

Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council
December 7, 2023
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:

Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2023

MOTION TO ACCEPT the minutes of September 7, 2023.

Motion made by: Dr. Rebecca MacDougall

Seconded: Chief Jonathan Frasher

MOTION passed unanimously

Recommendation for Appointment/Reappointment:

Fire and Paramedic: Union Representative – Appointment – Max Lashin

- J. Scott Bayne (BCCPFF.org) Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters, recommended this appointment to be tabled until the EMS Council's next meeting because it was not voted on by BCCPFF labor union. The union has a process of bringing forth a recommendation to the EMS Council.
- Chief Frasher, EMS Council, recommended Max Lashin for the position. The position had been vacant for about a year. Max Lashin represents Local 38, the largest union in Broward County.
- Attorney, Adam Katzman, said that if there was another recommendation for the same position both could be brought to the EMS Council for recommendations and both outcomes would go to the Broward Board of Commissioners.
- Alison Zerbe said that anyone can bring a recommendation to the EMS Council if it fits the title of the Ordinance. EMS Council makes the recommendation to go to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Dr. Frederick Keroff asked that Max Lashin's credentials for this position be reviewed before the next meeting.
- Dr. Keroff said that they would table so the union could send a recommendation and EMS Council can have a discussion for who they would support in this position.
- Everything the EMS Council does is publicly noticed, including vacancies for positions.

MOTION to TABLE the recommendation of the appointment of Max Lashin, Fire and Paramedic: Union Representative, until the next EMS Council meeting.

Motion made by Chief Vincent Cinque

Seconded: Dr. Keroff

Motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION TO RECOMMEND: Ezra Lubow as the Advance Life Support (ALS) Municipal Provider.

Motion made by Chief Matthew Whitton

Seconded by Chief Vincent Cinque

Motion passed unanimously

Recently Appointment/Reappointment by Commission on October 10, 2023

Transport: Private Ambulance – Appointment – Michael Garcia

Vacancies:

Advanced Life Support (ALS): County Provider

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: Tim Ryan – Dist. 7

Appointee of Commissioner: Robert McKinzie – Dist. 8

Fire and Paramedic: Union Representative (Motion to Table for next meeting)

Law Enforcement, Union Representative

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

- 2024 Legislative session starts January 9th and ends March 8th.
- An important deadline is December 10th, the deadline for publication of notice of local bills. Last month she sent out literature regarding a bill introduced to provide Medicare reimbursement for care provided by EMS when there has been no transport. It's called 'EMS reimbursement for On-scene Care and Support Act'.

<https://www.naemt.org/WhatsNewALLNEWS/2023/11/08/new-bill-introduced-ems-reimbursement-for-on-scene-care-and-support-act>

This could be a positive game-changer for EMS health reimbursement.

Executive Committee – Dr. Frederick Keroff

- No report

Public Information, Education –

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- No report

EMS Conference – Chief Caruso

- Next year is 27th annual First There First Care and Gathering of Eagles EMS Conference. It is taking place at the Hollywood Seminole Casino, June 10-14, 2024. This year's theme: 'EMS: A global community'. People from both Broward County and around the world attend. This year's conference will be in memory of Battalion Chief Terryson Jackson, who died from an air rescue crash that happened a few months ago. There will be leadership track, competitions, EMS and nursing tracks, hands-on courses, lectures, and more. The conference receives an EMS Grant from EMS Council that provides scholarships to Broward County fire rescue, hospitals, and private providers.

Medical Issues – Dr. Wayne Lee

- Medical Issues is not a required subcommittee meeting through the ordinance. In the past, the EMS conference and the website came out of the Broward Regional EMS Council's medical issues meetings.
- Dr. Katz reports medical issues through the EMS Subcommittee of the Fire Chiefs' Association. They talk about all the clinical and operational issues at the EMS Subcommittee.
- Dr. Lee wants to either eliminate the medical issues committee and/or get information from the EMS Subcommittee to update medical issues committee. Dr. Keroff said that the medical issues committee is a good forum for people to find out about what's going on in the EMS Subcommittee.
- Alison Zerbe said since Dr. Katz reports on it at the EMS Subcommittee maybe he can report on through the EMS Council's medical issues committee. Dr. Lee agreed. Dr. Katz agreed.

BHAP/Behavior Health Assistance Program – Chaplain Barnabas Johnson

- No report presently but working on upcoming issues.

