

# **Pinellas County**



## **Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, May 14, 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 Amelia Hanks, Board Reporter.

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.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE****1. Local State of Emergency**

Mr. Burton summarized the proposed resolution extending the Local State of Emergency and indicated that Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Pinellas County Director Ulyee Choe would share information regarding the COVID-19 situation in the County; that the Sheriff would address the beaches and plans moving forward; and that Deputy Secretary of Health Quality Assurance Molly McKinstry would discuss activities pertaining to nursing homes.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation containing various charts and graphs, Dr. Choe provided information regarding COVID-19 cases in Pinellas County, as well as metrics used to measure the County's success in responding to the pandemic. He indicated that the County has deployed task forces in order to facilitate testing and focus on long-term care facilities.

Commissioner Long expressed concern regarding the discrepancy of data in various reports and the lack of reliable information regarding testing. In response, Dr. Choe explained that the numbers are very fluid and constantly changing; and that the number of testing sites has continued to increase over the last few weeks; whereupon, Mr. Burton related that the Community Health Centers have additional capacity, and anyone who wants a COVID-19 test can get one.

Following discussion and in response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Dr. Choe and Mr. Burton related that the consolidated report regarding COVID-19 information will be distributed to the Commissioners weekly. Mr. Burton noted that the information may be lagging due to the testing sites being run by non-County providers.

In response to queries by Commissioners Seel and Justice, Dr. Choe indicated that asymptomatic persons can request testing based on availability; and that the Department of Health is working to create a system to expand contact tracing capacity.

Ms. McKinstry provided input regarding the Agency for Health Care Administration's (AHCA) involvement with the Pinellas County Department of Health with calls and visits to testing facilities, long-term care facilities, and long-term care providers. She indicated that Florida hospitals must test residents before they go to a long-term care facility in order to avoid spreading the virus; that new rules are in place regarding testing of facility staff and transferring of COVID-19 clients; and that all facilities must follow the CDC guidelines.

In response to queries by Commissioner Long, Ms. McKinstry clarified that the DOH and County Emergency Operations Centers are supplying facilities with personal protective equipment and training.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Justice, Dr. Choe and Emergency Medical Services Medical Director Dr. Angus Jameson indicated that EMS/Fire and DOH teams assess long-term care facilities for deficiencies and assist in training staff to utilize personal protective equipment and appropriate safety protocols; and that AHCA has developed a complaint form; whereupon, Ms. McKinstry related that AHCA will be working with the Governor's Office to determine the precautions needed to allow visitation at long-term care facilities.

Ms. McKinstry responded to queries by Commissioner Eggers, indicating that AHCA is working with hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other partners to provide options in anticipation of a surge in cases, including *swing beds* in hospitals that can be available for different patient uses.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation containing ground-level and aerial photographs, Sheriff Gualtieri provided a status report regarding the beaches. He indicated that deputies were stationed at beaches throughout the County in order to ensure social distancing; that the deputies redirected people to other areas of the beach if it became too crowded; that people are utilizing the dashboard designed to judge how full the beaches are in advance; and that certain individual beaches are more crowded than others. He stated that the level of involvement by the Sheriff's Office at the beaches is not sustainable; and that the situation will be reevaluated after the Memorial Day holiday.

Following discussion and in response to query by Commissioner Welch, Sheriff Gualtieri related that businesses are following the guidelines; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that the proposed resolution will extend the Local State of Emergency until the following Friday.

Upon call by the Chair for public comment, the following individuals expressed their concerns:

Robert Radomski, Clearwater Beach

Dawn Jenkins, unincorporated Pinellas County

Trevor Burgess, St. Petersburg

Zeb Atkinson, Tarpon Springs

**A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the order extending the Local State of Emergency 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. 20-43 approved ratifying, restating, readopting, and extending the local state of emergency established in Resolution No. 20-16, as well as all resolutions and orders issued pursuant thereto, unless expressly rescinded by another action of the Board, until 3:00 P.M. on May 22, 2020.

Dr. Choe, Mr. Burton, and Sheriff Gualtieri responded to queries by Commissioners Welch and Seel pertaining to comments by the speakers.

**2. Elevate Behavioral Health Pinellas - KPMG Consulting Presentation for the Adult Behavioral Health System**

Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict related that the consulting firm of KPMG was hired in December 2019 to conduct a comprehensive review of the adult behavioral health system in Pinellas County and to make recommendations for improvement; and that the project team members are in attendance to present an overview of their report; whereupon, she introduced KPMG Managing Director Bill Zizic.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Zizic and team members Brendan Davis and Vivian Demian provided an overview of the report titled *Elevate Behavioral Health Pinellas County*, as follows, noting that the project involved County Administration, staff, and over 50 service providers, funding partners, and other stakeholders in the community.

- Project overview
- Commendations
- Top 5 questions
- Recommendations for BCC consideration
- Project approach
- Key findings on the current behavioral health system
- Future state vision for the behavioral health system
- Overview of options and implementation pathways

- Comparison of implementation pathways
- Overview of implementation phases
- Summary and next steps

Ms. Benedict requested direction from the Board and related that the KPMG project team has agreed to work with the County for approximately two additional months free of charge.

