

State Trauma Advisory Council

September 13, 2020
12:33 p.m. – 1:17 p.m.
Minnesota Department of Health
Webinar/teleconference

Minutes

Attendees

Members Present

Tami Bong, R.N.	Maria Flor, R.N	John Lyng, M.D.
Rick Breuer	Julie Gutzmer, M.D.	Michael McGonigal, M.D.
Aaron Burnett, M.D.	Denise Klinkner, M.D.	Kyle Nelson, M.D.
Kris Drevlow, D.O.	Col. Matt Langer	Thomas Pahl, PA-C
Mark Ebeling, Paramedic	Steven Lockman, M.D.	

Members Absent

Elizabeth Weber, M.D.

MDH Staff

Chris Ballard	Tim Held	Gina Vue
Marty Forseth	Tammy Peterson	
Mark Kinde	Zora Radosevich	

Call to Order and Welcome

Dr. McGonigal called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

Approve Agenda and June 2, 2020 Minutes

Dr. Burnett moved to adopt the agenda; Ms. Bong seconded. The motion carried.

Dr. McGonigal moved to accept the June 2, 2020 meeting minutes; Ms. Bong seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Committee Report

Dr. McGonigal outlined his leadership philosophies and his approach to the chairmanship of the Council including:

1. The highest priority is patient care and patient well-being.
2. The second highest priority is the people providing care.
3. The third highest priority is for hospitals, ambulance services, and other systems of care.

He also noted his desire to ensure broad representation from across the system, improve communication with the regional trauma advisory committees (RTACs), develop strategies to address recurring problems, and pursue additional funding.

Dr. McGonigal announced his intention to appoint a work group to develop strategic priorities of the State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) that will move the trauma system forward. The work group will be made up of both STAC members and stakeholders and will work off of the list of possible initiatives reviewed at the December 2019 meeting. Interested parties were directed to contact the trauma system coordinator.

Dr. McGonigal announced the STAC members appointed to the STAC-EMSRB Joint Policy Committee (JPC): Dr. Kris Drevlow, Rick Breuer, and himself. Tami Bong is the alternate. The JPC plans to meet in October.

Staff Reports

Mr. Held reported:

- The Trauma System is currently in year two of a biannual budget. MDH programs have been asked to look for opportunities to make budget cuts. Additional cuts are anticipated.
- The Governor's Executive Order (EO) 20-32 allowed the trauma system to extend hospital trauma designations for one year. The provisions contained in the EO were effectively embedded into law, rendering it unnecessary; so it has been rescinded.
- The data use agreement between the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) and MDH was submitted to the board's attorney, but then delayed by the pandemic. The agreement would permit MDH to acquire EMS data from the Board. Both parties have elevated its priority and hope to move it forward soon.

Mr. Ballard reported:

- Trauma system staff had been reassigned to pandemic-related activities, but all have since returned to their trauma system duties.
- The trauma system no longer plans to seek a vendor to produce trauma education modules that can be used by nurses to fulfill the training requirements of the system. Instead, the Minnesota State Colleges and University system (MNSCU) will produce the educational program. Mr. Ballard will keep the STAC and stakeholders informed of the project's progress as negotiations with MNSCU continue.

Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board Update (EMSRB)

Dr. Burnett reported:

- The Governor's Emergency Powers Declaration for EMS is still in effect until October 12.

- The EMSRB directed Board staff to begin exploring the possibility of a new certification that would authorize someone to function as the driver of an ambulance without holding a medical certification, such as Emergency Medical Technician.
- White Earth Nation ambulance service is offering COVID-19 serology antibody tests to its patients to understand the prevalence of COVID-19 in their community.
- Up to date EMS response statistics continue to be posted weekly on the EMSRB website.

American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT) Report

Dr. Klinkner reported:

- The state and national COTs plan several meetings in the coming months. All will be virtual, including the MN COT meeting during the MN Surgical Society meeting in November.
- The ACS is trialing virtual site visits.
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) courses are once again being offered. Hybrid courses consisting of pre-class work and one day of in-person learning (rather than two) is becoming more common.
- The MN COT continues to offer financial support for rural hospitals to offset the cost of ATLS and Rural Trauma Team Development courses.
- The MN COT expects to meet with legislative leaders to request funding for the purchase of Stop the Bleed kits when in-person meetings are again possible.
- The national COT encourages hospitals that participate in the Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) to participate in a firearms study. Dr. Klinkner will seek clarification as to whether Level 3 and 4 Trauma Hospitals are able to participate.

Ms. Bong noted that those seeking the one-year extension of their ATLS certification must apply for it through the national COT. The extension is not granted automatically.

Applicant Review Committee Report (ARC)

Dr. McGonigal reviewed the three hospitals recommended by the ARC for designation as Level 4 Trauma Hospitals:

- Cook Hospital
- Ridgeview Le Sueur Medical Center
- Tri-County Healthcare, Wadena

No members recused themselves from the vote. All members voted to recommend designation.

Dr. McGonigal then reviewed one hospital recommended by the ARC for extension of their current Level 4 Trauma Hospital designation: RiverView Health, Crookston. No members recused themselves from the vote. All members voted to recommend extension of the designation.

Open Floor

Colonel Langer acknowledged Dr. Burnett's assistance with recent COVID-19-related calls.

Adjourn/Next Meeting

The next STAC meeting is Tuesday, December 8, 2020 from 12:30-3:30 p.m., location to be determined. **Mr. Lyng moved to adjourn; Ms. Flor seconded. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Dr. McGonigal adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.