EMS Review – Alison Zerbe

- She will have an EMS Review in January.

Grants – Alison Zerbe

- A matching grant has been posted on the Florida Department of Health's website and the deadline February 15, 2024. For those that may have applied for single-agency funds and didn't get funded, she suggests the matching grant. It must improve or expand EMS in Broward County and not replace equipment or what is in the regular budget.

The Grant Ranking Committee met last month and recommended applications to be funded. **Project summaries and funding recommendations are attached.**

24-03 North Broward Hospital District, High Acuity Hands On EMS Training, will utilize the City of Hollywood's mannikin from 2023 EMS Grant project.

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MOTION to ACCEPT the recommendations from the 2024 EMS Grant Committee.

Motion made by Chief Bruce Caruso

Seconded by Chief Jonathan Frasher

Motion passed unanimously

Before EMS Council can apply for the funds, it must be approved by Broward County Board of Commissioners. When approved, they can submit the application to the Florida Department of Health for final approval/award funds.

Old Business – Alison Zerbe

Alison Zerbe is working on the bylaw for EMS Council. Dr. Frederick Keroff is interim chair, and Dr. Wayne Lee is interim vice-chair. If anyone interested besides Dr. Keroff and Dr. Lee, please contact Alison.

The bylaws are restrictive, and there must be a nomination committee. Alison proposes that they do it through Robert's Rules as a floor vote. Once the bylaws are finalized at EMS Council, they will make it formal.

New Business – Alison Zerbe

Javier Navas, Broward County Attorney, will replace Adam Katzman as attorney for the EMS Council.

State EMS Advisory meetings are in Orlando, Orange County Convention Center, January 9-12, 2024. The schedule is on the Florida Department of Health webpage.

Good of the Order

Next Meeting Dates

March 7, 2024

June 6, 2024

September 5, 2024

December 5, 2024

Adjourned

2:21 p.m.

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2024 EMS GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES:

24-01 Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County

27th Annual First There First Care Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Conference

Funding Requested - \$65,000.00 (Countywide) – **61.00 points**

Funding Recommended - \$65,000.00

The Fire Chiefs' Association's 27th Annual First There First Care EMS Conference provides innovative EMS education to more than 500 EMS and nursing professionals working in prehospital and Emergency Department settings. It allows the opportunity for networking, trend and treatment tracking, technology advancements, and provides EMS and Nursing professionals continuing education credits to ensure that Broward County residents and visitors are receiving the best care possible.

24-05 Town of Davie

Countywide Prehospital TXA

Funding Requested - \$3,139.50 (Countywide) – **55.00 points**

Funding Recommended - \$3,139.50

The use of prehospital tranexamic acid (TXA) can be a valuable intervention to reduce mortality for trauma patients with non-compressible hemorrhage.

Prehospital hemorrhagic shock is a critical medical emergency that paramedics often encounter in Broward County. Hemorrhagic shock occurs when the body loses a significant amount of blood, leading to insufficient blood circulation and oxygen delivery to vital organs. While many cases of hemorrhagic shock can be managed through prompt intervention, some present unique challenges for paramedics, especially when dealing with non-compressible bleeding complications.

This multi-agency project will provide prehospital TXA for ten agencies throughout Broward County. The primary goal in prehospital care for these patients is to control bleeding and maintain perfusion, ensuring that the vital organs continue to receive oxygenated blood.

On September 29, 2023, the Trauma System Quality Improvement Committee (TSQIC) released a position statement regarding prehospital TXA administration.

The administration of TXA in trauma patients requires a careful balance between timely intervention and appropriate drug administration. The position paper emphasizes the need to prioritize hemorrhage control and rapid transport while administering TXA within the recommended guidelines. Further research and collaboration within the medical community are crucial to refine this guidance and optimize outcomes for trauma patients.

The plan is to purchase and issue TXA vials to all Broward County front-line rescues that operate 24/7/365 operated by fire-based EMS providers licensed by the State. It provides a position paper from TSQIC regarding the use of TXA. The plan requests local protocols to

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adopt this new intervention and standardize the treatment for all trauma patients. The standardization will reduce confusion for the trauma teams protocol differences between agencies. It requests the medical directors group to provide training and resources for all agencies, and requests additional CQI reviews on all patients treated with TXA.

