

Florida EMS Advisory Council Meeting
June 29- July 1, 2009
Orlando, Florida

USLA Open-Water Lifesaving Constituency Group meeting minutes:

Attendees:

Joe McManus, USLA-SER, President/Indian River County Ocean Rescue
Dennis Ward, USLA-SER/Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue
Vicki Grant, FL DOH-Medical Quality Assurance
Betsey Hines, FL DOH-Medical Quality Assurance
Cory Richter, Strategic Plan Leadership Team Chair, PIER Committee Chair
Dan Cuoco, Miami-Dade Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 10:30 am, June 30, 2009

Discussion regarding the 2010 – 2012 Florida EMS Strategic Plan focused on the inclusion of open water lifeguards in the plan. Florida's beaches are of high economic value to both residents and tourists, and the level and quality of public safety provided by coastal lifeguard agencies is in need of assessment, standardization and oversight.

Discussion regarding possible legislative action involving certification of coastal lifeguard agencies focused on Chapter 514 F.S. There is currently no certification requirement in Florida Statute for Florida's 1,000+ coastal lifeguards; pool lifeguards, however, are required by statute to be certified. In addition, operating permits are not required for coastal bathing facilities, even though they are required for all public pools and other bathing facilities.

Dennis Ward and Joe McManus invited attendees to visit the USLA Water Safety booth at the ClinCon exhibition hall.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am