

# **Pinellas County**



## **Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, July 16, 2020**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Virtual Regular Meeting**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

*Pat Gerard, Chair*  
*Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair*  
*Charlie Justice*  
*Janet C. Long*  
*Kathleen Peters*  
*Karen Williams Seel*  
*Kenneth T. Welch*

**ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.**

**Present:** 7 - Chair Pat Gerard, Vice-Chair Dave Eggers, Charlie Justice, Janet C. Long, Kathleen Peters, Karen Williams Seel, and Kenneth T. Welch

**Others Present:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Katherine Carpenter, Manager, Board Records Department; and Teresa Adkins, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Office of Technology and Innovation Director Bryan Zumwalt introduced himself and announced that he would be the Technology Moderator for the virtual meeting; and that Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell would serve as Process Moderator; whereupon, he conducted a roll call of the members.

**1. Citizens To Be Heard**

Chair Gerard noted that today's meeting is technically a work session; and that public comment will be limited to matters related to the Local State of Emergency.

**2. Local State of Emergency**

Mr. Burton indicated that the action being requested is to extend the Local State of Emergency from July 17 to July 24. He discussed the growing community spread of COVID-19 and the opening of the Mahaffey testing site, and provided statistics pertaining to testing and percent positivity. He indicated that a designated COVID-19 Super Skilled Nursing Facility (Super SNF) will be opening in Pinellas County in the near future to relocate patients from hospitals who do not require advanced care, and discussed the widespread compliance of citizens wearing masks.

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe discussed recent trends, the number of cases and deaths in Pinellas County, and his concern with the strain on the health care system capacity; whereupon, he indicated that recent studies show promising results associated to convalescent plasma from those who have recovered from COVID-19; and that a messaging campaign is forthcoming to ask for plasma donations.

In response to queries by the members, Dr. Choe, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Director Dr. Angus Jameson, and Mr. Burton discussed the following, and Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict provided input.

- Longevity studies regarding antibodies
- Development of a vaccine
- Discrepancies in lab reporting
- Contact tracing and continued social distancing
- Drivers that lead to an increase in COVID-19 deaths
- Effectiveness of masks in decreasing transmission

- EMS/Emergency Room personnel and Emergency Room statistics
- Medication/supply shortages
- Supply chain process

Responding to query by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Benedict related that challenges associated with contract nurse pay rates are a nationwide issue that the State is aware of; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that local hospital executives will attend the next Commission meeting and can provide their insight, and Drs. Choe and Jameson provided input.

Addressing the public, Chair Gerard related that neither the Commission nor Dr. Choe have any authority over the School Board. Dr. Choe explained that the Department of Health serves in an advisory role to the Pinellas County School Board and discussed various scenarios and challenges regarding the reopening of schools in Pinellas County, and discussion ensued.

In response to queries by the members, Dr. Choe discussed the following, and Mr. Burton provided input.

- Rapid testing/new testing technologies
- Self-isolation guidance pending test results
- Test infectivity and incubation timeframe of the virus

Responding to query by Commissioner Peters, Dr. Choe related that there is clear evidence of asymptomatic spread; and that the question lies in how readily it is spread due to the vagueness of symptoms; whereupon, Dr. Jameson read a Harvard Global Health Institute statement clarifying the confusion generated by a World Health Organization comment referred to by Commissioner Peters.

Thereupon, Attorney White clarified and reiterated for the public that the Pinellas County Department of Health is a state agency; that the County Commission does not have jurisdiction over the School Board; and that opening of the school system is an order issued by the Secretary of Education.

Responding to Chair Gerard's call for public comment, the following individuals expressed their concerns:

Dawn Bohler, St. Petersburg  
David Waddell, Clearwater  
Trevor Burgess, St. Petersburg  
Karen Mullins, Dunedin  
Barbara Walker, Palm Harbor  
Alison Barden, Seminole  
Tara Segall, St. Petersburg  
Glenn Reihing, St. Petersburg

Joelin Murphy, Dunedin  
Adnan Campara, Largo  
Kristine Petrulis, Seminole  
Reverend Andy Oliver, St. Petersburg  
Orlando Acosta, St. Petersburg  
Amy Wright, St. Petersburg  
Susan Mack, North Redington Beach  
Marcus Ell, Seminole (spelling uncertain)

Responding to queries by the public, Drs. Choe and Jameson, Ms. Benedict, Mr. Burton, and Attorney White discussed the following:

- PCR testing accuracy
- Elimination of duplicative test results
- Lab reporting
- National Disaster Medical System and other resources
- Mandatory reporting
- County Commission jurisdiction

During discussion and responding to queries by the members, Mr. Burton related that the Super SNF will be a state facility open to out-of-county residents; that details are being finalized; and that a report will be forthcoming during the next Executive Policy Group call.

