

Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting

March 20, 2015, 10 a.m.
Alabama Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower, Suite 1586
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present: Donald Williamson, M.D., William Crawford, M.D.

Members by Phone: Sydney Brevard, M.D., Loring Rue, M.D., Bryan Kindred, Douglas Tanner, Alzo Preyear, M.D., Rony Najjar, M.D., Vernon Johnson, Beth Anderson

Members Absent: Chief A. J. Martin

Staff by Phone: Sarah Nafziger, M.D.

Staff Present: Choon Lang, Leslie Morgan, Verla Thomas, Augustine Amenyah, Katherine Hert, Mark Jackson, MisChele White, Stephen Wilson, Nate Horsley

Guests Present: Joe Acker, Glenn Davis, Jim Fox

Guests by Phone: David Garmon, Ann Klasner, M.D., Allan Pace, John Blue, Denise Louthain, Stephen Suggs, M.D., Dion Schultz

Welcome

Dr. Williamson welcomed participants.

Adoption of September 22, 2014, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of September 22, 2014, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

Southeast Regional Pilot Acute Stroke System (SRPASS) Update

Dr. Nafziger provided an update on the SRPASS and informed the Council that the first year of the stroke system had been very successful. St. Francis Hospital in Columbus, Georgia, recently entered the stroke system as a Level II stroke center and is certified by The Joint Commission. The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) hoped to bring on an additional hospital in Columbus as well.

Dr. Nafziger reported that, in response to the concerns of the Council, language was considered for addition to House Bill 517 to allow the STHSAC to separate into Councils specific to each health system and to add additional members, as needed. After discussion with the Alabama Hospital Association, the plan was reconsidered due to concern about unwanted changes to the current legislation. Dr. Nafziger reported that one possible solution would be to create workgroups under the STHSAC that include specialists for the additional systems of care. The trauma rules would need to be altered slightly to give the workgroup members increased authority to report to STHSAC. Dr. Najjar commented that he would like to add stroke and ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) representation to the specialist workgroup that would report to STHSAC.

Alabama Trauma System (ATS) Update

Dr. Crawford informed the Council that an electronic vote would be requested to accept the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to approve the updated regional trauma plans. The deadline to submit votes would be April 17, 2015.

Dr. Crawford reported that Northwest Medical Center (NWMC) in Region Four was inspected and the RAC recommended a Level III trauma center designation. A Columbus, Georgia, hospital has begun the designation process, and a Tupelo, Mississippi, hospital is accepting ATS patients and would soon have a workstation installed. It is hoped that the addition of these hospitals would provide needed resources for the West region, specifically in the Northwest area.

Dr. Crawford reported that, because Druid City Hospital (DCH) and Northwest Medical Center are both Level III trauma centers, the ATCC would not be able to facilitate inter-facility transfers between them. Therefore, if NWMC has a trauma patient who desires transfer to DCH, they will need to contact DCH directly to request an inter-facility transfer. Acceptance of these patients would be at the discretion of DCH. Mr. Acker added that Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System would use a 60-minute transport time, which would not interfere with the regional trauma plan. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations of the RAC to designate NWMC as a Level III trauma center; the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Crawford reported to the Council that the regional directors have had difficulty reaching a quorum at the RAC meetings. When the RACs were first created, they were required to have a minimum of ten members. Additional members were added to ensure that representation from all key stakeholders were included. Now that the trauma system is fully operational, the membership is too large to be efficient and attendance is poor. The regional directors requested permission to scale the membership back to the minimum number of representatives. Dr. Williamson agreed that the trauma rule regarding RAC membership would need to be examined and discussed in the next Council meeting.

New Business

Dr. Crawford informed the Council that a survey had been developed to measure the level of understanding that hospitals and emergency medical services personnel have of the trauma system. This survey would be dispersed statewide and the results compiled by OEMS.

Dr. Najjar reported that the Level III re-inspection process in Region One had been completed. The RAC recommended that all Level III trauma centers in Region One receive a 180-day provisional Level III designation to correct documented deficiencies. After 180 days, the RAC would conduct a re-inspection to ensure compliance with Level III resource requirements.

