

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems  
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting  
June 12, 2023 - 2 p.m.  
Via Phone/WebEx**

**Members Present by Phone/WebEx:** Scott Harris, M.D., Elwin Crawford, M.D., Jon Howell, Shannon Scaturro, David Hughes, Jeffrey Kerby, M.D, Rony Najjar, M.D.

**Members Absent:** Teresa Grimes, Tracy Doughty, Aizo Preyear, D.O., Jon Simmons, M.D.

**Staff Present:** Alice Floyd, Karen Digmon, Sara Matthews, Tabatha Ross, Chris Palmer

**Staff Present via Phone/WebEx:** Michele Jones

**Guests by Phone/WebEx:** Sean Gibson, Renee Mills, Stephanie Spain, Travis Parker, John E. Blue, II, Jim Fox, James Corder, M.D., Lynn Morrison, Will Montalban, Dave White, L. Brown, Priscilla Bode, Jillian McKenzie, Allan Pace, Michael Minor

**Welcome**

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

**Adoption of March 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2023, meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

**System Updates**

**Trauma System**

Dr. Kerby stated that the Trauma Funding Committee (TFC) had completed their work. TFC submitted a report to the Legislature that provided background information on the Alabama Trauma System, some of the opportunities for improvements, and a breakdown of some of the costs for an optimal trauma system. He stated the price tag is approximately 30 million dollars per year, and that needs to be sustainment funding. Dr. Kerby commented that no funding was received this past legislative session. He stated that the TFC is continuing to do advocacy work to secure funding. He stated that this report is on the Acute Health Systems (AHS) webpage which can be navigated through the Office of Emergency Medical Services webpage.

Dr. Kerby mentioned that members of the TFC had very productive conversations with Representative Rex Reynolds, Chair of the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee as well as Senator Greg Albritton, Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee. Dr. Kerby stated that they understood the need and the costs associated with an optimal trauma system. He further commented that the TFC would continue to have discussions with those gentlemen and others throughout the year as the TFC continues to push for trauma system funding.

Dr. Harris stated that the Alabama Department of Public Health put together information that was supplied by the TFC and the information could be provided to any interested party. Dr. Harris commended the TFC on their work.

Dr. Kerby commented that the trauma brochure had been updated with the 2022 information and is on the website. He stated that the Alabama Trauma System was doing great work.

### **Stroke System**

Dr. Crawford stated that the Stroke System is continuing to work hard in trying to improve stroke care in the state. He commented on the Severity Based Stroke Triage (SBST) progress. He stated that AHS staff was still in the process of having regional meetings and regional symposiums. He stated that once a region had been trained by AHS staff and they have had their symposium, the SBST would start being used to route patients to those facilities. He mentioned that if large vessel occlusion stroke is identified in the field, those patients would be routed to the facilities capable of performing mechanical thrombectomy. He commented that this was a stepwise progression throughout the state.

Dr. Crawford mentioned that AHS staff did not think it was in the best interest to roll everything out at one time. He stated that after the Southeast Region, other regions would follow, with the final region being rolled out in June 2024.

Dr. Crawford introduced the new stroke coordinator, Tabatha Ross.

Dr. Crawford stated that the stroke brochure has been updated with the 2022 counts and was on the website. He stated that the Alabama Stroke System was doing great work.

Dr. Crawford reported that AHS staff had made several stroke site visits. Fort Walton-Destin Medical Center had a stroke site visit on May 12. They are a Level II Joint Commission Certified Stroke Center, and their RAC approved them. He stated that this is an action item to accept that facility into the Stroke System as a Level II Stroke Center. The motion to accept Fort Walton-Destin Medical Center into the Stroke System as a Level II Stroke Center was made and seconded. There being no opposition, the motion carried.

Dr. Crawford stated that several AHS site visits are in the process of being scheduled over the next few months.

Dr. Crawford presented the AHS report.

There was discussion concerning hospital feedback reports not being entered. Dr. Najjar stated the percentage of feedback reports not entered in the North Region was 51 percent and asked how this issue was being addressed. He stated that all regions should be striving to have at least less than 10 percent not entered, with 90 percent or more being entered. Dr. Crawford explained that 49 percent of the reports had been received by the ATCC with 51 percent not being returned. He further explained that this was a region-wide issue and was not hospital specific. Dr. Najjar stated that if the issue was that the representative was not following up and educating and closing the loop, then it needed to be addressed. Dr. Crawford replied that a regional meeting would be held soon, during which discussion on regional best practices for the return of hospital feedback forms would be included. It is anticipated that improvement will be noted prior to the next STHSAC Meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is September 28, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.



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



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