Responding to query by Chair Gerard, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri discussed ordinance compliance and enforcement throughout the county and related that there have been very few citations issued.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Gerard, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Resolution No. 20-61 adopted extending the Local State of Emergency established in Resolution No. 20-16 until 3:00 P.M. on July 24, 2020.

### 3. Pinellas County Sheriff's Budget

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri related that the Sheriff's Department met the base budget target provided by the Office of Management and Budget, and discussed two additional needs that are not in the initial budget submission:

- Fiscal Year 2021 Vehicle Replacements
- Enhanced Jail Security

Sheriff Gualtieri provided information regarding the necessary vehicle purchases, including statistics on the condition of existing vehicles and mileage, and in response to queries and

comments by Commissioner Eggers, discussed benchmarking measures, state negotiated contracts with specified manufacturers through the Florida Sheriff's Association, debt service, and the numerous benefits of the airplane purchased last year for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Flight Section.

Sheriff Gualtieri discussed the request for necessary enhancements of jail security due to identified vulnerabilities, noting that long-term planning includes a reception center/screening facility, and Mr. Burton stated that staff supports the request.

Responding to a request by Commissioner Welch, Sheriff Gualtieri discussed various community-based programs initiated and facilitated by the Sheriff's Office in conjunction with community partners and provided historical background information pertaining to the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Program, Pinellas Safe Harbor, Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance, the Habitual Offender Monitor Enforcement Program, and mental health programs throughout the community.

Commissioner Seel inquired as to an additional decision package for replacement of the facial recognition system, and the Sheriff related that the item has been withdrawn from the budget request.

**Meeting Recessed: 12:03 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 12:33 P.M.**

#### 4. Behavioral Health Update

Referring to a report presented at the May 14, 2020 Board meeting and the members' request for further information, Mr. Burton related that the KPMG Consulting team has returned with a brief presentation specifically aligned to mental health issues and recommendations to be included in this year's budget. He noted that the approach is conservative in light of the pandemic and its financial impacts, and is reflected in the recommendations.

Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict related that today's discussion will focus on the two priorities of data collection and analysis and system access; whereupon, she introduced KPMG Managing Director Bill Zizic.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Elevate Behavioral Health Pinellas*, Mr. Zizic and project team members Brendan Davis and Vivian Demian discussed the core recommendations of establishing a Minimum Data Set and a Coordinated Access model.

Mr. Davis provided an overview of the activities that have taken place since the May meeting, including benchmarking, best practice research, cost and needs analysis, and workshops; whereupon, he and Ms. Demian discussed implementation needs and strategies, as well as estimated operational costs associated with the Coordinated Access Model and Minimum Data Set.

Referring to a slide titled *Timeline*, Mr. Davis indicated that taking sequential steps within each work stream could result in the successful implementation of both programs within a two-year timeframe. Acknowledging that the County is facing many competing priorities for funding and focus at this time, Mr. Zizic presented the following recommendations, emphasizing that the Minimum Data Set is a critical first step.

- Go to market for a third-party vendor to deliver Coordinated Access services
- Transition to performance-based contracting structure based on Minimum Data Set
- Fund-third party vendor to assist in accelerating the work
- Authorize new internal positions

Human Services Director Daisy Rodriguez briefly discussed funding for the project; whereupon, the KPMG project team responded to queries by the members regarding the following, and Mr. Burton and Ms. Benedict provided input:

- Data warehouse, Microsoft Power BI, and additional licensing requirements
- Central Florida Behavioral Health Network data
- Required data compliance from providers
- Privacy laws and confidentiality challenges
- Coordinated Access System benefits
- Capacity utilization
- Virtual access
- Funding

Discussion ensued, and Mr. Burton, with input by Mr. Zizic, clarified the cost of the program elements being discussed, and the members provided their input and perspective.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Pinellas Opioid Intervention*, Ms. Rodriguez provided background information and historical data pertaining to opioid and substance-related deaths, responses, and best practices. She discussed opportunities and solutions, including funding and various programs, and discussion ensued.

