

United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region

Open Water Lifesaving Constituency Group to the Florida DOH Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

Wednesday, July 9th, 2008 Rosen Centre, Orlando, Salon 15

In attendance:

Chuck Kearns	Advisory Committee Chair, Director Pinellas County EMS & Fire Admin
Steven Canfield	St. Johns County Fire Rescue, Chief of Support & Finance
Jeffrey Prevatt	St. Johns County Fire Rescue, Deputy Operations Chief
Corky Young	Bay Medical, Director of Emergency Medical Services
Joe McManus	United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region, President
Jim McCrady	United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region, Lifesaving Academies & Competition Director
Dennis Ward	United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region, Political Action Chair / Gold Coast Representative
Jo Wagenhals	United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region, Secretary

Our gratitude goes to the State of Florida DOH for appointing this constituency group.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide effective open water rescue services throughout the state.
- Deliver appropriate and effective on scene emergency medical care in the beach environment throughout the state.
- Coordinate efforts and develop standards of cooperation between open water lifesaving agencies and other emergency service providers.
- Develop coordinating standard operating guidelines, cross training protocols, and emergency action plans between open water lifeguard agencies and other EMS providers.
- Pursue grants for aquatic lifesaving operations and equipment.
- Create database of open water lifeguard agencies that would, in part :
 1. Establish which open water lifeguard agencies are operating under an MOU pursuant to F.S. 401.435
 2. Establish which open water lifeguard agencies are divisions of emergency service or fire departments

Discussion of the opportunity for training academies and possible tier system of varying abilities for non-lifeguard EMS responders took place.

