

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
June 12, 2024 – 10 a.m.
Via Phone/WebEx**

Members Present by Phone/WebEx: Scott Harris, M.D., Elwin Crawford, M.D., Jon Simmons, M.D., proxy for Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., Tracy Doughty, proxy for Rony Najjar, M.D., Teresa Grimes, David Hughes, Jon Howell, Alzo Preyear, D.O.

Members Absent: Josh Snow

Staff Present: Alice Floyd, Tabatha Ross, Jamie Gray, Chris Palmer

Guests Present: Alexander Willis, Shea Duerring, M.D.

Guests by Phone/WebEx: Michele Jones, Michael Minor, Brittany Prater, Sean Gibson, Will Montalban, John E. Blue, II, Allan Pace, Lynn Morrison, Sara Beth Womack, Jim Corder, M.D., Travis Parker, Jim Fox, Priscilla Bode, Kate Rodgers, Kevin Paschal, Shea Duerring, M.D., Alex Varnum, Jim Corder, M.D., Renee Mills, Brianna Colquitt, Steve Suggs, M.D.

Welcome

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

Adoption of March 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2024, meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

System Updates

Trauma System

Dr. Crawford reported that Atmore Community Hospital requested a voluntary withdrawal from the trauma system as of June 1, 2024, due to the loss of surgical services. The Alabama Trauma Communication Center will no longer route trauma system patients to the hospital. If the hospital regains surgical services, they would be welcome to re-enter the trauma system.

Dr. Crawford stated the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital reached out to the Department to collaborate with them on a blood product availability survey, which would provide information on the types of blood products hospitals have available. This information would help to gauge the health of the trauma system and may help with trauma patient routing. Dr. Harris asked if the information would be used for real-time routing. Dr. Crawford replied that the LifeTrac System, which is used for trauma routing, is being updated and blood could possibly be added as a resource for monitoring and routing.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford reported that the Mobile Infirmary Freestanding Emergency Department (FED) went live to accept stroke patients as a Level III Stroke Center on April 16. The Gulf Region Severity Based Stroke Triage (SBST) routing began on May 8. The East Region held a stroke symposium on April 24 and began SBST routing on June 5. He added that there have been no major issues. The West Region stroke

symposium is scheduled for July 18. SBST routing generally starts about 3 months after the stroke symposium to allow for any additional training and planning. The West Region should start SBST routing in the early fall. Once the West Region starts routing, the entire state will be functional.

Dr. Crawford stated that stroke site visits were conducted in Trussville on April 11. Both the Ascension St. Vincent's East FED and the Grandview Medical Center FED applied for Level III Stroke Center status. The Birmingham Regional EMS System (BREMSS) Regional Advisory Council (RAC) met on May 30 and approved to continue the application process for Level III Stroke Center designation. Dr. Crawford called for a motion and second to approve the RAC recommendations. Dr. Harris asked if there was any opposition to voting on stroke centers in one vote; there were no objections. A motion was made and seconded to approve the FEDs as Level III Stroke Centers as approved by the BREMSS RAC. The motion carried unanimously.

Acute Health Systems (AHS) Report

Mr. Minor presented the AHS Report.

Dr. Harris asked if there were any other comments. Jim Corder commented that for general awareness purposes he wanted to mention there will be a reduction in interventional radiologists (IR) services at DCH in Tuscaloosa. IR will not be available after hours or on weekends, which will affect trauma services.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12 at 2 p.m.

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