

**Broward Regional EMS Council**  
**March 4, 2021**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

Call to Order

Ralph Marrinson, Chair, called Skype meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Roll Call

Alison Zerbe called roll and quorum established.

Announcements:

Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2020:

**MOTION** to Accept the minutes of October 29, 2020.

**Motion made by:** Dr. Frederick Keroff

**Seconded:** Dr. John Cunha

**MOTION passed unanimously**

Presentation: Opioid Grant/Overdose Spike Response

Presented by Lauren Whiteman, Opioid Program Manager, Florida Department of Health  
PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Recommendation for Appointment/Reappointment:

Vanessa Quiles, representing Nurses: Emergency Room

Jason Smith, representing Fire and Paramedic, Union Representative

Andrew Masters, representing Critical Incident Stress Management

**MOTION** to Accept the Recommendations

**Motion made by:** Dr. Frederick Keroff

**Seconded:** Dr. John Halpern

**MOTION passed unanimously**

New Appointments/Reappointments

Judy Frum, representing Hospitals: Memorial Healthcare System, Administration

Dr. Niqui Kiffin, representing Physicians: Surgeon

Dr. Deborah Mulligan, representing Physicians: Pediatrician

Terrence Davis, representing Transport: Aircraft

George Carbonell, representing Appointee of Commissioner: Barbara Sharief

Vacancies:

Advanced Life Support (ALS): County Provider

Advanced Life Support (ALS): Private Provider

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American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter  
Appointee of Commissioner Beam Furr  
Appointee of Commissioner Mark D. Bogen  
Appointee of Commissioner Tim Ryan  
Law Enforcement Representative, Union Representative  
Transport: County Fire

R. Marrinson was eager to get these vacancies filled.

Send letters of recommendations/interest to Alison Zerbe regarding vacancies. A. Zerbe provided a link that must be filled out if you want to be appointed by commissioner.

[BoardAppointmentRequest - county commissioner](#)

### Committee Reports:

Legislative Update – Alison Zerbe reported

This year's session started March 2 through April 30.

<https://legiscan.com/FL/pending/senate-health-policy-committee/id/2689?page=1>

### **SB1084/HB805- Volunteer Ambulance Services**

- Authorize use of lights and sirens to volunteer ambulances
- Exempting volunteer first responder agencies from COPCN process and requirements

### **SB766/HB397- Cardiovascular Emergency Protocols and Training**

- DOH provides medical directors of EMS with providers of adult cardiovascular services requiring the department to develop a sample heart attack triage assessment tool
- Medical Directors must implement certain protocols for heart attack patients
- Dispatchers receive telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation training

### **SB348/HB461- Medicaid**

- Revising the types of emergency transportation vehicle services provided to Medicare-eligible persons for which Medicaid shall pay deductibles and coinsurance

### COVID-related bills:

**SB74/HB7005** – Providing preliminary procedures for civil action based on COVID-19 claims.

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Below is a US Congress pending bill that could impact EMS and a link to an article referring to this proposed change:

**US Congress SB149-** A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide Secretarial authority to temporarily waive or modify application of certain Medicare requirements with respect to ambulance services furnished during certain emergency periods.

<https://www.jems.com/administration-and-leadership/treatment-in-place-medicare-bill-introduced-in-the-senate/>

**SB122** deals with the introduction of baby boxes under the safe haven law.

*A Baby Box is a safety device provided for under state's Safe Haven Law and legally permits a mother in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender if they are unable to care for their newborn. A Baby Box is installed in an exterior wall of a designated fire station or hospital.*

*Authorizing the Department of Health to approve, and certain hospitals, emergency medical services stations, and fire stations to use, newborn infant safety devices to accept surrendered newborn infants under certain circumstances; requiring such hospitals, emergency medical services stations, or fire stations to physically check and test the devices at specified intervals; providing additional locations to which the prohibition on the initiation of criminal investigations based solely on the surrendering of a newborn infant applies, etc.*

According to Chief J. Gordon this has been a push in Panhandle for months. Chief Gordon sits on the advisory panel for newborns has come out against it. He said that several agencies who receive surrendered babies have come out against it.

