

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
June 29, 2022 - 10 a.m.
Via Phone/WebEx**

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

Members Absent: Scott Harris, M.D., Alzo Preyear, M.D., Jon Simmons, M.D.

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

Staff Present via Phone/WebEx: Michele Jones

Guest Present: Dion Schultz

Guests by Phone/WebEx: David Garmon, Michael Minor, Sean Gibson, April Turner, Renee Mills, Shea Duerring, M.D., Emily Allen, Stephanie Spain, Kimberly Wilson, Nate Horsley, Glenn Davis, John E. Blue, II, Jim Fox

Welcome

In Dr. Harris' absence, Dr. Crawford welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order.

Adoption of March 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Crawford asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2022, meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

New Business

Dr. Crawford stated that the Omnipaque shortage for intravenous (IV) contrast and studies that affect both the trauma and stroke system had been discussed several times. He commented that most people are navigating the shortage and using their mitigation strategies, which seems to be working fairly well.

System Updates

Trauma System

Dr. Kerby stated that the trauma surgeons were working on the Rescue Stop/Accelerated Transfer processes. He commented that hopefully this information would be brought to the next meeting for approval. He mentioned that these processes were trying to facilitate moving patients through the trauma system to get them to the higher level of care as quickly as possible, without having to wait for phone calls and acceptance of those patients. He stated that there was a certain number of patients who met physiologic criteria who could have been moved through the system a little quicker.

Dr. Kerby stated that Acute Health Systems (AHS) was working to update the Trauma Rules. He mentioned that work was being done to add another designation, Level IV designation. Trauma centers that do not have consistent surgical coverage would possibly be a Level IV; this was still in process.

Dr. Kerby stated that almost all trauma system Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) would expire in October. He commented that sometime in August, about 2 months before they expire, the trauma centers would receive a letter along with the new MOU from the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) for completion and return. Dr. Kerby stated that this would provide an opportunity to take a fresh look at the MOUs and have discussion with these centers to ensure that everyone is in agreement with their responsibilities for the trauma system at that point.

Dr. Kerby mentioned that the Trauma Funding Committee was seated about 2 years ago. He commented that meetings and discussions took place, but because of Covid-19, attention was diverted elsewhere, and the work of that committee was never finished. He continued that, fortunately, a joint resolution passed and the Committee would meet July 13, 2022. He commented that, hopefully, momentum would be gained to identify potential funding sources and opportunities to help improve the trauma system.

Trauma Site Visits

Dr. Crawford commented that AHS had been working on trauma site visits and stroke site visits. He stated that there had been challenges in getting out to those centers to do site visits due to Covid-19.

Dr. Crawford stated that he would ask for a vote on all of the action items at one time. He mentioned that all of the centers to be considered had been through their Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and had been approved for submission to this body for a vote to join the trauma system. Southeast Health in Dothan was surveyed, and the Southeast Region RAC had approved them continuing in the system as a Level II trauma center. Baptist Medical Center South was approved by the Southeast Region RAC to continue in the system as a Level II trauma center. North Mississippi Medical Center was approved by the West Region RAC to continue as a Level II trauma center. Northwest Regional Health was surveyed, and the West Region RAC had approved them to remain in the system as a Level III trauma center. Erlanger Medical Center and Children's at Erlanger were surveyed, and the North Region RAC had approved them to remain in the system as Level I trauma centers. Huntsville Hospital was surveyed, and the North Region RAC had approved them to continue in the system as a Level I trauma center.

Dr. Crawford stated that, unless anyone raised an objection, he would take it as everyone approved those action items and approved those centers to remain in the trauma system at their confirmed level. There were no objections. Dr. Crawford stated that the body had no issue with those centers remaining in the system.

Dr. Crawford stated that the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital went through an American College of Surgeons site visit in April. He commented that they had passed their verification and remained as a Level I by the American College of Surgeons. He stated that AHS accepts the American College of Surgeons site visit results and certification. Dr. Crawford stated that UAB Hospital would continue to function in the trauma system as a Level I American College of Surgeons verified center.

He reported that the OEMS team visited HCA Florida Fort Walton-Destin Hospital. He stated that they were a Level II American College of Surgeons verified center. He mentioned that this was an information item only, and it would need to go through their respective RAC. Dr. Crawford stated that, hopefully, at the next meeting this hospital would be brought back for an action item by this body to accept them as a new hospital in the system.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford mentioned that the Stroke Rules went into effect on March 17, 2022. He stated that Level IIa was added. He commented that Level IIa centers were the mechanical thrombectomy capable centers. He stated that AHS had received applications from stroke centers seeking Level IIa status and site visits were being scheduled.

Dr. Crawford stated that the Emergency Medical Stroke Assessment (EMSA) stroke scale went into effect on April 29, 2022. He mentioned that there were training videos on the AHS webpage; and, if there were any stroke or EMSA problems to contact Alice Floyd. He also stated that Lifetrac workstations had been updated to include the EMSA data points.

Dr. Crawford reported that, at the last meeting, Ascension Sacred Heart was approved to change from a Level II stroke center status to a Level I stroke center as a result of obtaining Comprehensive Stroke Certification by Det Norske Veritas (DNV). Since the last meeting, the change in the system had been implemented.

Dr. Crawford stated that USA Health University Hospital's level was changed due to a stroke resource, but they expect two stroke physicians to start on July 1, 2022. He stated that they would continue as a Comprehensive Stroke Center at that point in time.

Stroke Site Visits

Dr. Crawford stated that Northwest Regional Health had approval from the West Region RAC as a Level III Stroke Center. Dr. Crawford stated that this was an action item that was brought before the body for vote. A motion was made and seconded. There being no opposition, Northwest Regional Health was approved as a Level III Stroke Center.

Dr. Crawford commented that as an information item only, HCA West Florida Hospital was in the process of scheduling a stroke system site visit. He stated that they would be a new center in the stroke system, if approved.

Cardiac System Update

There was no update to report.

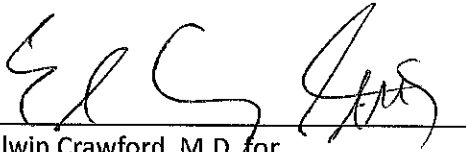
Acute Health Systems Report

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

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is September 27, 2022.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elwin Crawford', written over a horizontal line.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alice Floyd', written over a horizontal line.

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