

**Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council**  
**March 7, 2024**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

## Call to Order

Dr. Frederick Keroff, Chair, called regular meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

## Roll Call

Alison Zerbe called roll and quorum established.

## Announcements:

### Presentation: Chief Tom DiBernardo (Thomas.DiBernardo@FIHealth.gov)

- Improve resuscitation rates in Florida.
- Five years and thousands of people trained. Most of Florida over 50% and 60% using “pit crew” (minimal interruptions while performing chest compressions) approach to CPR/resuscitation. A team goes on tour with Chief DiBernardo. Over the past five years all efforts are happening in the EMS field, but then it stops at the ED.
- Dr. Katz and groups of Florida Emergency Physicians got together and brought it into ED. It was the birth of Resuscitation Centers of Excellence.
- Traveling to Miami with Dr. Keroff, they were not greeted positively when they launched CARES; everything in Miami is enforced with laws. This is not a law or regulation; it is a passion EMS has and wants ED to have. EMS working with hospitals. EMSAC endorsed them last week, so Florida Department of Health is on this list.
- His job is mediator to get EMS and the Emergency Rooms to sit down and look at the criteria. They are looking at the primary and comprehensive views from stroke centers.
- Project going on since 2020 but kicked-off officially this October 2023. Over 15 hospitals onboard. Wants EMS and hospitals to sign their commitment.
- With use of pit crew Florida is 28% ROSC.
- If they join CARES, they are monitoring the cases.
- Simultaneous with this program is telephone CPR which is used in Broward County. Goal is for the operator to get telephone compressions started within two minutes.
- American Heart Association have produced two studies.
- Can train 21 million people in Florida or 7,200 Florida dispatchers to do telephone CPR. Bystander CPR is 33% up from 17% five years ago in Broward County. If bystander is involved and EMS gets ROSC the percentage are huge.

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*The entire presentation is available upon request.*

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## Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2023

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** the minutes of December 7, 2023.

Motion made by: Dr. Halpern

Seconded: Chief Cinque

**MOTION** passed unanimously

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## **Recommendations for Appointment/Reappointment:**

Fire and Paramedic: Union Representative – Alexander Jonker

- They have two applicants for position: Max Lashin and Alexandra Jonker
- Max Lashin was already proposed to EMS Council. Need a vote between the two from EMS Council. (Resumes for both were sent out prior to this meeting.)
- J. Scott Bayne (BCCPFF.org) Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters said the Union took a vote and that's why Alexander Jonker is here. Max Lashin is also a good representative, Assistant District Vice President Local 80. They want someone representing Labor at a higher level within the Union, Alex Jonker, Union President for Hollywood. He completely agrees to put Max Lashin on as a Commissioner Appointee and will assist getting that done.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** Alexander Jonker to EMS Council's position of Fire and Paramedic: Union Representative

Motion made by Dr. Wayne Lee

Seconded by Dr. James Roach

**MOTION** passed unanimously

Dr. Keroff said they will make best efforts to have Max Lashin be a Commissioner Appointee's representative.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) County Provider – Joshua Cornblit

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** Joshua Cornblit to EMS Council's position of Advanced Life Support (ALS) County Provider

Motion made by Dr. Evan Boyar

Seconded by Chief Ezra Lubow

**MOTION** passed unanimously

## **Recently Appointment/Reappointment by Commission on February 20, 2024**

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Municipal Provider – Appointment – Ezra Lubow

## **Vacancies:**

Advanced Life Support (ALS): Private Provider

American Heart Association, Broward County Chapter

American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter

Appointee of Commissioner: Mark D. Bogen – Dist. 2

Appointee of Commissioner: Robert McKinzie – Dist. 8

Broward County Trauma Advisory Panel

Law Enforcement, Union Representative

APPLICATION FORM FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

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

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

## **Committee Reports:**

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

- 2024 Legislative session ends March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The bill introduced to provide Medicare reimbursement for care provided by EMS when there has been no transport. *It was called 'EMS reimbursement for On-scene Care and Support Act' but they removed this language.*
- Bill for blue lights. Some agencies wanted to use blue lights. They put a weight limit on it. It was mentioned fire trucks can have blue lights, but ambulances cannot.
- HB 1113 which is going to allow organ transport and organ teams to use code 3 response.

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

- Bylaws (proposed bylaws). Alison showed a marked-up DRAFT. Currently, there needs to have a Nomination Committee to elect executive committee. Alison said it's difficult to get a Nominating Committee together and it's an extra meeting.
  - She proposed they change it to use Robert's Rules to elect executive committee so they can do it at EMS Council meeting. The nominations can come from the floor according to Robert's Rules if the person you're nominating knows and wants the nomination.
  - Some member titles have changed. They decided to change CISM to BHAP.
  - They changed from three officers to two officers: Chair and Vice-Chair. It had been at the September meeting. But they will do it at next meeting at September meeting.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** the recommended changes to the Broward Regional EMS Council Bylaws.

