

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems  
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting  
December 14, 2021 - 10 a.m.  
Via Phone/WebEx**

**Members Present by Phone/WebEx:** Scott Harris, M.D., Elwin Crawford, M.D., Jon Howell, David Spillers, Jeffery Kerby, M.D., Rony Najjar, M.D., Vernon Johnson

**Members Absent:** Jon Simmons, M.D., Teresa Grimes, Alzo Preyear, D.O., Allan Whaley

**Staff Present:** Jamie Gray, Alice Floyd, Karen Digmon, Stephanie Payne, Sara Matthews, Lori McInerney

**Staff Present via Phone/WebEx:** Katherine Hert

**Guests by Phone/WebEx:** John E. Blue, II, Dion Schultz, Travis Parker, Glenn Davis, Michael Minor, Lydia Toenes, Priscilla Bode, Denise Louthain, Jillian McKenzie, Stephanie Spain, April Turner, Renee Mills

**Guest in Person:** John Stone

**Welcome**

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

**Adoption of September 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

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

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

Dr. Crawford reported that, periodically, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama and the Alabama Hospital Association appoint members to the STHSAC and RACs. Recent appointments were made for expiring terms on both the STHSAC and RACs.

The North Region Trauma Plan was revised to allow Huntsville Hospital to continue to take Level I trauma patients from the scene when they are on trauma surgeon overload and traumatic brain overload. The plan revision would protect Huntsville Hospital from getting transfers from an outlying area when they are unavailable and do not have the capability to care for additional patients. The revised plan was reviewed by the North Region RAC and the

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) with input from Michael Minor. The OEMS had no issues with the plan, which was being brought to the Council for adoption.

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Revised North Region Trauma Plan. The motion was seconded and approved with no opposition.

### **Trauma System Update**

Dr. Kerby reported that the Level I and Level II trauma center site visits were resuming in the statewide trauma system. He stated that site visits had been on hold since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. Dr. Kerby mentioned that two visits had been scheduled – February 4, 2022, at Erlanger in Chattanooga and February 16, 2022, at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery.

### **Rescue Stop/Accelerated Transfers**

Dr. Kerby stated that the STHSAC had reviewed Rescue Stop and developed some criteria for Accelerated Transfer. The criteria was circulated amongst the trauma surgeons, and there was a consensus. A work day was scheduled for later in the month to discuss the implementation plan before moving forward and before being brought to STHSAC. The Accelerated Transfer criteria should be available for review and approval at the next meeting. Dr. Kerby commented that the trauma rules were in the process of being revised. Dr. Najjar offered to assist with trauma site visits.

### **Stroke Rules Status**

Dr. Crawford commented that the stroke rules had been approved for public comment, and they would be presented to the State Committee of Public Health within the next month for adoption. There were some concerns with the rules when they were previously out for public comment, so revisions were made and they were released for public comment a second time.

### **Severity Based Stroke Triage**

Dr. Crawford commented that the stroke workgroup had worked to identify a Level II thrombectomy-capable hospital. He continued that, as with the trauma system, this was a research type project through the University of Alabama at Birmingham which was published the previous week. The pilot program would be operated by the Birmingham Emergency Medical Services System Region. He mentioned that the workgroup had been meeting weekly on this project to identify large vessel occlusion and thrombectomy, so those patients could be transported to the appropriate facility for treatment. The initial start date was October 1, 2021, but due to a COVID surge, it was delayed.

**Cardiac System**

Dr. Crawford commented that Acute Health Systems (AHS), when finished, would include trauma, stroke, and the cardiac system. He commented that AHS had been working with a cardiac workgroup to discuss how to establish this system and to develop guidelines.

**AHS 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 to be determined.

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



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



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