

**PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2023**

The Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board 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:

Dr. Stephen Haire, Morton Plant Hospital – Chair
Dr. Stephen Feilinger, St. Anthony's Hospital
Dr. Matt Nelson, St. Anthony's Hospital (Alternate)
Matthew Novak, Morton Plant Mease Healthcare
Brent Burish, Florida Pasadena Hospital
Lacey Rains, Largo Medical Center (Alternate)
Dr. Meghan Martin, Pediatric Physician

Members Not Present:

Dr. Roberto Bellini, Mease Countryside Hospital
Dr. Jose Barquin, AdventHealth North Pinellas
Dr. Matthew Smith, AdventHealth North Pinellas (Alternate)
Dr. Jennifer Pearson, C.W. Bill Young V.A. Medical Center – Vice Chairman
Dr. Joseph Namey, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – Secretary
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani, Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society – (Alternate)
Dr. Krista Gillis, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg
Dr. Taylor Smith, Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Alternate)

Staff Present:

Jason Ester, County Attorney's Office
Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director
Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration
Ken Grimes, Director, EMS Fire & Administration
Mark Eggers, EMS & Fire Administration
David Hudak, EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott, EMS & Fire Administration

Also Present:

Lt. Ryan Mitchell, Pinellas Park Fire Department, Tech Rescue Team
PM William Post, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue
Richard Schomp, Sunstar Paramedics

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stephen Haire called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Roll call was taken, and Lynn Abbott determined that a quorum was present. There were 7 voting members in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2023 MEETING - APPROVED

Upon presentation by Chair Haire, Dr. Stephen Feilinger moved, seconded by Lacey Rains and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the June 22, 2023 EMS Medical Control Board meeting be approved.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

CLINICAL UPDATES

Dr. Angus Jameson presented new and updated clinical information on the following topics:

- **Leave Behind Narcan Program**: Dr. Jameson provided an overview of the Leave Behind Narcan program that was launched in January of this year, noting that nearly 200 kits have been distributed from our trucks and through station walkups and special events. The program faced some early resistance and required a concerted effort to change crew perception. Both sides had strong opinions, but the campaign worked to demonstrate that it is beneficial and not enabling. This effort has led to a significant shift in the attitudes of field crews, noting plans to share the program's successes at a national conference soon.
- **Freestanding Emergency Departments (FSEDs)**: Referring to a document titled *Freestanding Emergency Department Brief*, Dr. Jameson presented a breakdown of the total monthly transports in/out of FSEDs and re-transport percents by FSEDs. He shared that some of the newer FSEDs seem to have a slightly higher re-transport number than existing ones likely due to process improvement. Plans to have the Freestanding ER Protocol Sub-Committee reconvene for recommendations on further monitoring, noting that the group consists of Drs. Jose Barquin, Brian Charity, Krista Gillis, Matt Nelson, Taylor Smith, and Ms. Amelia Russell.
- **LifePak15**: Dr. Jameson provided an update on the deployment of our new AED monitor, LifePak 15, adding that just a week and a half after its initial deployment, we successfully delivered our first shock. It is worth acknowledging the tremendous effort put in by the team and particularly David Hudak and Mark Eggers. Completion of this massive \$11 million project represents a significant advancement for our organization.
- **ImageTrend**: Dr. Jameson presented information regarding the implementation of ImageTrend, a new records documentation and certifications application for ePCRs that will provide a more modern and efficient user interface. He shared his optimism about the improvements this new system will bring to patient care and billing services, noting that our QA and credentialing processes will be streamlined.

MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL, VOLUME 4, SPECIAL OPERATIONS - APPROVED

Referring to the document titled *2023 Pinellas County Special Operations – Medical Operations Manual*, Dr. Jameson presented an overview of updates to medical protocols for Special Operations, citing two specific changes: the integration of various Special Operations disciplines in one volume and the addition of a new discipline called Technical Rescue, which will empower teams to deliver advanced care in challenging environments. The updated manual emphasizes care in the field during extended operations, with improved language regarding wound care and heat emergencies. Protocol updates to Tactical (SWAT) and Hazmat teams are included, but the bulk of the updates focus on Tech Rescue.

Upon presentation by Dr. Jameson, Dr. Matt Nelson moved, seconded by Dr. Stephen Feilinger, that the EMS Medical Control Board approve the updates to the Medical Operations Manual (MOM) Volume 4. Upon call for the vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Following approval, Dr. Jameson recognized Tech Rescue Team Member, Lt. Ryan Mitchell, Pinellas Park Fire Department, who provided his perspective on some of the team's unique challenges. He also thanked David Hudak, who played a crucial role behind the scenes, and Dr. Andrew Smith, one of the Assistant Medical Directors and the mastermind behind the development of these protocols.

EMS SYSTEM UPDATE

Dr. Jameson referred to a PowerPoint titled *Ambulance Service Agreement Request for Proposal Briefing* and provided an overview of the following topics:

- Ambulance Request For Proposals (RFP) Update: Noting that Craig Hare is on his way here, Dr. Jameson related that the County has decided to seek bids for ambulance service and provided background information on the existing contract with Sunstar, which has been in effect since 2004.
 - Pinellas County Board of County Commissioner's role as Pinellas County EMS Authority.
 - County Ambulance Service components.
 - EMS system model.
 - Paramedics Logistics, Florida, Ambulance Contractor.
 - Contract requirements, performance, and interventions.
 - EMS system status.

Craig Hare entered the meeting and continued discussion of the following topics:

- Market standards, current demands, and systemwide staffing shortages.
- Results of recent Workforce Sustainability workshop: adopt a cadet-style program and build out a Fire and EMS academy.
- Competitive proposal/Request for Proposal and negotiations processes.
- FY24 Proposed Budget – Emergency Medical Services Fund.

Following the presentation, Mr. Hare emphasized the imperative to rejuvenate the workforce, update our wage structure, and recalibrate our pricing. He expressed the desire to incorporate the latest enhancements sanctioned by this Board: the BLS to 9-1-1 Ambulances and Emergency Medical Responders.

- Triage/Mass Casualty Plans: Mr. Hare related that Pinellas County Emergency Management is actively working to develop a comprehensive Mass Casualty plan and enhance our Active Assailant/basic triage training. Our clinicians are striving to optimize their approach, but there's room for improvement. The sheriff's department is collaborating with us on the Active Assailant components. Dr. Jameson added that we will hear a lot about trauma care in the next year, noting possible transition to a new triage system.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023, to be held in-person at the John Morroni EMS & Fire Administration Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Conference Room 130, Largo, Florida, at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Haire adjourned the meeting at 10:48 A.M.

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