

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
March 15, 2022 - 10 a.m.
Via Phone/WebEx**

Members Present by Phone/WebEx: Scott Harris, M.D., Elwin Crawford, M.D., Jon Howell, Jon Simmons, M.D., Rony Najjar, M.D., Shannon Scaturro, Teresa Grimes, David Hughes, Alzo Preyear, M.D.

Members Absent: Jeffery Kerby, M.D., Tracy Doughty

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

Staff Present via Phone/WebEx: Jamie Gray, Michele Jones

Guests by Phone/WebEx: John E. Blue, II, Dion Schultz, Allan Pace, David Garmon, Karen Bishop, Michael Minor, Lydia Toenes, Denise Louthain, Jillian McKenzie, April Turner, Renee Mills, Sean Gibson, Jim Fox, Shea Duerring, M.D.

Welcome

Dr. Harris welcomed all participants. He thanked them for their attendance and called the meeting to order.

Adoption of December 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2021, meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

New Business – STHSAC and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Appointees

Dr. Harris introduced the new appointees to STHSAC: David Hughes, Shannon Scaturro, and Tracy Doughty.

Trauma System Update

Dr. Crawford stated that Acute Health Systems (AHS) staff is conducting site visits for Level I and Level II trauma centers. He mentioned that Erlanger Medical Center, Erlanger Children's, and Southeast Health have had their trauma site visits and that Baptist Medical Center South, Huntsville Hospital, and North Mississippi Medical Center site visits had been scheduled. Dr. Crawford also mentioned that the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is undergoing its American College of Surgeons (ACS) recertification.

Rescue Stop/Accelerated Transfers

Dr. Crawford stated that work continued on the Rescue Stop and Accelerated Transfer process with the trauma surgeons. He stated that AHS was still trying to move patients that need to stop by a local

hospital for airway control, bleeding control, etc. A few changes were still needed, but the final product is close. By the next meeting, a final product could be available for an action item.

Dr. Najjar asked about the status of the recommendations made by the ACS after their consultation, and he asked for an update on trauma system funding.

Dr. Crawford commented that AHS was in the process of rewriting the Trauma Rules, and some of the ACS recommendations would be incorporated into the Rules.

Dr. Crawford stated that related to the trauma funding, a joint resolution to establish a group to explore trauma funding was developed. The group met once and then got delayed in its efforts due to Covid-19. Dr. Crawford mentioned that AHS had made several presentations to the Governor's Office and received positive feedback. He stated that AHS is further than it had ever been, but that Covid-19 interrupted the workgroup's efforts, but AHS could make further progress on that this year.

Stroke Rules Status

Dr. Crawford stated that the Stroke Rules had been revised and gone through the rule change process. The Stroke Rules go into effect on March 17, 2022. He commented that it was a collaborative agreement with many different individuals. Dr. Crawford stated that AHS has a stroke workgroup much like the trauma workgroup.

Dr. Crawford commented that the Stroke Rules address the mechanical thrombectomy centers as a Level IIa. He mentioned that there were three levels of stroke centers and that Level IIa had been added. He mentioned that Level IIa are those centers that are able to perform mechanical thrombectomy for large vessel occlusion strokes. Dr. Crawford stated that AHS was identifying those facilities that are capable and want to perform those procedures and become a member of the stroke system. He commented that most of those centers are already members of the stroke system, and they are through the application process upgrading their capabilities as a mechanical thrombectomy center.

Severity Based Stroke Triage

Dr. Crawford stated that, in keeping with the workgroup's recommendations, AHS was moving from the FAST exam for identification of a stroke patient, both in the field and in the hospital, and moving toward an Emergency Medical Stroke Assessment (EMSA) scale.

Dr. Crawford mentioned that this scale was better at identifying large vessel occlusion patients so that emergency medical services personnel could get them to a mechanical thrombectomy center. He commented that the EMSA scale would go into effect on April 29, 2022. Dr. Crawford stated that AHS would not route by that criteria at this time, but long term would route to a mechanical thrombectomy center based on EMSA results.

Sacred Heart

Dr. Crawford mentioned that the only action item was for Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. He stated that Sacred Heart Hospital was Det Norske Veritas (DNV) certified and they had met the criteria to move to a Comprehensive or a Level I Stroke Center. Dr. Crawford stated that in keeping with the operational guidelines, if a center has national accreditation by a national accrediting body, AHS accepts that accreditation for that level of service. He mentioned that the request was taken before the Gulf Region

RAC, and they had voted affirmatively to allow Sacred Heart to change their certification from a Level II to a Level I Comprehensive Stroke Center. Dr. Crawford commented that the Gulf Region RAC recommendation would need to be an action item for this body.

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve Sacred Heart Hospital to move to a Level I Stroke Center. The motion was made and seconded. There being no opposition, the motion carried.

Cardiac System Update

Dr. Crawford stated that most of the focus of AHS during the past couple of months, had been on the stroke system and the trauma system. Dr. Crawford mentioned that AHS was evaluating the cardiac system and has had several workgroup meetings. He stated that, since the revised stroke rules had been passed, more meetings would be held with some of the stakeholders to get that system in place.

Dr. Crawford stated that AHS was probably a year, or a year and a half, away from setting that system up.

Acute Health Systems Report

Michael Minor presented the AHS report, as distributed. There were no questions about the report.


Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is June 29, 2022.

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 Floyd, B.S.N., R.N.
Acute Health Systems Manager