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## *Meeting Minutes of Fire Chief's Association of Broward County - January 7, 2021*

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- I. Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chief Julie Downey
- II. Roll Call: done  
CS, FLL, HL, LH, LHP, MG, MR, NL, OP, PP, PL, PB, SN, TM
- III. Pledge of Allegiance, prayer and moment of silence done
- IV. **Presentations/Other Reports**
  - A. **DOH Covid-19 Update provided by Terry Sudden**
    1. Vaccines are currently being provided in five (5) sites in Broward County
    2. Sunrise Lakes opening on 1/15, and CS Mall on 1/11 operating as closed PODs but will be opened to 65 yrs. and older residents
    3. Average number of vaccines provided per site is 800
    4. Plans to open additional sites in Pompano Beach square mall and Hollywood
    5. Update provided on some of the logistical challenges encountered with vaccines roll out
    6. Working thru all logistical challenges
    7. DOH staffing at vaccination sites update, assistance from law enforcement and EMS Fire
    8. Future to open vaccination mega sites at Lockhart Stadium
    9. Testing continues; there are 6 sites in Broward
    10. Pfizer vaccines received with capabilities to store it
    11. Emergency Management Division Services to provide vaccination at senior communities
    12. Chief Celetti asked about the guidelines and requirements to open a closed POD
      - a. DOH is currently maxed out
      - b. Submit a resource requests to be entered thru WEB EOC and Emergency Management Division with what type of support you are looking for
    13. Chief Downey suggested agencies to coordinate their efforts together to provide vaccines to residents working together when considering opening open/close PODS
    14. Chief Downey will be sending a survey to get input on whether agencies are making it mandatory for all Fire Rescue personnel to get the vaccine and desire to open vaccine PODs
    15. Vaccines sustainability and staff Covid-19 fatigue discussed
    16. Departments has been asked to assist in vaccination sites
    17. More discussion held regarding vaccination sites, PODS, partnering with other agencies, and personnel support with providing vaccinations to the public
  - B. **BEMA:** - *Lori Vun Kannon*
    1. EOC remains at a level II
    2. Working with DOH in partnerships, vaccination roll out updates
    3. Main challenges facing is actual supply of vaccine; update provided
    4. State is doing vaccine allocations needs based due to limited amounts

5. State is working with Dept. of Emergency Management and other channels to supply vaccines to 65 yrs. and older residents
6. Weekly command and unified commands meetings continue to take place
7. EOC center is busy with covid-19 response activity
8. Situational reports continue
9. Priority is to get the vaccines out to all
10. Other update provided on hurricane, PPE resource request, and weather shelters
11. Chief Turpel will forward information from Broward College nursing students requesting to volunteer for covid-19 vaccines site to Lori
12. Chief Downey asked her to please share information related to the release of vaccinations, vaccination sites, etc. as soon as they get the information with FCABC Executive Board

C. **OMETS:** - *Alison Zerbe*

1. **Grants:**

- a. The EMS Matching Grant funds for 2021 are available to apply for
- b. The deadline for receipt of the application is Friday, February 12, 3:00PM
- c. The information and application for this grant is located at :  
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/ems-grants/index.html>
- d. Award letter for the 2021 EMS County Grant Funds still pending; once received agreements will be sent out to the recipients to be executed
  - i. Recipients of the 2020 EMS County Grant Funds will require an addendum to their existing Agreements
  - ii. Those will be sent out once we receive formal permission to roll the funds over from DOH and the addendums are approved by legal

2. **Trauma:**

- a. The next Trauma Systems Quality Improvement Meeting will be held on 1/21, 9:00AM via Skype
  - i. Attendance is limited to protect the confidentiality of the information shared
  - ii. If you have something trauma related to discuss, please contact Alison Zerbe for the meeting information

3. **EMS Council:**

- a. The next EMS Council meeting is 3/ 4 at 1:30PM
- b. Currently we are legally required to have a physical in-person quorum to conduct the meeting
  - i. Working with intergovernmental Affairs regarding concerns about this requirement
- c. There are still several vacancies on the EMS Council; If you are interested, please contact Alison Zerbe for more information

4. **Hospitals and Covid-19:**

- a. Hospital diversion and critical capacity update
- b. Alison Zerbe has revisited this topic with Communications and hospital Leadership; update provided
- c. Critical Capacity: hospital cannot admit patients and will not have any monitored bed space

- d. In these cases, Fire Rescue (FR) should move to the next facility, but it is ultimately their call
- e. A critical capacity advisement from a hospital does not require the Broward County Trauma Services Manager to be notified
- f. When informed of this type of situation, the Duty Officers will send the alert to all FR field units
- g. Hospital Diversion: The hospital is shut down – doors closed; not receiving anyone inbound for any purpose
- h. All Hospital Diversions (regardless of type of facility) must be cleared by Broward County Trauma Services Manager PRIOR to any notification being made to Fire Rescue field units
- i. Broward County Communications will notify ALL dispatching centers to alert that the hospital is on diversion

