

Broward County Regional EMS Council
Thursday, June 14, 2018
1:30 p.m.
MINUTES

Call to Order

Ralph Marrinson, Chair, called meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Roll Call

Attendees introduced themselves and established a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2018

MOTION TO Accept the minutes, made by Dr. Frederick Keroff and seconded by Merlin Underwood.
MOTION passed unanimously

Announcements

Alison Zerbe, Staff, reported that the State Meetings are going to be Tuesday, July 10-Thursday, July 12, in Orlando. The EMS Advisory Council and then the Trauma Advisory Council. The new council made legislation that passed last session.

A.Zerbe said that due to Sunset recommendations the EMS items for reappointment were pushed back on the Commission meeting Agenda. Until you are appointed by Commission, your vote doesn't count. A. Zerbe has already taken care of all that.

Presentation

Dr. Randy Katz, Medical Director for Hollywood Fire Rescue, and Chief of the Emergency Department for Memorial Regional, presented. He tracked cardiac arrest survival, both prehospital and discharged from the hospital, since 2015 for the Hollywood area. Survival rates were much lower than the national average. They started implementing improvements with the fire rescue agency and hospital and in the past three years their survival rates improved dramatically. Broward County tracks more that 1000 possible cardiac arrests per year.

The CARES Registry is a database for national out-of-hospital cardiac arrest cases. The State is now participating in a CARES Registry. Chief Thomas DiBernardo is the CARES Coordinator for the State. The registry has two necessary parts, EMS and hospital. If EMS brings a patient to the hospital and data collection ends there, they don't know the patient's outcome. The challenge is to get the whole county (16 hospitals and 22 agencies) to participate in the registry and have a data person, monthly, enter in the registry.

Phase One (of three) will be five agencies in south Broward with Memorial and Cleveland Clinic. They want to have the first two up and running July 1. Most agencies collect their out-of-hospital cardiac arrest data already. The data is blind so there shouldn't be any privacy issues with hospitals. September 1, they have hospitals and agencies in the north district that they want to get started.

Once they get the system up and running they will have data to compare Broward County to the rest of the country. Broward County out-of-hospital survival rates are way below the national average. Seattle and Dallas have 3 to 4 times Broward's survival rates. (CARES Handout) goes through a summary of cardiac arrest. It starts when a patient has cardiac arrest and calls 911 to when they

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leave the hospital.

In Broward County they never had a way to collect all the data and prove outcomes. It is good to have EMS push the agenda by having this committee back the initiative. A letter from the council and support would be helpful.

Dr. Antonio Gandia made a MOTION to send a letter of support. EMS Council believes it can assist improving survival rates for cardiac arrest. Ken Scheppke, Palm Beach County, said that Palm Beach County EMS was definitely moving forward. The problem is the acceptance of new technology.

Dr. R. Katz said Miami Dade just rolled this out. Broward County is spearheading this for the State. The goal is to have every county up and running two years from now.

R. Marrinson said that he was on the board of the South Florida Hospital Association (SFHA) and Dr. R. Katz should make a presentation to them.

R. Marrinson asked for approval of the MOTION by Dr. A. Gandia and seconded by Merlin Underwood.

Sunset Review

A.Zerbe sent a letter to the EMS Council members last week with the new recommendations for Sunset. These recommendations came after the discussion at the last EMS meeting. Some members had sent in letters. There are 48 positions, currently, and EMS average attendance is in the 20s. These are the positions that are recommended for Sunset (list given out at the meeting).

It was recommended to eliminate the following positions:

- 1) Physicians: Internist – Vacant; 2) Broward College, EMS Department-Vacant; 3) Broward League of Cities-Vacant; 4) Broward County Bar Association; 5) Law Enforcement, Union Rep; 6) Fire and Paramedic, Union Rep; 7) Commissioner

It was recommended to condense each one of the next three sections into one position each (making three positions instead of nine) for Municipal Fire, County Fire, and Private Ambulance:

- 1) Transport: Municipal Fire; 2) ALS: Municipal Provider, Admin.; 3) ALS: Municipal Provider, Paramedic
- 1) Transport: County Fire; 2) ALS: County Admin.; 3) ALS: County Paramedic
- 1) Transport: Private Ambulance; 2) ALS: Private Provider, Admin.; 3) ALS: Private Provider, Paramedic

This would bring the EMS Council down from 48 to 35 positions.