Motion made by Dr. Randy Katz

Seconded by Chief Jonathan Frasher

**MOTION** passed unanimously

Dr. Keroff asked about the attendance policy requirements. According to the Broward County Board's Policies:

When a board whose enabling act or bylaws adopt the attendance requirements of this section, meets on a quarterly or less frequent basis, an appointee shall be automatically removed as a member if he or she has two (2) consecutive unexcused absences or misses two (2) properly noticed meetings in one (1) calendar year because of unexcused absences.

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**Public Information, Education – Open**

- Contact Alison if you want to present PIO information.

**EMS Conference 2024 – Chief Caruso**

- 27<sup>th</sup> First There First Care Gathering of Eagles Conference (EMS a Global Community) will be June 10-14, 2024, Hard Rock Hotel Casino. Currently 307 registered. There are 9 ALS teams with 21 more openings, 2 nursing, and one honor guard teams. 27 exhibitors.
- They have only used 70 Broward discount codes that go to fire rescue agencies, private providers, hospitals, and students (10 per school).
- Two keynote speakers: Dr. Lori Moore Murrell, and a medic/pilot with military background.
- Next meeting is Committee Meeting on March 20, at 9:30 a.m. at Medical Examiner's Office.

**Medical Issues – Dr. Randy Katz**

- Transport over 300 sepsis cases annually, Pretty high frequency notice. Mortality rates on those transports are about 20/30%. Along with other agencies they are administering antibiotics in the field.
- With the health data exchange, they are going to look at hospital case, mortalities, etc. They will track a lot of data points at their agency once they institute protocol for antibiotics in the field on March 18. He believes there will be some improvement.
- There are a couple of software platforms. One has been in existence for several years where agencies can communicate on a common platform for EMS mass casualties. The Health Coalition and all agencies have access to it. It can be used for hospital capacity, hospital capabilities, etc.
- Over the past year, the State has purchased another software platform for the same purpose and free to agencies. Now, competing software platforms. Some overlapping, and some things specific to each software. On a county level if you don't use this software daily/monthly basis it's hard to use it. The State has purchased the new seven-year subscription software, Pulsara, and they are pushing it to agencies and hospitals all over Florida.
- The Health Coalition and Fire Chiefs Association have discussed the software. Must decide what the county is going to use.
- The county had a measles outbreak; vaccinations in Broward County are lower than the national average. Things that are affecting this pattern need to pay attention to.
- Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue and City of Hollywood will receive a sizable grant from the State from Purdue pharmaceuticals. Money pushed down from Federal Government to State to County. Health Coalition is the custodian of the grant money to the agencies for overdose education. The program will be rolled-out in May or June.

Chief DiBernardo added that they will train paramedics (all levels/school level) and EMS providers to identify, triage, and transport these individuals to the best facility. Florida Child Services "CORE" through Attorney General's site will show you how much money every Florida city received. Second module is advanced level is

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agencies providing the medication in the field. Last module is all EMS understand the network of these alliances. Working to get this core network established in Broward. Chief DiBernardo monitors daily the state data on overdoses through agency reporting.

Dr. MacDougall said that every year the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on the medical examiner commission publications puts out a draft of every single drug, in every county, and how many deaths. Dr. MacDougall will send Alison the link to send out.

What Dr. MacDougall is seeing is fentanyl is given by the hospital, and medical records runs fentanyl overdose through the whole record, even though it's given by the hospital. A lot of the data out there is not accurate. She would like the hospitals to take and keep blood samples, for the medical examiner, when patients are admitted to the hospital.

Candace Pineda said they are starting to do that for non-accidental trauma that come into the hospital. They are giving the blood to the Attorney General's office for testing. Dr. MacDougall said any suspected drug overdose she would want hospitals to put it on their order sheets and save and label the blood.

A form was created yesterday connected to the outcomes of any ICD code-related opioid. Their community provider is following up with resources available to the patient.

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

- Not Present/No Report

### **EMS Review – Alison Zerbe**

- Met in January to review a COPCN application for RG Ambulance Services, Inc. d/b/a Century Ambulance Service. The EMS Review Committee recommended for this change of ownership and now it must go for a Commission public hearing on April 16.
- Future meeting TBD.

### **Grants – Alison Zerbe**

- Last meeting, they announced who received the funding. They did not yet receive grant award from the State. When received, Alison will send Agreement between Broward County and the agency. When agreement executed then they will receive reimbursement.
- Alison is currently ranking applications for north Florida for the matching fund grant which ended in February. At the end of month, the ranking forms are due, and the recipients usually announced in the summer.

**MOTION TO ENDORSE** by the Broward Regional EMS Council the Florida Resuscitation Centers.

Motion made by Dr. Randy Katz.

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Seconded by Dr. John Halpern  
**MOTION** passed unanimously.

Dr. Katz said endorsement from EMS Council to get the hospitals in Broward to join the program.

### **Old Business – Alison Zerbe**

N/A

### **New Business – Alison Zerbe**

- Trauma Symposium, March 14 & 15, at the Broward County Convention Center.
- Candace Pineda will send out invitation for Wednesday, March 13 the first national course for Pre-hospital whole blood in collaboration with blood banks.

### **Good of the Order**

### **Next Meeting Dates**

September 5, 2024

December 5, 2024

### **Adjourned**

2:40 p.m.