Dr. Crawford informed the Council that Flowers Hospital would complete a 180-day Level II provisional designation that would end on April 29, 2015. He reported that Flowers Hospital was inspected twice and still had issues that must be resolved. The Council needed to consider whether to extend the provisional designation to give the facility more time to comply, or downgrade to a Level III trauma center. The main compliance issues at Flowers Hospital are regular trauma committee meetings and registry data entry. The Council expressed concern that Flowers Hospital had already been given 180 days to comply. There was also concern about how Flowers Hospital would be monitored to ensure future compliance. The Council requested that OEMS conduct a compliance audit on Flowers Hospital. Once the audit is completed, the Council planned to discuss the findings via teleconference, in mid-April, and then make a decision regarding Flowers Hospital's designation level.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the North Region RAC Level III recommendations; the motion carried unanimously.

ATS Data System Update

Ms. White presented a review of the ATS Date Systems Report, as distributed.

ATS Operations Report

Mr. Acker presented a review of the ATS Operations Report, as distributed.

RAC Changes

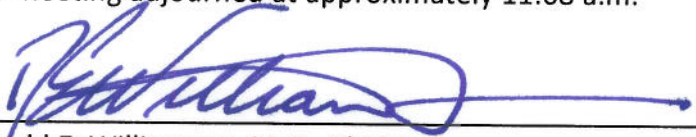
A motion was made and seconded to approve the RAC membership changes, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

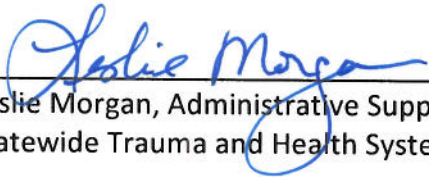
The next meeting was scheduled for June 24, 2015, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Room 1586.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:08 a.m.



Donald E. Williamson, M.D., Chairman
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council



Leslie Morgan, Administrative Support Assistant II
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council

Approved: June 24, 2015

Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting

June 24, 2015, 10 a.m.
Alabama Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower, Suite 1586
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present: William Crawford, M.D.,-by Proxy (Sarah Nafziger, M.D.), Ricky Howell

Members by Phone: Sidney Brevard, M.D., Douglas Tanner, Beth Anderson, Loring Rue, M.D.

Members Absent: Donald Williamson, M.D., Bryan Kindred, Rony Najjar, M.D.,
Alzo Preyear, M.D., Vernon Johnson

Staff Present: Choon Lang, Leslie Morgan, Verla Thomas, Augustine Amenyah,
Mark Jackson, MisChele White, Karen Bishop, Chris Lochte,
Stephanie Payne

Guests Present: Joe Acker, Jim Fox, John Blue, II, Dion Schultz

Guests by Phone: Ann Klasner, M.D., Allan Pace, Glenn Davis, Denise Louthain,
Stephen Suggs, M.D., Priscilla Brewer

Welcome

Dr. Nafziger welcomed participants.

Adoption of March 20, 2015, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of March 20, 2015, as distributed;
the motion carried unanimously.

Southeast Regional Pilot Acute Stroke System (SRPASS) Update

Dr. Nafziger provided an update on the SRPASS and informed the Council that the stroke system would expand statewide to build on the success of the system in the Southeast Region. The Stroke Executive Committee met on May 19, 2015, and discussed updating the stroke plan to include new guidelines from The Joint Commission for Comprehensive Stroke Centers, the addition of a stroke subcommittee to report to the STHSAC, and stronger language for the trauma rules to allow subcommittees for each acute care system increased authority to report to STHSAC. A motion was made and seconded to approve for public comment the proposed trauma rule change for additional acute care system subcommittees under the STHSAC; the motion carried unanimously.

Alabama Trauma System (ATS) Update

Dr. Nafziger informed the Council that an electronic vote requested of the Council to accept the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to approve the updated regional trauma plans was approved. The electronic vote requested of the Council to accept the recommendations of the Southeast Region to grant Flowers Hospital a 180-day Provisional Level III Trauma Center Designation was also approved.

Dr. Nafziger reported to the Council that Erlanger Health Systems and Huntsville Hospital were recently re-inspected and the North Region RAC had recommended extending their Level I Trauma Center Designations. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation of the RAC to extend the Level I Trauma Center Designations for Erlanger Health Systems and Huntsville Hospital; the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Nafziger reported to the Council that the regional directors had difficulty reaching a quorum at the RAC meetings. When the RACs were first created, they were required to have a minimum of ten members. Additional members were added to ensure that representation from all key stakeholders were included. Now that the trauma system is fully operational, the membership is too large to be functional and meeting attendance is poor. The regional directors requested permission to reduce membership to the minimum number of representatives. The North Region presented their proposed membership composition to the STHSAC, which includes additional workgroups for acute systems of care and equal representation for hospitals, associations, and air medical. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed changes to the North Region RAC membership, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to recommend, but not require, this RAC composition to the other regional EMS agencies; the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Nafziger presented the Council with drafted changes to secondary triage times for the Southeast Region due to changes in trauma center designation levels in that region. A motion was made and seconded to accept the changes to the secondary triage criteria for the Southeast Region; the motion carried unanimously.

