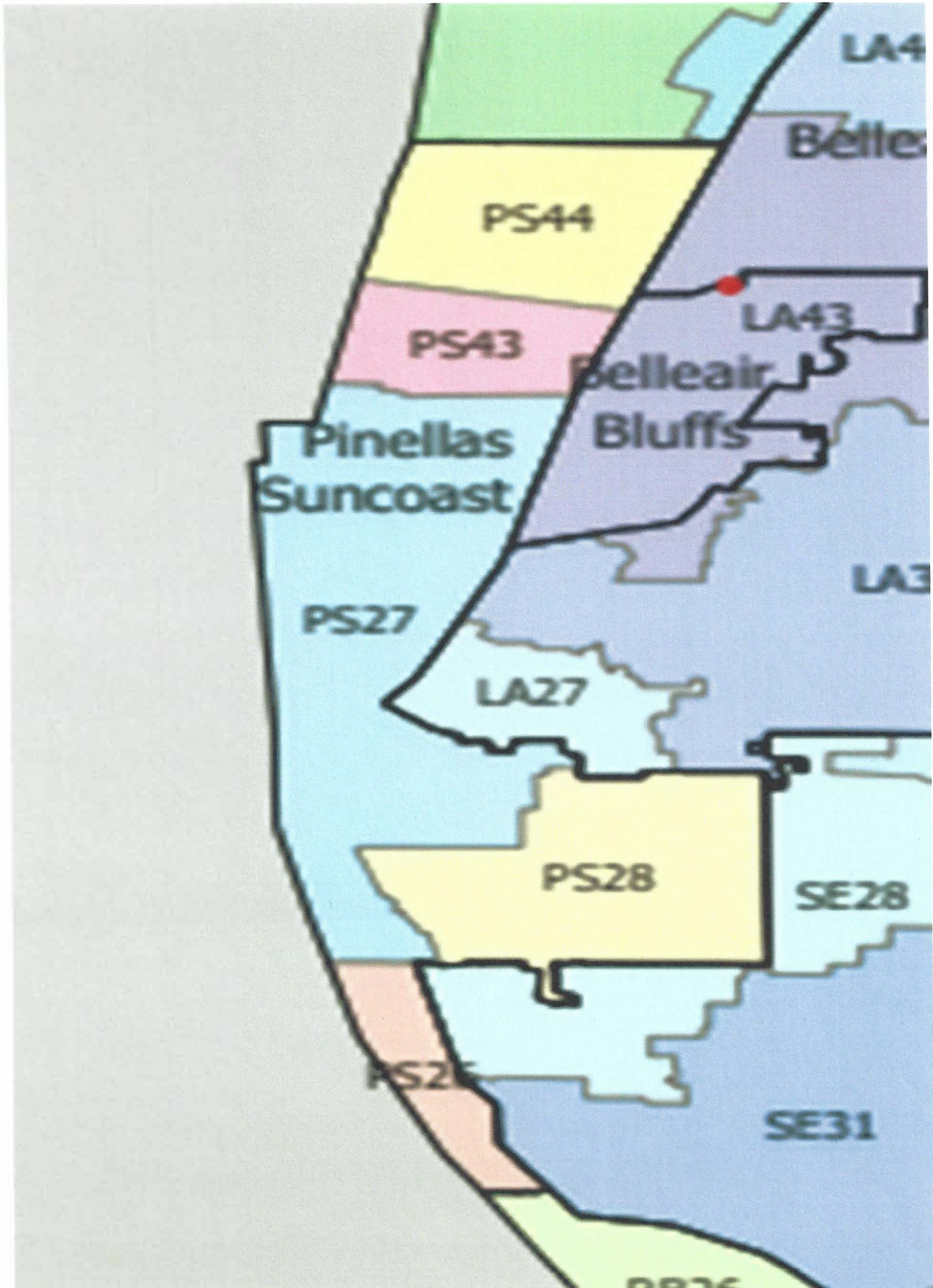
AS WE DO NOT HAVE A TRANSPORT CAPABLE RESCUE. We are asking for this enhancement so that our residents can be provided the same level of care that the rest of the County residents are provided.

