

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
December 13, 2022 – 1 p.m.
ADPH Training Center and Administrative Annex
208 Legends Court
Prattville, Alabama 36066**

Members Present: Elwin Crawford, M.D.

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

Members Absent: Shannon Scaturro, Alzo Preyear, M.D., Jon Simmons

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

Guests Present: Nate Horsley, Eric Pendley

Guests by Phone/WebEx: David Garmon, Michael Minor, Sean Gibson, April Turner, Renee Mills, Emily Allen, John E. Blue, II, Dion Schultz, Travis Parker

Welcome

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

Adoption of September 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 27, 2022, meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

System Updates

Trauma System

Rescue Stop/Accelerated Transfer Process

Dr. Kerby stated that the Office of Emergency Medical Services Acute Health Systems (AHS) staff had received feedback from the Alabama Hospital Association (AlaHA) regarding the Rescue Stop/Accelerated Transfer Process proposal. Dr. Kerby stated that there was one additional documentation item that needed to be done before the proposal could be presented to the STHSAC for approval.

Dr. Kerby stated that the work of the Trauma Funding Committee was not progressing as they had hoped. He stated that while there may be one-time funding available, the issue is with sustainable funding.

Dr. Kerby commented that the environment is just not there to support additional revenue generated for sustainable funding, and that without sustainable funding, a trauma system funding mechanism is not possible. The Trauma Funding Committee needs sustainable funding in order to move forward. Dr. Kerby mentioned that Dr. Harris had been actively advocating for the Trauma Funding Committee and that the Trauma Funding Committee needed to develop a plan to continue to work on funding. He mentioned that, unfortunately, there were no positive updates at this time.

Dr. Harris stated that the Trauma Funding Committee had done a great job. He stated that they had met several times, that they had done a good bit of research, and that they had engaged the legislators on what the Committee had done. He agreed that the issue had to do with identifying a sustainable funding source. Dr. Harris would like for members of the Trauma Funding Committee to meet with legislators, when they are in session, and educate them on their work.

Dr. Kerby commented that the Trauma Funding Committee had been a success and that they had a great plan moving forward. He agreed that the legislators needed to be educated on the needs and the necessity of trauma system funding.

Trauma Site Visits

Dr. Crawford commented that AHS staff had conducted trauma site visits and stroke site visits in Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi over the past several months.

He stated that AHS staff visited Children's of Alabama on October 24, 2022, for a recertification site visit, and had approved them as a Level I pediatric center. Dr. Crawford stated that Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) met on December 8, 2022, and affirmatively approved them to continue in the system as a Level I pediatric center. He also stated that Atrium Health Floyd in Rome, Georgia, was visited on November 3, 2022. He stated that they are a Level II trauma center, and the East Region RAC approved them as a Level II trauma center. Dr. Crawford mentioned that both of those hospitals were action items to be approved as continuing in their respective certification levels in the trauma system.

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve Atrium Health Floyd as a Level II trauma center and Children's of Alabama as a Level I pediatric center. A motion was made and seconded to approve the hospitals as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford stated that the Severity Based Stroke Triage EMSA scale is a pilot project that AHS is following and collecting data on from the EMS agencies throughout the state. He stated that, at some point, patients that have been identified as large vessel occlusion strokes would hopefully start being routed to a mechanical thrombectomy center in 2024; maybe sooner. Regional stroke plans would need to be updated then staff would develop the master plan. Regional stroke plans will be presented to the Council for approval when they are complete.

Stroke Site Visits

Dr. Crawford reported that AHS staff had conducted stroke site visits for East Alabama Medical Center and Atrium Health Floyd, in Rome, Georgia.

East Alabama Medical Center was currently a Level III stroke center, have Joint Commission certification as a Level II stroke center, have submitted an application to become a Level II stroke center in the stroke system, and have met the criteria. He commented that the Southeast Region RAC had approved East Alabama Medical Center.

Atrium Health Floyd in Rome, Georgia, was already a Level II stroke center, but they are now Joint Commission certified and would continue as a Level II stroke center in Alabama.

Dr. Crawford stated that both of these would be action items for the hospitals to continue as Level II stroke centers. A motion was made and seconded to approve the hospitals as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

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 to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m.



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



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