



**Florida Fire Chiefs' Association**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SECTION**  
**MEETING MINUTES – October 2, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 pm**

**EMS SECTION COMMITTEE:**

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

**PRESENTATION:**

**PRESENTER:**      **None**

1) None

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

**PRESENTER:**      **Greg Dewitt filling in for CHIEF DARREL DONATTO**

- 1) Legislature gearing up; biweekly legislative huddles planned for Friday mornings starting Oct 24 (public notice to follow).
- 2) HB 23 would mandate mass-casualty training for schools; expect more requests for fire/EMS participation in school MCI drills.
- 3) PSAP consolidation (draft developing): Florida Sheriffs Association backing a plan to place 9-1-1/PSAPs under one umbrella at the county/sheriff level; early language includes dispatch-before-transfer and a sheriff default if locals disagree.
- 4) The property tax bill is coming.



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### **MEETING AGENDA – June 12, 2025**

#### **STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:**

**PRESENTER:** TY CARHART

- 1) Blood programs are a priority for the state, and it is looking for funding sources.
- 2) Regional EMS Coordinators: Treat them as your “network navigators.” Expect more social/assistive visits (with a focus on data/clinical quality) and fewer inspection-style contacts.

#### **STATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR:**

**PRESENTER:** DR. Scheppke

Two major initiatives seeking support (state medical leadership):

- 1) Statewide Whole Blood/Plasma Program — \$15M (budget ask): Training, coolers/warmers, logistics with rotation back to hospitals before expiration.
- 2) 911 Treat-and-Release / Alternate Destination Reimbursement (law change): Require all third-party payers to reimburse EMS for alternate destinations (911 only) or treatment and release. Actuarial estimates suggest approximately \$0.5 billion in annual savings for payers, which can help reduce ER crowding and low-acuity cases.

#### **GRANTS:**

**PRESENTER:** Director Ngoc Huynh

- 1) Scholarships: FFCA scholarship for EMT and Firefighting increased from \$3,500 → \$5,500.
- 2) Discussion on expanding to a paramedic program.

#### **TRAINING:**

**PRESENTER:** Chief McGrath

Florida Fire and EMS Conference:

- ALS Competition preliminary - Monday, January 5, at Universal Studios
- ALS Competition finals - Tuesday, January 6 at Orange County Convention Center
- EMS Lecture Track – Expanded to all three days: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.



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- Topics include OB, cardiac ultrasound (hands-on), autism in emergencies, canine care, leadership, blast injuries, lightning, wound care (hands-on), toxicology, and Vendor Showcase.
- CEUs: To be provided via DOH/EMS.
- Volunteers can receive free conference entry.

#### **PEER AND MENTAL HEALTH:**

**PRESENTER:** Chief McGrath

Student Mental Health Program (Version 1):

- 1) Two-hour, plug-and-play module for EMT/paramedic/fire/police/nursing students (testimonials, panels, resources).
- 2) Goal: normalize exposure stress, outline resources (peer support/CISM), and what to expect at agencies.
- 3) Hoping to be done by January with the video.

#### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT:**

**PRESENTER:** CHIEF JULIE DOWNEY (submit report)

- 1) Updated MCI Plan – J. Downey has been distributed to the DRC, EMSC website, and newsletter, and it is on the FFCA website.
- 2) Terry Schenk- DOH Bureau of Preparedness and Response; Statewide Florida Infectious Disease Transportation Network (FIDTN) exercises are on hold pending funding.
- 3) Bobby Mills – DOH Bureau of EMS; Ambulance Deployment Plan SOG update 2025 edition was distributed to the DRC and the FFCA SERP committee. Also provided an update on the State EMS Survey (DRC has Strategic Priority 6), which was just received and sent out to DRC; the 23 questions related to disasters are still being reviewed.
- 4) FFCA Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP) Emergency Response Committee (ERC) Update: Vice-Chair Chief Marcos De La Rosa.
- 5) Pulsara – Patient tracking – David Summers – BEMO. It has been 2 years since the roll-out of Pulsara. Provided an update on agencies utilizing Pulsara: 131 EMS agencies with 37 live, 223 36 hospitals, and eight live. Used recently in the Texas floods.



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- 6) New terminology on Disaster Recovery/Reunification. Incident Assistance Center (Victim Services Group) and Notification Center (NC) assist family members/loved ones in reunification and assist with death notification.

#### **NEW BUSINESS: Chief McGrath**

- 1) Discussed resource sharing and for members to provide information to post on the website.
- 2) Chief McGrath discusses his agency's incorporation of ultrasound and polls the audience on the use of ultrasound.

#### **EVENTS:**

- 1) October 20-22, 2025 - Health and Safety Conference
- 2) January 5-9, 2026 - Florida Fire and EMS Conference
- 3) ESLI Leadership classes - <https://www.ffca.org/emergency-services-leadership-institute>
- 4) FFCA Scholarships for Firefighter / EMT increased to \$5,500.

#### **ADJOURNMENT: 9:50**