- EMS FUND has an additional \$10M going to reserves this year, putting reserves at 41% for FY 23/24.
- PSFRD HAS REDUCED ITS COSTS PER SEAT THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND STREAMLINING. The additional funding will reduce the cost per seat to approximately \$645,000. This will be ranked at #9 in costs per seat for the county OF 18 Fire Departments.
- A LEVRUM STUDY WAS CONDUCTED, WHICH SHOWS THAT ADDING A 4TH STATION TO PSFRD, SOLVES THE LONG-TERM PROBLEMS IN THESE AREAS, AS WELL AS REDUCING CALL VOLUME TO OUR AUTOMATIC AID NEIGHBORS, LARGO AND CLEARWATER BY APPROXIMATELY 300 CALLS.

YOU HAVE THE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE AUTHORITY,
WHICH IS TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

10	Largo	ME42	+2 12/7	Request by City to add +2 12/7 Civilian Paramedic Positions to establish a peak time Medic Unit (i.e. Same as Medic 41). New Positions. Vehicle Needed. New Request.	Current EMS Workload on Rescue 42 is 12.2 Calls per Day and Truck 42 is 6.9 Calls per Day. Zone Demand is 16.7 Calls per Day and Combined Workload is 19.1 Calls per Day. Medic Unit not justified per 09-37.	Continue monitoring for future consideration.	\$500,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$625,000.00	
11	Largo	LA502	+1 40 Hour	Request by City to add +1 40 Hour Position to convert LA502 EMS Administrative Coordinator to Authority Funding. Vehicle Needed. New Request.	Deferring projects that would add Supervisor positions or Supervisor funding due to high number of Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancies.	Consider systemwide improvement project for EMS Supervision (like 2020) in the future.	\$100,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$175,000.00	
12	Oldsmar	OL500	+25 40 Hour	Request by City to fully fund EMS Coordinator. Currently 75% funded. Existing Position. New Request.	Deferring projects that would add Supervisor positions or Supervisor funding due to high number of Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancies.	Consider systemwide improvement project for EMS Supervision (like 2020) in the future.	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	
13	Palm Harbor	LR65	+1 24/7	Request by District to add +1 24/7 Positions to implement Rescue Lieutenant 65. New Position. Vehicle Needed. New Request.	Deferring projects that would add Supervisor positions or Supervisor funding due to high number of Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancies.	Consider systemwide improvement project for EMS Supervision (like 2020) in the future.	\$500,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$575,000.00	
14	Palm Harbor	S65	+1 24/7	Request by District to add +1 24/7 Positions to convert Squad 65 from Contractor to Authority Funding. Existing Position. New Request.	Current EMS Workload on Squad 65 is 3.7 Calls per Day. ALS Engine staffing is not justified per 09-37.	Continue monitoring for future consideration.	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00	
15	Pinellas Park	PP501	+1 40 Hour	Request by City to add +1 40 hour EMS Administrative Coordinator - 50% Shared Funding. Existing Position. Also requested in prior years.	Deferring projects that would add Supervisor positions or Supervisor funding due to high number of Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancies.	Consider systemwide improvement project for EMS Supervision (like 2020) in the future.	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	
16	Pinellas Suncoast	R27	+2 24/7	Request by District to add +2 24/7 Positions to implement Rescue 27 to serve Belleair Beach, Belleair Shore and North Indian Rocks. New Positions. Vehicle Needed. New Request.	Current EMS Workload on Engine 27 is 4.9 Calls per Day. Rescue Unit staffing is not justified per 09-37.	Continue monitoring for future consideration.	\$1,000,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$1,300,000.00	
17	St Pete Beach	D23	+50 24/7	Request by City to implement a South Beaches Rescue Lieutenant. 50/50 Shared Funding. Vehicle Needed. Existing Position. Also requested in prior years.	Deferring projects that would add Supervisor positions or Supervisor funding due to high number of Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancies.	Consider systemwide improvement project for EMS Supervision (like 2020) in the future.	\$250,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$325,000.00	
TOTAL								\$ 8,475,000.00	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$9,575,000.00

