

**Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council**  
**March 6, 2025**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

## Call to Order

Dr. Frederick Keroff, Chair, called regular meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

## Roll Call

Alison Zerbe called roll and quorum established.

## Announcements:

Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2024

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** the minutes of December 19, 2024

Motion made by: Dr. Boyar

Seconded: Chief Downey

**MOTION** passed unanimously

## Presentation – Resilient Broward by Jennifer Jurado, Ph.D., Chief Resilience Officer, Deputy Director, Resilient Environment Dept.:

### Climate Trends, Extreme Heat, and Community Response

Prepare for the impacts of flooding and heat.

Prepare for heat strategies. Heat risk due to temperatures hotter than historic and surpassing the new heat advisory. Need to provide more services such as cooling centers or mobile cooling centers and other strategies for the community.

Regarding deaths the Medical Examiner must decide if it's heat related. *The temperature at the scene should always be taken and accurately written in the report.*

***The PowerPoint Presentation is available upon request.***

## Discussion:

- Chief Downey said they have a bio spatial report that all the EMS agencies contribute to. Dr. Jurado needs to get that data. EMS agencies must consistently enter temperatures in the bio spatial report (848 heat-related 911 calls in 2024).
- Dr. Lee mentioned having a roundtable, getting everyone together to strategize. A lot is education.
- Need to know hotspots that have more health-related issues.
- Dr. MacDougall commented heat-related deaths more than doubled in the last few years because they're paying attention. But missing a lot because no initial temperature was taken.
- Broward doesn't have a dashboard, but Maricopa County does and Dr. Keroff wants to see their data points. He agrees there's a need for a forum, with Dade County to see

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their process. Broward would lead the effort. Dr. Jurado said that Miami-Dade has struggled with data and doesn't have a dashboard. Dade County is mostly outreach and education. She said that Dr. MacDougall can ascertain *if A/C was present, was it turned on, was it functioning*. Dr. MacDougall said all she needs is the temperature.

- Dr. Jurado suggested a subcommittee to figure out process issues. Organizing so it could be executed and a commitment, if possible, by April that heat will be paramount in documentation. Heat temperatures must be collected without a predetermination that it's not the cause. Dr. MacDougall could determine if it was caused by heat or heat, is a contributing factor.
- Maricopa County does an investigation...*it might have been...it was determined to be...it's still under consideration*. Maricopa County does hospital admissions. Dr. MacDougall is trying to talk with Dr. Johnson, Maricopa County, who developed the dashboard. Also, Dr. Jurado can come back and help with Broward County's dashboard.
- Chief Downey suggested Dr. Jurado present to the Broward County Healthcare Coalition that meets monthly and where all hospitals and the EMS systems are together.
- Dr. Jurado said to use her presentation, and she wants to hear suggestions to make her presentation more complete/relevant.
- Dr. Jurado commented that Dr. MacDougall may have a process or form that she uses when she speaks to her groups. Dr. Jurado can return to speak to Dr. MacDougall's groups or staff.

### Recommendations for Appointment/Reappointment:

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### Approved Appointment by Commission on January 28, 2025

- Dr. Mario Gomez, MS,DO – Broward County Trauma Advisory Panel
- Chief Samantha Whitehorne – Transport: County Fire

### Vacancies:

Advanced Life Support (ALS): Private Provider  
American Heart Association, Broward County Chapter  
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 nominations/recommendations for vacant positions.

### Committee Reports:

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

**Legislative Session – Alison Zerbe**

The legislative session started March 4, 2025 – May 2, 2025.

- Alison will send updates as items related to EMS come through.  
<https://www.legiscan.com/FL>
- HB 1531 – <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1531/BillText/Filed/PDF>
- HB 35 – <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/35/BillText/Filed/PDF>
- SB 332 – <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/332/BillText/Filed/PDF>
- HB 1487 – <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1487/BillText/Filed/PDF>
- HB 1211 - <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1211/BillText/Filed/PDF>

Michael Ruiz, the Assistant County Administrator, mentioned HB 1211. Significant impact, if passes through State legislature, on how all dispatches occur. This is a heavy EMS/Fire Rescue issue. Unify all 911 calls through the Sheriff. It also requires a financial transaction for any cross-jurisdictional response call. It takes a lot of power away from cities and turns it over to the Sheriff. Broward Chief of Police is reviewing it, and he wants to ensure that the Fire Chiefs are part of that conversation, and Miami-Dade, as well. Plantation and Coral Springs have their own and it would eliminate that. It would also mandate some things.

*The above bills are in committees and if they pass, Alison will let you know.*

**Executive Committee – Dr. Frederick Keroff**

- No Report.

**Public Information, Education – Currently no Chair**

- No Report.

**EMS Conference – Chief Cinque for Chief Caruso**

- 2025 First There First Care Gathering of Eagles conference, June 9-13, at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.
- Registration is open.
- Fire Chiefs' Association has contracts with Broward County Convention Center for June 2026

**Medical Issues – Dr. Randy Katz**

**EMS Subcommittee**

- Pulmonary care data is out for Cardiac Arrest. Hollywood has seen improvements from year to year.
- All agencies should be getting their data soon. He may present some of the data next quarter.
- In Hollywood - community education/CPR with collaboration from the healthcare system. Southeast is 29% and the rest of the state is at 35%, and country 38%.

## Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council

March 6, 2025

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### MINUTES

- A lot of interest from the community for basic life-saving skills.
- A lot of places that have AEDs...*they don't know where they're at, batteries are dead, nobody uses them.* This is a huge gap they are working on.
- The topic of sepsis patients. In Hollywood at the hospital, they have seen a reduction in mortality with antibiotics versus previous year without antibiotics.
- A subcommittee at the State level. Doctor in Dade County is chair of that subcommittee. Trying to standardize the protocols they use at the State level. There's a pushback to using antibiotics. Prehospital with the right patients, there's a value, and the data supports it. Broward agencies are beginning to adopt it and there is a big push at the State level to use antibiotics.
- Trauma, STEMI, and stroke. More people die of sepsis than the other three together. 45% of deaths at the hospital level due to sepsis when transported by EMS.
- Most patients are over 50 years old and 50% die at the hospital.
- Resuscitation centers fit in with cardiac arrest discussion. There are a few other hospitals that are recognized at the State level. Department of Health. They have a committee that meets every month to review cases.
- Large hospitals do cardiac arrests at a high level. It forces you to collect and report data. That has helped them to improve survival from 2023-2024. In 2023 Hollywood had five survivors out of about 160 transports and this year they had 14.
- Chief Downey said to have fire inspectors look at AEDs when they come for an inspection. Put that on the spreadsheet. Most of the buildings the fire inspectors are in they don't inspect the AEDs.
- Dr. Katz said police officers in Hollywood don't have AEDs in their vehicles and they are first responders. Dr. Katz is getting AEDs for Hollywood police now. Dr. Katz said that it seems like a large gap if any police officer doesn't have one.
- Chief Downey said it is the no. 1 priority for the State grant.

#### BHAP/Behavior Health Assistance Program – Chaplain Barnabas Johnson not present

- No Report.

#### EMS Review – Alison Zerbe

- Met on September December 5, at the Medical Examiner's Office, to review two new COPCN applications.
- They had two applications: Class 3 BLS Transport – Angelet's Non-Emergency Wheelchair Transport, LLC, d/b/a Angelet's Emergency Transport and they recommended to deny their application. Class 3 BLS Transport – Aerolyft, LLC and they recommended to deny their application.
- Angelet's is going to Commission on April 1, for a public hearing.
- Aerolyft withdrew their application. Aerolyft applied for a BLS Transport COPCN, but they required an ALS because they were picking up patients from air rescue and taking them to where they were admitted.

#### Grants – Alison Zerbe

## **Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council**

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- Alison corresponded with all the project managers for the 2024 EMS grant projects. Any invoices she received were either approved or submitted for approval. They are waiting on that process. They will receive their funds in the next few weeks.
- The 2025 funds have not been received from the State yet. Currently, no update.
- They requested unexpended funds from previous years be available for them to rollover to either current projects or to pay Coral Springs' past project. They have not been formally approved to spend the money, but she will keep everyone informed.
- Ranking has taken place for the EMS matching grant, but results have not been posted yet.

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

No Report.

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

- During the last round of COPCN they recognized some opportunities for improvements in the process. They started taking steps to improve that process. One step, with the help of Consumer Protection, they added the emergency backup agreement to the application. The applicant will know their obligation when they apply for COPCN for Broward County.
  - They have been working with the attorney's office making some changes to the Chapter 3½ ordinance that governs the COPCN application process. The attorney is taking out Article 2 which involves non-emergency medical transportation which is wheelchair and stretcher transport without medical. They are moving Article 2 to Consumer Protection and changing it to Chapter 22½.
  - There are some changes they want to make to Chapter 3½, but with EMS Council's or EMS Review Committee's input on a proposed draft. Broward County Attorney, Javier Navas represents the EMS Council, and colleague, Alex Lozada represents Medical Examiner's Office and Trauma Services. Javier said there is only going to be Article 1 in Chapter 3½. Javier wanted to make a few changes to Chapter 3½. They want to update Emergency Medical Transportation definition in accordance with Chapter 401 Florida Statutes.
  - There are a few ambiguities such as "sufficient number of ambulances". They will recommend a certain number, or they will delegate it to the division to determine.
  - Another concern was applicants that are applying only for BLS. They are suggesting they can apply for only ALS or ALS and BLS.
  - Javier said that through the EMS Review Committee they could have a workshop with the list of proposed changes and get everyone's opinions. Dr. Keroff said he'd like to first see a draft of the proposed changes and then go from there.
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- Candace Pineda commented on the Trauma Symposium on March 26. Trauma course on Wednesday, and Thursday and Friday are the annual Symposium. A lot of prehospital content.

**Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council**  
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Good of the Order

Next Meeting Dates

June 5, 2025

Adjourned

2:06 p.m.