Chair Gerard opined that the information presented was general in nature and did not provide specific guidance regarding how to best move forward. Commissioner Long concurred, noting that the topic has been under discussion for years without a clearly identified solution.

Lengthy discussion ensued, and the KPMG project team responded to comments and queries by the members regarding numerous issues, including the following, and Mr. Burton and Ms. Benedict provided input:

- Central Florida Behavioral Health Network data
- Disbursement of funds through managing entities
- 75/25 percent system funding by the State and County; total system funding
- Addressing the opioid crisis
- Utilizing a 1-800 line to provide services to citizens of all ages
- Defining the minimum data set
- Previous initiatives through the Data Collaborative and Care Connect and various working groups

Mr. Zizic related that KPMG will work with the County over the coming months to customize options and recommendations based on priorities to be identified by the Board, and Ms. Benedict and Mr. Burton clarified that receiving the report is step one; and that next steps can be addressed as part of the upcoming budget process.

Commissioner Peters inquired as to the County's ability to take action in a timely manner, and Mr. Burton related that the coming year will be challenging; and that money was set aside last year to begin to address the issue. Noting the uncertainty of next year's budget, particularly in light of the ongoing pandemic, Chair Gerard indicated that she supports spending whatever is feasible to improve the mental health system.

At the request of Commissioner Peters, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri shared his perspective, indicating that he concurs with the report; and that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done, especially in the areas of case management and coordinated care.

**Meeting Recessed: 12:53 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 1:17 P.M.**

**3. Agenda Briefing**

Mr. Burton and Attorney White reviewed the agenda items to be addressed at the May 19, 2020 Commission meeting. Mr. Burton responded to queries by the members regarding the following items:

- Item No. 1 Proposed ordinance to amend the Pinellas County Code relating to Vessel Exclusion Zones
- Item No. 7 Delegated Item No. 16, Florida Department of Transportation agreement
- Item No. 9 Joint Project Agreement with the City of Madeira Beach
- Item No. 12 Local State of Emergency (Pinellas CARES programs)
- Item No. 16 Resolution approving a substantial amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and an amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan for the purpose of receiving Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus Response funds

**4. Pinellas County Reopening Plans**

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Burton provided an update regarding plans to resume County operations. He indicated that many employees are currently working from home; that safety measures have been put in place to protect those in the office; that there is ongoing coordination with the Constitutional Officers, Appointing Authorities, and municipal partners; and that staff is currently working on a solution to sustain the level of safety precautions over a period of time.

Mr. Burton provided examples of departmental transition plans and reviewed steps to be taken before the public is allowed to visit County facilities, including the installation of distancing guides and counter shields. He indicated that the Board should prepare to resume in-person meetings in anticipation of changes in the Governor's orders, and suggested using the Magnolia Room at the Pinellas County Extension facility, noting that it is large and could be configured as a broadcast studio.

During discussion and responding to queries by the Commissioners, Mr. Burton related that there has only been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in a County employee; that the Magnolia Room is the most viable meeting space for practicing social distancing; and that masks will be given to County staff upon their return to work. The members concurred that the wearing of masks in County buildings should be strongly recommended.

In response to query by Chair Gerard, Mr. Burton related that the Governor has not provided a timeline for Phase 2 of his reopening plan; and that staff has set an arbitrary date of June 1 for planning purposes, and Commissioner Justice provided input.

#### 5. Renourishment Update

Director of Public Works Kelli Hammer Levy reported that federal authorization for Treasure Island and Long Key beach nourishment expires in 2025 and 2030, respectively, and that the Army Corps of Engineers is completing a Coastal Storm Management Study to enable reauthorization. She related that the County and Cities of Treasure Island and St. Pete Beach have indicated their support, as required to move forward to the public comment period, while expressing great concern over some of the proposed alternatives, which affect the recreational beach area; and that the Army Corps has acknowledged those concerns. Referring to an aerial photograph, she identified the study area, noting that the Commissioners may receive feedback from the community.

Responding to comments and a request by Commissioner Long, Ms. Levy agreed to work with Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack to ensure that the Legislative Delegation is updated with regard to the reauthorization process.

#### 6. County Commission Board Reports and Miscellaneous Items

The members provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and commented on various topics, as follows:

##### Commissioner Long

- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority
- Mitigation at various parks

##### Commissioner Eggers

- Forward Pinellas, Tampa Bay Water Board
- Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce, Rotary
- Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week

Chair Gerard

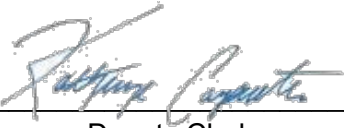
- CareerSource Pinellas

Mr. Burton indicated that 2021 budget meetings will begin the first week of June.

**ADJOURNMENT - 2:11 P.M.**

Pat Gerard  
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By   
Deputy Clerk