He said that it was voted through party lines and passed at the Senate subcommittee level. The way the bill is written, as an option, you can put a baby box if you want to. There is talk it may come under the Department of Health and may become mandated.

Not only is it expensive, but the liability falls completely on the agency that installs the box. Chief Gordon testified at the hearing and was disappointed and will testify again when it come up at the Senate.

Executive Committee – Ralph Marrinson said that he hoped to have an in person meeting in June – No Report

Public Information, Education – Chief Joel Gordon reported

- The PIO's, under the Fire Chiefs' Association in Broward County, have formed a monthly PIO subcommittee. Chief Gordon wants fire chiefs to have their PIOs get

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involved. Reach out to Chief Gordon or Mike Moser from Coral Springs and they will get you on board.

- There has been an ongoing discussion of replacing the mobile jic. The current mobile jic is unserviceable and hasn't been operating. Need it for large scale events. Must rebuild or get something new; need sustainable funding to put on road.
- They are looking to put a PIO response team in Broward County. If there's a large scale event it's easy for a local PIO to reach out to a group (similar to what they have with the state deployment team) and be available to manage or work within a joint information center, as necessary.
- One of the subcommittees under the Fire Chiefs' Association in Broward County, is developing an educational training video on mass casualty incidents (MCI). The subcommittee has asked the PIO subgroup to help put that together (script, voiceover, etc.). They are working with a producer in Broward, Eye On South Florida, to film the video.
- Chief Gordon is working with a group on a national-basis, mostly master PIOs, to produce a podcast about PIOs, for PIOs, by PIOs. As soon as they get finished with five they will release and publish the podcast.
- There is a new training course, L105, from FEMA which is a combination of the pre-preliminary PIO courses—intro, basic and intermediate—a combined course. Trying to bring it to South Florida.

[EMS Conference – Bruce Caruso reported](#)

- First There First Care Gathering of Eagles Conference is to take place at Hard Rock Casino, June 14 – 18, 2021.
- They had FTFC's last meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be opening registration at the end of this month.
- Received a lot of interest from sponsors and exhibitors.
- Approved training and presentations for Tuesday and the main conference on Wednesday.
- Continue to update their website and will have more updates with additional committee and e-board meetings.
- Next week they are meeting with the Hard Rock to finalize the contract.
- The conference this year will probably be an in person and hybrid.
- They have a media platform for this conference.
- They are still looking for sponsors. Candace Pineda from Memorial is heading that committee. Can also contact Bruce Caruso. Alison Zerbe also working on this committee.

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Medical Issues – Dr. Frederick Keroff – No Report

- Outbreak of Ebola in South Africa.

EMS Review

- A. Zerbe said they need a new chair for this committee since B. Caruso retired.
- EMS Review has a couple of vacancies and A. Zerbe will be reaching out to fill them.

Grant Committee – Alison Zerbe reported

- COVID-19 presented some budgetary issues from the State and the EMS Trust Fund will likely be cut in half next year.
- Agreements for the 2021 projects have been sent out. They are unable to spend those funds until all the grants are fully executed. Need the Agreements returned as soon as possible.
- They did get approval from the DOH to rollover grant funds from 2020 to 2021. That will be for the same projects we agreed on last year. Probably add addendums on to existing Agreements.

Old Business

Mr. R. Marrinson said that they must fill vacancies for EMS Council membership.

New Business

A. Zerbe reported on Chapter 3 ½ proposed changes.

- Proposal initiated by Consumer Protection (licensing/permitting) Nonemergency Transportation: Wheelchairs need a lift or ramp that complies with ADA standards.
- Stretchers must have adequate secure fasteners from the stretcher to the vehicles. Use the fasteners according to manufacturer's specifications.
- Public hearing, Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10 a.m., Room 422.

Good of the Order

Nothing to report.

Next Meeting Dates

June 3, 2021

Adjourned

2:15 p.m.