The outcome would be to increase the number of patients receiving TXA who have traumatic hemorrhagic shock and noncompressible bleeding by 50% in 2024.

24-03 North Broward Hospital District

High Acuity Hands On EMS Training

Funding Requested - \$20,624.00 (Multi Agencies) – **51.50 points**

Funding Recommended - \$14,841.94

In Broward County, EMS personnel are vital as first responders, but they face significant challenges. Lack of sufficient opportunities of hands-on training for EMS personnel is serious and could have significant impact on the quality of prehospital care. Over time, even the most skilled EMS personnel can experience decline in their ability to perform high-acuity procedures (such as surgical cricothyrotomy, needle decompression, and airway intubation).

The potential repercussions of failing to address the needs for more comprehensive hands-on EMS training is significant and can lead to:

- Decreased survival rates: may result in delays and errors, leading to reduced survival rates and compromised patient outcomes.
- Increased risk of complications: high-acuity procedures come with inherent risks. The lack of practice can elevate the likelihood of complications.
- Loss of confidence: EMS who do not routinely practice these skills may lose confidence in their ability to perform during critical situations.
- Suboptimal Prehospital Care: overall quality of prehospital care provided in Broward County may suffer, with potential consequences for patient safety and satisfaction.

The training will increase the number of EMS personnel in Broward County who are certified in critical care procedures. An outcome is to improve the quality of prehospital care in Broward County by providing EMS personnel with the training to perform critical care procedures safely and effectively. It will reduce the number of adverse outcomes associated with critical care procedures in Broward County.

24-04 City of Hollywood

Improving Pediatric Patient Care: A Focus on Pediatric MCI Training

Funding Requested - \$9,800.00 (Countywide) – **50.50 points**

Funding Recommended - \$9,800.00

Mass casualty incident training remains a top priority for multiple agencies in Broward County. Providing comprehensive training tailored to pediatric patient care poses a unique

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challenge. Organizing an on-demand and reproducible mass casualty incident simulation for this patient population can be laborious. This complexity often stems from the difficulties in sourcing simulated patient actors, obtaining guardian consent, and crafting realistic scenarios that encompass age-appropriate vital signs and conditions.

Many prehospital providers express they often feel inadequately trained and uncomfortable when it comes to treating and caring for pediatric patients. In response, we are committed to enhancing the expertise and confidence throughout Broward County. To achieve this goal, we are seeking funding to acquire a specialized disaster preparedness Mass Casualty Incident Training kit known as “Disasters in Seconds.” This innovative tool offers a convenient, on-demand solution with 12 comprehensive MCI scenarios that are not only reusable but also highly mobile and adaptable to virtually any setting.

This countywide training is an invaluable resource that can be deployed at any participating agency to deliver pediatric-specific training. After testing this kit, it was found to be highly effective for providers with varying levels of experience. They plan to use surveys to gauge its effectiveness and utility. If it successfully achieves its intended objectives they will secure additional kits for countywide use, making them available for loan to support training across Broward County.

24-02 City of Lauderhill

Fire Rescue Emergency Defibrillators

Funding Requested - \$48,520.00 (Single-Agency) – **38.50 points**

Funding Recommended - \$0.00

The City’s population of 74,482 is among the top five (5) cities in Broward County with the highest population density, highest poverty, and plagued with many health issues including high heart-related health issues. Lauderhill’s EMS transport data shows 487 cardiac emergencies occurred in 2021.

Lauderhill Fire/EMS will strategically place 20 portable automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in each of our Fire Stations that service the most disadvantaged communities and in staff vehicles that are in continual contact with our underserved and disadvantaged residents.

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FY 2024 EMS GRANT FUNDING REQUESTS

Project Number	Project Name	Total Score	Funding Requested	Recommended Funding
24-01	27 th Annual 1 st There 1 st Care EMS Conference	61.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
24-05	Countywide Prehospital TXA	55.00	\$3,139.50	\$3,139.50
24-03	High Acuity Hands on EMS Training	51.50	\$20,624.00	\$14,841.94
24-04	Pediatric MCI Training	50.50	\$9,800.00	\$9,800.00
24-02	Fire Rescue Emergency Defibrillators	38.50	\$48,520.00	\$0.00
	FY 2024 Grant Funds Available	\$92,781.44		
	Total Funding Requested		\$147,083.50	
	Total Funded			\$92,781.44
	Total Unfunded		\$54,302.06	