D. **RED CROSS:** *Raymond Boyd, Disaster Program Manager*

- 1. Stats provided; a total of 10 cases and 6 families assistance provided in December
- 2. Rolled out new software for case work for fire responds; update provided
- 3. Three categories for the ARC for incidents are: Major, Destroy and Uninhabitable which qualify families for financial assistance; any other category will be referral-based assistance
- 4. Red Cross financial assistance parameters are:
  - 1. Household with 1-4 - \$500
  - 2. Household with 5-8 - \$800
  - 3. Household with 9 or more - \$1,200
- 5. Additional financial, mental assistance, funeral expenses assistance, etc. services are provided for fire event with fatalities
- 6. Fire campaign still underway
- 7. Grant from Hollywood update
- 8. Fire alarms support from Fire Depts. request reminder
  - a. Raymond thanked Fire Departments for the support receive

E. **CANTEEN:** *Vishnu Singh, VP*

- 1. No report

F. **Florida Forest Service** – *Tim Abramczyk*

- 1. Fitness pack for red card is on 1/15; please email Tim for more information
- 2. Update on the sugar cane burning in Palm Beach; any questions please contact Forest Service
- 3. On 2/26 there will be training exercises with SN to get ready for wildland season fires
- 4. Chief Downey said assistance for their gear washing is available if needed

V. **Secretary's Report** – *Chief John McNamara, Sunrise Fire Rescue*

- A. No report provided

VI. **TREASURERS REPORT** – *Chief Rodney Turpel, North Lauderdale Fire Rescue*

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- A. \$ 232,245.48 - current balance
- B. Small items were paid for administrative assistant and website system upgrade
- C. Reminder of Departments with outstanding memberships are MG and SN

**VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Chief Percy Sayles, Tamarac Fire Rescue**

- A. CUR Agreement Update
  - 1. Continues to work closely on Agreement
  - 2. Agreement Section 2.3 still pending approval; update provided
  - 3. CUR final draft should be available by next FCABC meeting
  - 4. Chief Sayles provided an update on number of mutual aid calls giving and receiving among agencies; report will be shared with members
  - 5. CUR Phase II roll out still pending upon discussion with Mr. Jackson

**VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Chief Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue**

- A. ByLaws:
  - 1. Reviewed of Bylaws by Chief Brocato will be voted at next month's meeting
  - 2. Bylaws will be sent out for a final review
  - 3. Elections Section (even year) update
  - 4. Members commended Chief Downey for her great job serving as the President
- B. Chief Downey will send a Covid-19 vaccination survey to get feedback on compliance
- C. Health Care Coalition - Kelly Keys
  - 1. Project submission went out
  - 2. Currently working on past projects and purchase of electrostatic sprayers update
  - 3. Chief Downey assisted with equipment distribution
  - 4. Pulse Point Program funding by the HCC update
  - 5. Ready Ops program update: Kelly thanked Chief Levy for his assistance on this project and thanked Allison for sending information to hospital CEOs
    - a. Update on critical capacity and diversion differences update
  - 6. Plantation and University Hospitals are currently at a critical capacity
  - 7. Next meeting changed to 10 a.m. on 1/27

**IX. Old Business**

**A. Committee Reports**

- 1. **CERT**: - Chief Caruso, BSO Fire Rescue/Cooper City
  - a. No CERT meeting in December
  - b. Assistance has been requested for CERT members at the Holiday Park vaccination site
  - c. Some members have been furloughed
  - d. Assistance is being coordinated based on members availability
- 2. **MUTUAL AID COMMUNICATIONS** - Chief Levy, Lauderhill Fire Rescue