As of:
5/11/2023 17:15



FISCAL YEAR	TAXABLE VALUE	EMS MILLAGE RATE	LEVY	TO PSFRD	LESS COLLECTION FEES DISCOUNTS AND COUNTY ALLOCATION
2000	1230510900	0.647	\$796,141	\$ 766,571	\$ 29,570
2001	1341537800	0.747	\$1,002,129	\$ 795,701	\$ 206,428
2002	1532763900	0.66	\$1,011,624	\$ 819,272	\$ 192,352
2003	1777420100	0.66	\$1,173,097	\$ 844,159	\$ 328,938
2004	2034940300	0.66	\$1,343,061	\$ 874,109	\$ 468,952
2005	2300368100	0.66	\$1,518,243	\$ 922,306	\$ 595,937
2006	2776779800	0.66	\$1,832,675	\$ 957,688	\$ 874,987
2007	4049176510	0.63	\$2,550,981	\$ 1,001,011	\$ 1,549,970
2008	3555619328	0.5832	\$2,073,637	\$ 1,643,505	\$ 430,132
2009	3559423786	0.5832	\$2,075,856	\$ 1,708,603	\$ 367,253
2010	2700559002	0.5832	\$1,574,966	\$ 938,628	\$ 636,338
2011	2439994339	0.8506	\$2,075,459	\$ 545,986	\$ 1,529,473
2012	2339423742	0.9158	\$2,142,444	\$ 588,966	\$ 1,553,478
2013	2302317537	0.9158	\$2,108,462	\$ 613,664	\$ 1,494,798
2014	2413441940	0.9158	\$2,210,230	\$ 660,815	\$ 1,549,415
2015	2587208019	0.9158	\$2,369,365	\$ 704,947	\$ 1,664,418
2016	2747846713	0.9158	\$2,516,478	\$ 1,229,306	\$ 1,287,172
2017	2746401599	0.9158	\$2,515,155	\$ 1,249,589	\$ 1,265,566
2018	2959182941	0.9158	\$2,710,020	\$ 1,780,105	\$ 929,915
2019	3229823283	0.9158	\$2,957,872	\$ 1,518,419	\$ 1,439,453
2020	3484636035	0.9158	\$3,191,230	\$ 1,566,157	\$ 1,625,073
2021	3707246198	0.9158	\$3,395,096	\$ 1,627,371	\$ 1,767,725
2022	3935536289	0.9158	\$3,604,164	\$ 1,783,706	\$ 1,820,458
2023	4824559353	0.8875	\$4,281,796	\$ 2,066,753	\$ 2,215,043
			\$53,030,181	\$ 27,207,337	\$ 25,822,844 INTO THE EMS FUND



MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

2023-13 - Revised

DATE: June 6, 2023

TO: Pinellas County EMS Agencies
Pinellas County Emergency Communications
Pinellas County Certified EMTs and Paramedics
Pinellas County Certified Advanced Practice Paramedics, Nurses
Pinellas County Online Medical Control Physicians
Pinellas County Ambulance Billing and Financial Services
ED Nurse Managers

FROM: Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director

RE: Enabling BLS Transport of Selected 911 Patients for COVID-19 Mitigation - **UPDATE # 2**

DISTRIBUTION/TRAINING PERIOD: As soon as possible within 30 days

Effective Date: 0800 hrs. June 7, 2023

The following updated criteria/procedure for BLS Transport of Selected 911 patients enabling FD transport of Category RED and Category YELLOW patients under standing orders are effective June 7, 2023:

Dispatch/Field Specifics:

1. A BLS Ambulance may be assigned in place of an ALS Ambulance to Alpha and Bravo MPDS determinants when needed to prevent excessive patient wait times.
2. Additionally, a BLS ambulance may be dispatched regardless of MPDS determinant when no ALS Ambulances are available that can reach the call in 20 minutes or less
3. ALS "Ambulance ONLY" responses previously authorized for 17-Alpha and 26-Alpha in addition to selected 26-Omegas as authorized under previous growth management (MCD 2021-17) are excluded to ensure at least one Paramedic responds to all 911 calls.