A.Zerbe said that these revised recommendations probably have not been addressed by the Fire Chiefs because it just came out last week.

Chief B. Caruso mentioned about meeting with the commissioners one-on-one. R. Marrinson

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responded that they met some commissioners one-on-one. He tried to meet with the county staff, but they have not returned his phone calls.

A.Zerbe said that the decision was made with County Administration, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Office of Medical Examiner and Trauma Services. R. Marrinson asked Orlando Garcia, Intergovernmental Affairs, if Orlando could explain the rationale. What was the upside of eliminating these positions?

O. Garcia said they went into a meeting with County Administration, OMETS, O. Garcia and his boss, Marty Cassini. The County Administration believes that someone may want to serve but may not have the time to attend the meetings. O. Garcia said that since this board meets four times a year, missing two meetings in a row or calendar year mean automatic removal, per the code, unless it is an excused absence.

R. Marrinson asked why the Broward College EMS Department was taken off. A.Zerbe said that the member resigned and never provided a replacement. R. Marrinson said that education is an important component of EMS. Chief Marc Vermont asked if we could have an educator position instead of just being Broward College; it may then get filled.

Dr. Ken Scheppke, Chairman of the EMS Council, Palm Beach County said they have an educator position just as Chief M. Vermont described. He believed it was absolutely invaluable to have that position.

Chief B. Caruso said about the ordinance and missing meeting was strict; two meetings in a row then you're tossed off. He asked if there could be alternates because the recommendations EMS Council makes affects people's lives; all disciplined are needed.

Chief B. Caruso asked K. Scheppke how many people are on the Palm Beach Advisory Board? K. Scheppke said Broward probably has double PBC. But they have it set up with citizens, unions, private, education, medical directors, etc. K. Scheppke said that this multi-faceted industry needs every single one of the positions. He added that Broward gets more done and can share the workload.

Dr. C. Mallak said the board reductions were countywide. Every committee got reduced. Some were eliminated but EMS Council did not get slaughtered. He said that if they go to the commission meeting and give good reasons, they may keep more EMS Council positions.

Members felt strongly that if it's not broken, don't fix it. Chief J. Fernandez had issues with the elimination of union representation. A. Zerbe said that they were given a directive to bring the council down to a certain size. These meeting give a chance for discussion.

Several members agreed it would be convenient to send a designee in their place to meetings in case of emergencies or out of town. Others agreed that being too big was not a good reason, being effective and achieving their goals should be the objective. Dr. F. Keroff commented that this was a highly functioning committee.

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Dr. Deborah Mulligan met with the vice-mayor; he never received the letter the EMS Council composed. The vice-mayor stated this was something County Administration has undertaken, not the commissioners.

Dr. C. Mallak said that this is part of the Sunset ordinance for the whole county. He said that they have to resize the board. R. Marrinson said that it could go up too? Dr. C. Mallak said that happened three or four years ago. EMS Council ended up growing.

The agenda item will come from the County Attorney's office, A. Zerbe believes. A. Zerbe doesn't know if it will be before or after the Commission meetings which start in August. Charles Wohlitka said that it would be prudent to have an executive board meeting and try to rectify some of these issued before September.

A.Katzman said it would be two commission meetings where it would be on the agenda. There is a requested public hearing and then the actual public hearing. R. Marrinson wanted to meet and work with A. Katzman's office over the summer and try to resolve this.

R. Marrinson asked if there was agreement on that strategy. It was agreed. It was made to a MOTION and agreed to by Paul Schweinler and seconded by Dr. John Halpern. MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Vacancies in Need of Recommendations

A.Zerbe, staff, reported on the current vacancies. She said that they only have four people on the EMS Review Committee and they need a fifth person by next meeting. The EMS Review Committee will meet following the EMS Council in September. R. Marrinson said he thinks the Chair appointed someone to the committee in the past; volunteers even better. R. Marrinson said that anyone that wants to service contact A. Zerbe.