Responding to queries and comments by the members, Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Burton, and Ms. Benedict discussed the following:

- Capacity to treat
- Opioid settlement funds
- Treatment options
- Bridge program funding
- Coordinated system of care in Hillsborough County
- Hospital transport locations
- Pinellas County Opioid Task Force
- Utilization of overdose maps
- Marchman Act beds

Thereupon, Mr. Burton clarified funding allocations pertaining to the Human Services budget and related that the proposed budget will be presented to the Board at next Tuesday's meeting.

#### 5. Airport Master Plan Update

Airport Director Tom Jewsbury provided background information regarding the Airport Master Plan, noting that the last plan was completed in 2004. He discussed the approval process, noting that the Master Plan will be presented to the Board for approval later in the summer; that any capital improvement projects will require separate approval; and that the Airport Layout Plan will require approval by the Federal Aviation Administration; whereupon, he introduced Environmental Science Associates Lead Project Manager Doug DiCarlo.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Master Plan - Study Overview*, Messrs. DiCarlo and Jewsbury presented information regarding the following:

- Projections of Annual Enplanements (FAA approved)
- 20-Year Noise Contours
- Recommended Airport Development Plan
- Recommended Airside Development
- Landside Development - Post Gateway Expressway
- Terminal Development - Ultimate Buildout (20+ years)
- Terminal Development - Phases 1-5
- Projected Capital Funding for Development Program
- Projected Capital Program Funding Sources

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Jewsbury discussed the following:

- Acquiring new airline carriers
- Noise abatement procedures/voluntary quiet window and compliance
- New technologies
- Parking expansion, demand, and possible future garage
- Temporary main runway closing and traffic shift to runway 4-22

#### 6. Gulf to Bay and Belcher Road Intersection Improvements

Transportation Division Director Ken Jacobs provided an update on the status of the project, indicating that that the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study technical analysis has been completed and alternative designs have been presented; and that the next step will be to receive public input regarding the three proposed alternatives; whereupon, he introduced Ayres Associates Project Manager Kevin Kuhlow.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Gulf to Bay and Belcher Road Intersection Improvements*, Mr. Kuhlow discussed the current traffic patterns at the site, and the three improvement alternatives, including their estimated costs; whereupon, he played a video illustrating the benefits of the No. 1 ranked alternative, East/West Median U-Turn.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Justice, Mr. Kuhlow indicated that public education will be key to successful implementation of the safety and operational improvements; that signs will help to remind drivers of the new driving pattern; and that the Median U-turn alternative will not require removal of the Walmart/Publix traffic signal on Belcher Road.

Mr. Jacobs discussed the benefits of the Median U-Turn option, including improved pedestrian accommodations and a lower estimated cost; whereupon, he reviewed the next steps and timeline of the project.

Responding to queries by Commissioners Justice and Seel, Mr. Jacobs provided his opinion regarding the cause of dangers at the existing intersection, and related that the City of Clearwater provided positive feedback when consulted last year; and that acquisition of right-of-way for the preferred alternative is included in the cost estimate; whereupon, Mr. Kuhlow provided examples of other locations in the United States where the Median U-Turn option has had success.

In response to concerns expressed by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Jacobs clarified the timing process of various movements associated with traffic signals and how the proposed configuration will reduce traffic backup. He related that the Department of Transportation is encouraging the use of innovative intersection alternatives, and they will be considered when planning future projects, and discussion ensued.

## 7. Agenda Briefing

Mr. Burton and Attorney White reviewed the agenda items to be addressed at the July 21 Commission meeting. Attorney White indicated that she will contact the members individually to brief them with respect to the settlement proposed under Item No. 24.

Mr. Burton responded to queries by the members pertaining to the following items:

- Item No. 23 Human Services Social Action Grant Funding Recommendations
- Item No. 35 Petition to Vacate filed by Christopher D. Muller, Laura T. Muller, Raymond B. Bennett, and Debra J. Schaefer



ADJOURNMENT 4:02 P.M.

Pat Gerard  
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By   
Deputy Clerk

