

Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council
August 7, 2025
1:30 p.m.
MINUTES

Call to Order

Dr. Frederick Keroff, Chair, called regular meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

Roll Call

Alison Zerbe called roll and quorum established.

Announcements:

Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2025

MOTION TO ACCEPT the minutes of June 5, 2025

Motion made by: Chief Julie Downey

Seconded: Dr. Wayne Lee

MOTION passed unanimously

Presentation – Class 6 DRAFT language

Alison Zerbe reported that the September meeting was moved to August 7th to go over Class 6 language. On May 6, they (initiated by Commissioner Davis) moved that the attorney's office would draft language for Class 6. This would allow small businesses to participate in ambulance service in Broward County.

Between the last EMS meeting on June 5th and today's meeting they had a roundtable at the library (July 22nd) for the community to learn about the Class 6 language draft. Alison Zerbe sent the draft to the EMS Council. There will be a public hearing probably on September 4, and 30 days after that there will be a commission meeting. Alison will send out a reminder to EMS Council. Javier Navas, County Attorney, was present to answer questions about the ordinance.

Highlights of small business enterprises:

- Not exceed 50 employees and not exceed gross revenue more than \$3 million dollars, BLS transfers only, and a minimum of two ambulances and maximum of five. If they grow their business and exceed five ambulances, they will need to apply for a Class 3 COPCN. They are prohibited from making 9-1-1 and emergency calls.
- RFP selection process. If they get more than three applications, there would be a lottery. The application process will be publicly noticed. It allows for three certificates, and three companies could have Class 6 in Broward County. If certificate holders are inactive for 365 days their certificate is deemed abandoned. They would have administrative fees and mandated rates to charge. They would have an emergency backup agreement with Broward County.

Dr. Keroff asked what impact it would have on us to review and make suggestions. Javier Navas said the County Commissioner could review it and take into consideration the EMS

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Council's advisory board recommendations.

Dr. Lee said they would have more input regarding patients asking to be taken to a specific hospital instead of the closest appropriate hospital.

Dr. Keroff said he didn't know if the draft solved the interfacility issue.

Dr. MacDougall added that just because the COPCN is awarded doesn't mean that the company will ever get it. The company has additional responsibilities to fulfill once the COPCN is awarded. EMS must keep aware of how things are operating and express to Consumer Protection how it's affecting prehospital.

Chief Downey asked how they would know if they had more than five ambulances or made more than \$3 million dollars. Consumer Protection will do a regular inspection process to monitor that each ambulance company is complying with COPCN.

Javier Navas said that the EMS Council doesn't have to do anything but can make recommendations.

Dr. Keroff said to take back to the Commission that it was discussed in the EMS Advisory Council, and it had no clear recommendation.

Recommendations for Appointment/Reappointment:

- Dr. Evan Boyar, Physicians: Emergency Department Director from Broward Health 10-19-2025
- Michael Garcia, Transport : Private Ambulance, 10-19-2025
- Vanessa Quiles, Nurses : Emergency Room
- Alexandra Boyne-Jonkers, Fire and Paramedic, Union Representative

MOTION TO APPROVE these appointments and reappointments.

Motion made by: Dr. Wayne Lee

Seconded: Chief Downey

MOTION passed unanimously

Approved Appointment by Commission

- N/A

Vacancies:

Advanced Life Support (ALS) County Provider

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Municipal Provider

American Heart Association, Broward County Chapter

American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter

Appointee of Commissioner: Alexandra Davis – District 7

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Appointee of Commissioner: Robert McKinzie – District 8
BHAP/Behavior Health Assistance Program
Broward Emergency Medical Services Education
Law Enforcement, Union Representative

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:

Legislative Session – Alison Zerbe

- Nothing to discuss.

Executive Committee – Dr. Frederick Keroff

- No Report.

Public Information, Education – Vacant

- No Report.

EMS Conference – Chief Caruso

- More than 2,000 registrations for the 2025 First There First Care Gathering of Eagles conference .FTFC will be at the Broward Convention Center for 2026; *Charting the Course for Excellence in EMS* is next year's theme. June 1-5, 2026. They will have the ability to showcase vehicles inside.

Medical Issues – Dr. Randy Katz

- No report

EMS Subcommittee

- Dr. Katz is not present.

BHAP/Behavior Health Assistance Program – Vacant

- No Report.

EMS Review – Alison Zerbe

- There will be other motions coming up. One motion that passed was directing the County Attorneys to draw up an ordinance requiring EMS to transport to the patient's preferred facility. Some cases they do that. They are more concerned about cases that would take patients out of the county. Dr. Keroff would like to see the draft before it goes to commission.
- Most EMS members voiced their opposition to this ordinance because of how it would affect the entire EMS system and patient care. There was a discussion about having a face-to-face workshop to educate the commissioners, go to commissioners separately, or gather EMS Council member recommendations about this ordinance.
- Alison said it would be good if one person from the EMS Council educated Vice Mayor Bogan in addition to writing a letter.

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The Motion made was:

MOTION that Alison Zerbe solicits members of this council for input regarding this proposal as we understand it now and compile responses into a draft document that we subsequently review and agree upon and forward the document to the attorneys of record, and Dr. James Roach or whoever is chosen to meet with leadership of Broward County Commission, and in addition, send it to EMS Council. Dr. Frederick Keroff will sign it.

Motion made by Dr. Wayne Lee
Seconded by Chief Julie Downey
Motion passed unanimously

Dr. Roach mentioned Florida Statutes 401 and 64J that the State supersedes anything you come up with. Medical Director decides where patient is best served to go. For trauma there is a statute 395 where the Broward County Trauma Committee has jurisdiction on trauma patients. Dr. Keroff said that the patient is always better served to go to the closest appropriate facility. Dr. Lee said that they need to address operationally why patients can't choose what hospital they want to go to.

Alison will send out an email. Dr. Keroff said they need bullet points, not only what would happen if this were to happen, but how you currently address that situation, so they understand it's already not black and white. EMS Council is trying to educate people who have no knowledge in this area. Javier Navas said when replying to the letter you either reply to all or only to Alison due to Sunshine.

Dr. Lee said the legislation Dr. Roach indicated above is a question for attorneys to address. He wanted attorneys to explore this and see if there is anything that handicaps this effort.

Alison will keep everyone up to date on public hearings, etc. Dr. MacDougall said they may have to have a meeting before end of summer.

Alison said if they go through a revamp of Chapter 3½ there current providers contract expires in December 2026. They may have to have another survey. Everyone will be involved in that.

Grants – Alison Zerbe

- They finally received the grant funds. The commission meeting to accept those funds will be on August 21st. If they receive approval from commission, the Fire Chiefs' Association and BSO will receive their agreements for 2025 projects. Old funds were approved for spending by the State, but they need to get approval from the County before disbursing those funds.

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Old Business – Dr. Frederick Keroff

- No Report.

New Business – Dr. Frederick Keroff

- No Report.

Good of the Order

Next Meeting Dates

December 4, 2025

Adjourned

2:32 p.m.