- a. P25 Radios Update
    - Working on coastal cities responses right now
    - Cut over was completed successfully; however, there was a challenge with the hospitals communication and use of P25 radios
  - i. Chief Levy will work with Kelly Keys on this matter
    - Turnpike Operations and 595 Expressway communication and radio update provided
    - Chief Sayles said TM can provide/loan a radio to the Turnpike Operations
    - Chief Sayles informed this is a regional issue; update provided
    - Chief Levy will add this matter to the Agenda for the next ORT meeting discussion
    - AFG Grant application submission is open; Chief Brocato suggested considering submitting for radios for the Turnpike Operations
    - Chief Brocato will be leading this Grant submission project
  - b. Fire Station Alerting
    - Over 70% of stations have been cutover
    - Keylite doing site visits for final inspections
  - c. CAD Update
    - final acceptance is underway; however, this matter is holding CUR Agreement's automatic notification to BCs
    - Ready Ops Update
    - Status of hospitals
      - i. Live dashboard updates request to Chief Levy
      - ii. Patient Tracking App update
  - d. P36 call volume update
  - e. Plantation funeral coverage update:
    - Chief Moser Thanked agencies who assisted with coverage
    - Plantation, Chief Gordon thanked all agencies and FCABC for the incredible support during funeral services
3. **EMS:** - *Chief Shaw, FLL Fire Rescue, Chief Carter, SN, Chief Moran, FLL*
- a. Meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month via Zoom
  - b. Data is being collected to determine EMS training needs
  - c. Continue to monitor hospitals during critical capacity
  - d. Student riders update
  - e. Chief Shaw encouraged everyone to think about projects for Grant submissions and encouraged members to recognize those members going above and beyond to submit award recognitions
4. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** - *Kimberly Spill, Pompano Beach Fire Rescue*
- a. EOC Activation(s): COVID-19 – Open incident in WebEOC
  - b. The County is encouraging municipalities to update EEI board.
    - Vaccination Planning
      - i. With the recent Gov EO, we are adapting to the modified rollout from Closed to Open.

- ii. Supporting DOH – working on new sites and supporting vaccination site needs
  - iii. Additional closed POD resource requests should be submitted through the Broward County EM
  - iv. Some Public Test sites continue.
  - v. Mass Care/Food PODs continue to be supported by municipalities
  - vi. Vaccination Planning - Agencies in process of executing DOH MOAs for Vaccine Administration -MOAs went out from the DOH regarding standing up vaccination sites – closed for first responders, etc. and public points of dispensing (PODs).
- a. Emergency Coordinating Council (ECC) update
  - b. Municipal Emergency Managers Sub-Committee (MEM):
    - Meeting 4th Wednesday of each Month at 2 PM; next meeting 1/27.
5. **FIRE PREVENTION:** - *Chief Bowers, Coral Springs Fire Rescue*
- a. There was no meeting last month
  - b. Pending Agreement for Knox Box for schools from FCABC
  - c. Chief Bowers will follow up with AFM Demopoulos on the agreement and some questions to be addressed with School Board
    - AFM Demopoulos said the next meeting to discuss this matter with School Board is on 1/25
6. **HAZMAT/SPECIAL OPS** - *Chief Nugent, BSO Fire Rescue*
- a. Coordination of 80 hrs. hands on training class for April is underway following safety precautions due to Covid-19
  - b. FBI training class was pushed back due to Covid-19
  - c. Chief Nugent said hazmat special ops is considered critical training
7. **SAFETY AND HEALTH:** - *John Whalen Coral Springs /Chantal Botting FLL Fire Rescue*
- a. Update on the Safety & Health Virtual Conference from last month – conference was a success and well attended; Chief Whalen provided an update
  - b. Next Safety & Health Subcommittee meeting is 2/2
8. **CHAPLAIN:** *Rev. Ronald Perkins, Chaplain*
- a. BHAP program is available 24/7 including chaplaincy, peer support, CISM, and clinical specialist
  - b. There has been an increased number of calls; most responses are provided virtually
9. **TRAINING:** - *Chief Russo, Hollywood Fire Rescue*
- a. There was no meeting in December
  - b. All Fire Academies are open for business, update provided
  - c. Training event hosted by the SF FOOLS on 12/6

- d. Training at acquired structures is being coordinated by BSO Fire Rescue and will be set up for multi-agency training

10. **PIO:** - *Michael Moser, Coral Springs Fire Rescue*

- a. First PIO Subcommittee meeting took place last week; update provided
- b. Make sure your PIO contact information is forwarded to Chief Moser
- c. Thank you to Rocio for helping with the PIO group

**B. First There First Care 2021 Conference – Chief Caruso, BSO Fire**

- 1. Last meeting was via Zoom on 1/6
- 2. The theme for this Year's Conference is "unmasking the future of EMS"
- 3. A demonstration of the Attendee hub virtual conference platform took place on 12/17
- 4. Conference coordination update provided
  - a. A new contract will be negotiated with the Hard Rock for the conference and will be presented to the E-Board
  - b. A survey will go out to all participants for their input on the type of conference they would be willing to attend
- 5. Next virtual meeting is 2/3

**X. New Business**

- A. Pompano Beach was accredited CFA, and CAAS (Commission for Accreditation of Ambulance Services); congratulations to Pompano Beach Fire
- B. AFM Demopoulos sent a Knox Box – survey to get input for grant submission

**XI. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- A. Chief Caruso announced he is retiring effective February 12 after 38 1/2 yrs of service  
Congratulations to Chief Caruso on his upcoming retirement!

**XII. Meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.**

**XIII. Next meeting is February 4, 2021 – Virtual Award Ceremony**