4. ALS First Responder Unit advises "With Patient" - 911 Dispatch advises Sunstar Unit Id
 - BLS = 100 series
 - ALS = 200/300/400/600/900 series
 - ALS with Critical Care Paramedic = 800 series
5. After assessment, the ALS First Responder Unit will advise dispatch if their Patient is "ALS" or "BLS" to allow Sunstar to match ambulance type.

Note: If a refusal is anticipated, ALS First Responder Units should cancel the incoming Ambulance as quickly as possible to preserve system resources
6. If a BLS Ambulance remains assigned to an ALS patient, the ALS First Responder Paramedic will decide on one of the following options for completing the call:
 - a. Continue ALS patient care and transport in the BLS ambulance (must bring controlled substance box)
 - b. Initiate immediate FD transport of Category RED patients per CS5 - Transport Resource Utilization
 - c. Transport capable ALS First Responder units may initiate FD transport of Category YELLOW patients and cancel incoming BLS Ambulance
Note: OLMC Consult is not required but every effort should be made to ensure at least two (2) Paramedics are attending to Category RED patients during transport.
7. For an incident involving multiple patients, ALS First Responder will advise how many BLS and/or ALS ambulances are needed. Goal is to match ambulance type to patient (e.g., vehicle crashes).

Clinical Operating Guidelines:

1. BLS Transport Determination:
 - a. A full patient assessment (Ref. Protocol U1) must be performed by a Paramedic to determine the appropriate level of care for transport (ALS vs. BLS).

Note: If a BLS Ambulance arrives on scene first, an ALS First Responder unit must continue to perform a full patient assessment to determine the appropriate level of care for transport
 - b. Category , Yellow, and Pediatric (less than 18 years old) must be transported by ALS.
 - c. In addition, the following criteria shall be used by the Paramedic to determine transport appropriateness:

Additional Criteria	ALS	BLS
Respiratory Rate	< 12 or > 22	12 - 22
Heart Rate	< 50 or > 130	50 - 130
Systolic BP	< 90 or > 180	90 - 180
Glucose	< 70 or > 400	70 - 400
SpO2	< 94% (max 4 LPM)	
EtCO2	< 35 or > 45	35 - 45
Received or may require an ALS medication	YES	NO
Received or may require an ALS procedure (including IV access)	YES	NO
Anticipated Significant Change in Condition	YES	NO
Risk of Deterioration/Compromise in ABCDE's	YES	NO
Paramedic - Paramedic Intuition	YES	NO

- d. If a patient is determined by the Paramedic to meet criteria for transport by a BLS ambulance (without ALS criteria - see above), patient care may be transferred.
- e. If the appropriate level of care is unable to be determined, ALS care must continue.
- f. ***The Paramedic will continue patient care during transport if requested to ride in by the BLS ambulance personnel.***
- g. If the patient condition begins to deteriorate during transport by a BLS ambulance, the EMT must use best judgement as to if the best course of action is to continue to the closest emergency department or request and wait for ALS assistance to complete the transport.

2. Handoff from Paramedic to the BLS ambulance EMT shall include:

- a. A verbal report consisting of:
 - i. Chief Complaint
 - ii. History of present illness/injury
 - iii. Past medical history/medications/allergies
 - iv. Assessment findings
 - v. Treatments or interventions performed
 - vi. Proposed plan of care
 - vii. Intended destination (if already discussed with patient/family)
- b. Opportunity for questions/clarifications from receiving EMT
- c. Transfer of all available electronic and paper documentation including:
 - i. Uploading ECGs
 - ii. Transfer ePCR data to the receiving EMT
 - iii. Providing a copy of any paper forms (e.g., patient transfer forms, face sheets, medication lists, DNR forms, paper EMS forms, etc.)
- d. The transferring Paramedic must obtain "Transfer of Patient Care" Signature from the receiving EMT.

Attachments:

Handoff to BLS Ambulance Job Aid

Distribution:

- EMS Chief's e-mail distribution group
- Vector Solutions
- Pinellas County EMS Office of the Medical Director Webpage www.pcemsomd.com