



Florida Fire Chiefs' Association
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SECTION
MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 4th 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 12:33

EMS SECTION COMMITTEE:

NAME AND TITLE	PRESENT: (IN-PERSON)	PRESENT: (VIRTUAL)	ABSENT:
Bill McGrath CO-Chair (Southeast)	X		
Tony Tedesco Co-Chair (West Central)	X		
Tim Roche Secretary	X		
Greg Dewitt Board Liaison			X

PRESENTATION:

PRESENTER: PULSARA REPRESENTATIVE

- 1) Telehealth solution
- 2) All hospitals will be on the platform
- 3) Replace rescue to ED radio report
- 4) Uses voice to text for narrative
- 5) QR code to provide demo
- 6) State funded PULSARA.
- 7) Contact vendor for available services

<https://www.pulsara.com>



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

PRESENTER: **DARREL DONATTO**

- 1) State is looking to put forth legislation so that EMS agencies can receive their own DEA registration to administer controlled substances based on criteria outlined in 2017 – Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA) which was signed into law.
- 2) State working on legislative to support reimbursement for emergency medical care not associated with transport.
- 3) State working on one best practice for Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER) and adopting NFPA 3000.
- 4) State is looking to enhance funding for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Light Technical Rescue (TRT) teams.
- 5) Work force development looking at apprenticeship program. Currently available through career source. Working on dedicated funding source through workforce grant.
- 6) Work force project working with rule-making to improve paramedic pass rates
- 7) Workshop taking place to discuss rule change for out of state firefighting certificate of compliance
- 8) Legislative on mental wellness to provide services for programs like prevention and resiliency. Looking for grant funding.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

PRESENTER: **CHIEF DIBERNARDO**

- 1) 50 Seats for Resuscitation Academy at Florida Fire Conference
- 2) 75 seats for Resuscitation Academy at First There First Care



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PRESENTER: STEVE MCCOY

- 1) Workshop on education to review draft rule change – date and time to be announced.
- 2) Work force is working with everyone to find how to help agencies start apprenticeships.
- 3) Mental health and wellness is looking to build resiliency (BHAP).
- 4) Working with community paramedic and mobile integrated health but is not moving forward with new certification in Florida.

STATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR:

PRESENTER: NONE

GRANTS:

PRESENTER: BILL MCGRATH

- 1) County grants are out.
- 2) State matching grants is coming out soon and should be linked to state EMS strategic plan
- 3) AFG (available for EMS items)
- 4) Health Care Coalition
- 5) Fire House Subs

TRAINING:

PRESENTER: BILL MCGRATH

- 1) Discuss that one of the EMS Section Committee goals is to improve share training opportunities with agencies and are looking at ways to accomplish.



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PEER AND MENTAL HEALTH:

PRESENTER: ANTHONY TEDESCO

- 1) EMS Sections committee is looking to use the FFCA website for resource sharing area with mental health resources.
- 2) One topic to research is resources of best practices for transition to retirement.
- 3) Researching military transition program that could be used for fire rescue retirees.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT:

PRESENTER: CHIEF JULIE DOWNEY

- 1) PULSARA – MCI patient tracking
- 2) Ambulance deployment plan – updating now
- 3) NFPA 3000 – new version coming out next year, appendix will have some benchmarking timelines and response and recovery guidelines.
- 4) Jumpstart – updated and available
<https://emlrc.org/wp-content/uploads/JumpSTART-badge-buddy-2021-v2.pdf>
- 5) Stop-the-bleed – requesting agencies to register their classes on website
<https://www.stopthebleed.org>
- 6) Health Care Coalition – recommend joining and reminding that it is a great funding source.

Link to area contacts:

<https://www.floridahcc.org/coalitions/>



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NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTER:

BILL MCGRATH

- 1) EMS Strategic Plan:
 - a. Review and be familiar with the plan
 - b. Plan is approved
 - c. Plan is going through formatting
 - d. The plan consists of a lot of patient center metrics

- 2) Paramedic NREMT Pass rates:
 - a. In draft for rule making workshop.

- 3) Resuscitation centers:
 - a. Working to set standards for resuscitation centers and criteria for different levels
 - b. Final criteria has been approved
 - c. There is 6 hospitals that are piloting and joined cardiac registry
 - d. Promoting it today

- 4) FFCA EMS Section committee is looking to develop and promote resource sharing.
Future discussions for meetings: TXA, antibiotics, finger thoracostomy, ultrasound, whole blood or blood products, Elegard and heads up CPR.

- 5) 2023 Urban Fire Forum - Metro Fire Chiefs (NFPA) endorsement items:<http://www.nfpa.org/NFPA-Membership/Membership-resources/Member-Sections/Metropolitan-Fire-Chiefs/Urban-Fire-Forum>
 - [Climate Change](#)
 - [Support for Increasing Efforts on Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)
 - [First-In Responders Providing Neuroprotective \("Heads up"\) CPR as the Standard of Care for Emergency Medical Services Systems](#)
 - [Establishing Prehospital Transfusion of Blood Products as Standard of Care for Emergency Medical Services Systems](#)
 - [Support for Research on Firefighter Reproductive Health](#)

- 6) FFCA EMS Section committee plans to send out survey to evaluate suggestions for the committee. Emphasis to join FFCA EMS to participate with list server.

- 7) FFCA EMS Section committee discussed the working to improve list server so resource sharing can be established.



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8) Questions from audience - none

EVENTS:

- 1) Health and Safety Conference – October 9-11, 2023 in Kissimmee, FL
<https://www.ffca.org>
- 2) National Urban Search and Rescue Conference – November 3-8, 2023 in Orlando, FL
<https://susar.org/conference>
- 3) Florida Fire Conference – January 8-12, 2024 in Orlando, FL
<https://www.ffca.org>
- 4) Emergency Services Leadership Institute – schedule throughout FL (see FFCA website for dates and locations)
<https://www.ffca.org>
- 5) Fire Cadets – Florida Fire Games – February 9-11, 2024 in Tampa Bay, FL
<https://floridawinterfiregames.com>

ADJOURNMENT: 14:15