

**Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council**  
**December 19, 2024**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

## Call to Order

Dr. Frederick Keroff, Chair, called regular meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

## Roll Call

Alison Zerbe called roll and quorum established.

## Announcements:

Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2024, and Special Meeting (Pulsara and ReadyOp on November 14, 2024

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** the minutes of September 5, 2024.and November 14, 2024

Motion made by: Dr. Wayne Lee

Seconded: Dr. Randy Katz

**MOTION** passed unanimously

## Recommendations for Appointment/Reappointment:

Chief Samantha Whitehorne, Transport: County Fire

Dr. Mario Gomez, Broward County Trauma Advisory Panel

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** Appointment of Chief Samantha Whitehorne, Transport: County Fire

Motion made by Chief Vince Cinque

Seconded by Rebecca Macdougall

**MOTION** passed unanimously

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** Appointment of Dr. Mario Gomez, Broward County Trauma Advisory Panel

Motion made by Chief Vince Cinque

Seconded by Rebecca Macdougall

**MOTION** passed unanimously

## Recent Appointments by Commission on October 8, 2024

Dr. Chauniqua Kiffin, Physicians: Surgeon

Dr. Deborah Mulligan, Physicians: Pediatrician

Stephen L. Demers, Hospitals: Memorial Healthcare System, Administration

Max Lashin, Appointee of Commissioner: Mark D. Bogen – District 2

## Vacancies:

Advanced Life Support (ALS): Private Provider

American Heart Association, Broward County Chapter

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American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter  
Appointee of Commissioner: Robert McKinzie – Dist. 8  
Law Enforcement, Union Representative  
Nurses: Emergency Room

**APPLICATION FORM FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

<https://www.broward.org/Intergovernmental/Pages/BoardsCommittees.aspx>

*Contact/email Alison Zerbe with nomination/recommendations for the vacant positions.*

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Legislative Session – Alison Zerbe**

- The next legislative session starts March 4, 2025.
- Alison will send updates as items related to EMS come through.

### **Executive Committee – Dr. Frederick Keroff**

- No Report.

### **Public Information, Education – Open**

- No Report. Currently no Chair.

### **EMS Conference – Chief Caruso**

- Theme is 'Soaring to New Heights' for 2025 - 28<sup>th</sup> First There First Care Gathering of Eagles EMS Conference (FTFC GOE)
- Held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.
- Call for Speakers deadline extended to January 10, 2025, and the Website: FirstThereFirstCare.com has a form to fill out for those interested in Speaking at the Conference. The website will be updated in the next few weeks.
- If anyone knows of a keynote speaker (local-regional-national) contact FTFC GOE

### **Medical Issues – Dr. Randy Katz**

- No Report.

### **BHAP/Behavior Health Assistance Program – Chaplain Barnabas Johnson**

- No Report. Not in attendance.

### **EMS Review – Chief Caruso**

- Met on September December 5, at the Medical Examiner's Office.
- Alison did a PowerPoint presentation on some data for private providers and transports in Broward County.
- They had two applications: Class 3 BLS Transport – Angelet's Non-Emergency Wheelchair Transport, LLC, and they recommended to deny application. Class 3 BLS Transport – Aerolyft, LLC and they recommended to deny application.
- Recommendations go to County Commission. The company can also go to Commission to plead their case.

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**Grants – Alison Zerbe**

- A Grant Ranking Meeting yesterday afternoon. They had two applications:
- 1. 63.00 points - Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County for First There First Care EMS Conference, Every Broward County fire/paramedic, nurse, and student can come to the conference for free.
- 2. 58.50 points - A multi-agency project from Samantha Whitehorne from BSO for Enhancing Prehospital Trauma Care in Broward County through Collaboration and SPARC.

This project seeks funding to provide Broward County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies with standardized blood fluid warmers and rapid infusion systems. These tools will enable EMS providers to deliver advanced resuscitation, preparing for prehospital blood product administration if available at that agency or in preparation for collaboration with mutual aid agencies that carry blood, reducing preventable deaths and improving outcomes. By equipping all EMS agencies with consistent tools and comprehensive training, this will streamline advanced resuscitation efforts during both routine and mutual aid responses. A collaborative equipment exchange program with trauma centers will ensure the sustainability of equipment, reduce costs, and improve continuity of care.

- The Grant Committee received \$98,736.50 from the State and recommended that they give \$75,000.00 to First There First Care, and \$23,736.50 to BSO for their project. Any remaining unexpended funds would go to BSO for their project

**MOTION to ACCEPT** the Grant Committees recommendations.

Motion made by Chief Bruce Caruso

Seconded by Chief Julie Downey

**MOTION** passed with one opposition.

**Discussion:**

Dr. James Roach commented that he did not know why First There First Care got the \$75,000.00 and suggested why not split the difference 50/50 of the \$98,736.50 total funds. He said that BSO's application of whole blood is huge for the county. He felt like it was lopsided.

Dr. Wayne Lee stated that there was an opportunity to go there and make that case, and the top ranking gets their portion and whatever is leftover goes down.

Chief Julie Downey stated that BSO project was not countywide. Chief Samantha Whitehorne had the paperwork for nine agencies, so the committee looked at it as a pilot project. For the nine it would be \$23,736.50 for the warmer and the tubing.

Chief Vince Cinque said it was a 91% out of 282 infusions over the last 30 months when you take cardiac arrest out of it. It was dependent on how much blood could get to the location. They only have five units counting air rescue that could bring blood to different corners of the county. Chief Downey said that it didn't include blood. Dr. Roach said 91%

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of what they're getting now and if you get that into nine more agencies it facilitates getting their captains to those calls.

Dr. Randy Katz commented that the other challenge at this time is the total expenditure has shrunk. Alison Zerbe said it was based off traffic tickets and red-light cameras.

Candace Pineda said the funds can only go so far. At least if they can roll out BSO's project and prove that it works, they can look for some other major funding.

Alison Zerbe answered a question from Dr. Lee that they could fund a repeating project such as First There First Care, but they could not fund something in the budget or a replacement. Also, if a project is single agency, it would be better for them to go for the State's matching grant (75% State funding and 25% agency funding).

After the discussion they voted on the Motion to Approve the Ranking Committee's recommendation. Vote was one opposition, and the rest voted to approve.

## **Old Business – Dr. Frederick Keroff**

No Report.

## **New Business – Dr. Frederick Keroff**

Dr. Lee mentioned that Fort Lauderdale was proposing a fire rescue taxing district. Does EMS Council know of any other cities with a taxing district? Dr. Katz read that there would be about a \$65 million deficit in ten years, if no increase in property taxes. It includes beach, fire rescue, EMS, and beach safety.

## **Good of the Order**

## **Next Meeting Dates**

March 6, 2025

## **Adjourned**

2:06 p.m.