

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
December 13, 2023 – 10 a.m.
Via Phone/WebEx**

Members Present by Phone/WebEx: Scott Harris, M.D., Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., Rony Najjar, M.D., Tracy Doughty, Teresa Grimes, David Hughes, Shannon Scaturro, Jon Howell

Members Present: Elwin Crawford, M.D.

Members Absent: Alzo Preyear, D.O., Jon Simmons, M.D.

Staff Present: Alice Floyd, Sara Matthews, Tabatha Ross, Jamie Gray, Chris Palmer, Kimberly Coley

Guests Present: Michael Minor

Guests by Phone/WebEx: Michele Jones, Dion Schultz, Sean Gibson, Will Montalban, John E. Blue, II, Robert Jackson, Allan Pace, Tracy Soule, Stephanie Spain, Lynn Morrison, Valerie Russell, Kimberly Coley, Travis Parker, Brian Gober, Priscilla Bode, April Turner, Carolyn Bern, Danne Howard, Jim Fox

Welcome

Dr. Harris welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order.

Adoption of September 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

System Updates

Dr. Kerby stated that the Rescue Stop/Accelerated Transfer is near implementation. All regions have had at least one training session with more sessions to be provided. The trainings have been recorded and a Q and A document will be developed. A recorded session for other care teams that need training will be made available. The target start date for Accelerated Transfer is January 9, 2024; however, if needed the date will be delayed. The specific start date will be announced prior to implementation.

Dr. Kerby stated that Rescue Stop is in place and approved. The nomenclature was changed from Pit Stop to Rescue Stop and included in the Accelerated Transfer training sessions.

Michael Minor provided an insert for Rescue Stop/Accelerated Transfer to be added in the Regional Trauma Plans. Council members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the insert; none were asked and there was no further discussion.

Dr. Harris stated approval of the Trauma Plan insert was needed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Trauma Plan insert. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Kerby stated that a vote to approve the Accelerated Transfer process was needed. The Quality Assurance form was approved in March; however, a review of minutes indicated a formal approval was needed for the process. The goal is to decrease time from injury to definitive care. Currently the process requires physician to physician communication and acceptance before the transfer. The new

process includes physiologic and anatomic criteria, etc., that were developed with input from trauma surgeons across the state.

Dr. Najjar asked if there would be tracking of the process. Dr. Kerby stated that every incidence of Accelerated Transfer would be reviewed and modifications in Operational Guidelines would be made as needed. There being no other discussion, the motion was made and seconded to approve the Accelerated Transfer process. The motion carried unanimously.

Trauma System

Dr. Crawford stated that University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital was recertified by the American College of Surgeons for Level I Trauma Center through May 1, 2025, and had been approved by the Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System (BREMSS) Regional Advisory Council (RAC). The motion was made and seconded to approve UAB Hospital. The motion carried unanimously.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford presented an update regarding the Severity Based Stroke Triage (SBST). Regional stroke symposiums are ongoing. The North Region Stroke Symposium was held in October. The Gulf Region Stroke Symposium is scheduled for January 12, 2024. BREMSS was the first region to start SBST routing. The Southeast AL EMS Region will begin SBST routing later this month. Implementation will begin about 2 months after the regional training has been completed. Dr. Crawford expects the SBST routing process to exist throughout the state by December 2024.

Dr. Crawford stated that Wiregrass Hospital has voluntarily withdrawn from the stroke system and will contact the Office of EMS when they have internal processes in place and wish to re-enter the stroke system.

Stroke site visits were conducted in the North Region on October 11, 2023, for Huntsville Hospital and Huntsville Madison Hospital. Huntsville Hospital applied to change from a Level II Stroke Center to a Level IIa Stroke Center and Huntsville Madison was surveyed for their current Level III Stroke Center status. The North Region RAC met on November 27 and approved both hospitals to participate in the system as surveyed.

A stroke site visit for UAB Hospital was completed as a Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Center and approved by the BREMSS RAC.

Dr. Harris asked if there was any opposition to voting on stroke centers in one vote; there were no objections. A motion was made and seconded to approve the three stroke centers as approved by their RAC. The motion carried unanimously.

Acute Health Systems (AHS) Report

Mr. Minor presented the AHS Report.

Dr. Crawford commented that the 32 percent thrombolytic rate is much higher than the national average and this is extremely impressive for Alabama.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.



Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., Chairman
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council



Alice B. Floyd, B.S.N., R.N., EMT-P
Acute Health Systems Manager