Recent Appointments/Reappointments

No recent appointments (pending 8/14/2018 Commission Meeting)

Recommendations for Appointments/Reappointments

Joann Richter, Broward County Trauma Advisory Panel
Dr. Patricia Rowe-King, Hospitals: Broward Health, Administration

MOTION to recommend was made by Paul Schweinler and seconded by Dr. J. Halpern.
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Committee Reports

Executive Committee

R. Marrinson had nothing to report.

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EMS Grants

Zeff Ross had nothing on the EMS Grant Committee. They should get notification from the state by July on how much funds the state will be offering Broward County for FY 2019 Grants. A.Zerbe sent a letter to the state and asked them to roll funds (at least \$3500) over to FY 2019. She hasn't received a response yet.

Chief Jorge Gonzalez has a presentation on what he did with the funds from the FY 2017 grants: The Resuscitation Academy.

Public Information, Education

Chief Joel Gordon reported about "My Brother's Burden". A man walked from Key West to Tallahassee. Along the way he met firefighters who acknowledged their fire fighters who had died of cancer. They gave him memorabilia representing those individuals. Chief J. Gordon will and support his effort; he just got started.

EMS Conference

Chief Bruce Caruso is the new chair, 23rd First There First Care conference. EMS Conference committee was 30 people and a three-day event. The 22nd FTFC conference was held June 5-7, 2018 at Bonaventure Resort in Weston.

They are looking to submit another grant. Dr. Antonio Gandia started this 22 years ago in the back parking lot of University Hospital and it has evolved.

Legislative Issues

A.Zerbe had nothing to report.

Medical Issues/Infectious Exposure

Dr. F. Keroff had nothing to report.

EMS Review

Chief B. Caruso had nothing to report.

Grants Presentation-Florida Resuscitation Academy

Chief Jorge Gonzalez with Chief Daniel Moran, from Davie Fire Rescue, showed a video that can be seen on YouTube under Florida Resuscitation Academy. This was a program awarded the FY 2017 grant funds. Following the video presentation:

Timeline: They started in late 2016 collecting data to measure and improve. The CARES registry was part of the measuring process and Dr. S. Katz started the Broward Resuscitation Council with a group of agencies.

Davie Fire Rescue, host agency, began implementing and comparing their results before the Resuscitation Academy started instituting these programs.

- In October 2017 they were invited to the National Resuscitation Academy in Seattle. Seattle

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and King County have the highest resuscitation rates, 67% Rosc, in the country for more than ten years.

- In November, Davie FR instituted the high performance CPR ALS and train the trainer. Around 20 agencies across the county attended, totaling more than 65 people.
- In March 2018 the Florida Resuscitation Academy was a three-day event. Lectures on high performance CPR, and data collection. The director of CARES presented. They are trying to educate pre-hospital performers and hospital providers how to really reduce that time.

Dr. Tom Nelson, from the State, attended and he asked them to present at the last EMS State meeting to the State Medical Directors.

The low-hanging fruit – cardiac arrest registry is one of the low-hanging fruit, and telecommunicator cpr (teaching dispatchers how to more rapidly recognize cardiac arrest with NO-NO-GO. The higher-hanging fruit – First responder CPR and measures the professional resuscitator, accountability, and, a culture of excellence.

Technically from zero and within ten minutes if nothing is happening while in cardiac arrest your chances of survival turns to zero. They started implementing things and changed that 0% resuscitation. It's rapid dispatch, units out quickly, cpr on the phone and a variety of different things that are going to make a difference.

Nationally, agencies range from Rosc rates of 7% to 67%; 35% is the average. The data registry is a blinded study. It compares a variety of things and can compare where Davie FR rates. All patients that had CPR improved standards from 30s to 42%. Prior to this Davie hadn't had a rating high than 30%. K. Schepke said that the State of Florida the Rosc rate is 17%.

Florida wants to establish three academies throughout the state.

Old Business

Nothing to report

New Business

Nothing to report

Next Meeting Dates

September 6, 2018

December 2018 (TBD)

March 7, 2019

Adjourned

3:05pm.