ATS Data System Update

Ms. White presented a review of the ATS Data Systems Report, as distributed.

ATS Operations Report

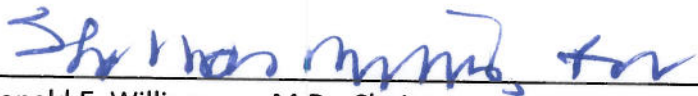
Mr. Acker presented a review of the ATS Operations Report, as distributed. Mr. Acker will present a more detailed report on yellow trauma system overload in the next meeting, as requested by the Council.

Next Meeting


The next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2015, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Room 1586.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:42 a.m.



Donald E. Williamson, M.D., Chairman
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council



Leslie Morgan, Administrative Support Assistant II
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council

Approved: September 10, 2015

Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting

December 8, 2015, 10 a.m.
Alabama Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower, Suite 1586
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present: Thomas M. Miller, M.D., William Crawford, M.D.

Members by Phone: Sidney Brevard, M.D., Ricky Howell, Bryan Kindred, Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., Rony Najjar, M.D., Alzo Preyear, M.D., Beth Anderson

Members Absent: Douglas Tanner, Vernon Johnson

Staff Present: Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Choona Lang, Leslie Morgan, Verla Thomas, Augustine Amenyah, Mark Jackson, Karen Bishop, Brian Hale, Lori McInerney, Stephanie Payne, Vickie Turner, Stephen Wilson

Guests Present: Joe Acker, Michael Minor, Jim Fox, Dion Schultz, Travis Parker

Guests by Phone: David Garmon, Ann Klasner, M.D., Allan Pace, John Blue, II, Denise Louthain, Lianne Brown, Priscilla Brewer

Welcome

Dr. Miller welcomed participants.

Adoption of June 24, 2015, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2015, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

Trauma System Update

Dr. Crawford reported to the Council that Helen Keller Hospital and North Mississippi Medical Center (NMMC) were inspected. The respective Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) recommended a provisional Level III Trauma Center Designation for Helen Keller Hospital, and a Level II Trauma Center Designation for NMMC. The STHSAC voted electronically to accept the recommendations of the RAC for trauma center designations of Helen Keller Hospital and NMMC. Dr. Crawford also reported that Druid City Hospital (DCH) was recently re-inspected and it was the recommendation of the RAC that DCH qualified for Level III Trauma Center Designation, but also had the resources available to perform as a Level II. Mr. Kindred reported that a Level II designation was being considered, but DCH has decided to remain a Level III at

this time. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation of the RAC to extend the Level III Trauma Center Designation for DCH; the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Crawford informed the Council that the change to Trauma Rule 420-2-2-.04, which would strengthen the role of subcommittees and workgroups based on acute care systems expertise, became effective on October 22, 2015. Dr. Crawford reported that Sherry Melton, M.D., advised that Appendix G in the EMS Protocols be revised to comply with the updated criteria from the American College of Surgeons, and those changes would become effective on January 1, 2016.

Stroke System Update

Dr. Nafziger informed the Council that the stroke system would expand statewide to build on the success of the system in the Southeast Region. Some inspections have already been completed in the East and Gulf Regions. Dr. Nafziger reported that she is in the process of updating the stroke plan to include new guidelines from The Joint Commission for Comprehensive Stroke Centers. Dr. Nafziger is also in the process of drafting the stroke rules. The Stroke Executive Committee agreed to transition into the Stroke Workgroup and report to the Council. The Stroke Workgroup will meet in January to finalize the stroke plan and stroke rules for presentation to the Council for review.

Health Systems Data Report

Mr. Amenyah presented a review of the Health Systems Data Report, as distributed.

Health Systems Report

Mr. Acker presented a review of the Health Systems Report, as distributed.

Next Meeting

The meeting dates for 2016 will be distributed to the Council once they have been determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:38 a.m.



Thomas M. Miller, M.D. Chairman
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council



Leslie Morgan, Administrative Support Assistant II
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council

Approved: March 8, 2016