

State Trauma Advisory Council

Minutes

March 1, 2022

Webinar/Teleconference

Attendees

Members Present

Tami Bong, R.N.

Aaron Burnett, M.D.

Kris Drevlow, D.O.

Mark Ebeling, Paramedic

Maria Flor, R.N.

Julie Gutzmer, M.D.

Denise Klinkner, M.D.

Col. Matt Langer

Steven Lockman, M.D.

John Lyng, M.D.

Michael McGonigal, M.D.

Kyle Nelson, M.D.

Thomas Pahl, PA-C

Elizabeth Weber, M.D.

Members Absent

Rick Breuer

MDH Staff

Chris Ballard

Marty Forseth

Tim Held

Tammy Peterson

Gina Vue

Call to Order and Welcome

Dr. McGonigal called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. The STAC members and MDH Staff introduced themselves.

Approve Agenda and December 7, 2021 Minutes

Dr. Drevlow moved to adopt the agenda and minutes as distributed; Dr. Lyng seconded. The motion carried by general consensus.

Executive Committee Report

Dr. McGonigal reported that he, along with several other traffic safety leaders, testified before the House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee about concerns around the marked increase in traffic fatalities.

Staff Reports

Mr. Held reported

- Grace Liu has been hired as the trauma system's student worker. She is a first-year graduate student who will be assisting with data analysis.

- The governor's legislative package includes a proposal to increase trauma system funding sufficient to hire a full-time epidemiologist.

Dr. McGonigal noted that Minnesota's trauma system seems to be treading water in the absence of funding that is sufficient to make progress. Mr. Held acknowledged plans to prepare a more comprehensive proposal for next year's legislative session.

Mr. Ballard reported:

- The STAC will vote for a chair and vice-chair at the June meeting. The chair is recommended by the STAC but appointed by the commissioner. The vice-chair is elected by the STAC. Both serve a two-year term. Dr. McGonigal is eligible for a second term, but Mr. Pahl is not.
- Ms. Flor has resigned her position as the Level 3 or 4 Trauma Program Manager/Coordinator representative to accept new employment outside of the trauma system. The vacancy will be posted soon.
- In January 2023 the terms for six STAC positions will conclude. He encouraged everyone to start spreading the word.

Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board Update (EMSRB)

Dr. Burnett reported that Dylan Ferguson has been appointed as the new Executive Director to the EMSRB.

Dr. Burnett noted that the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) recently released a report about their audit of the EMSRB and the EMS system within the state. He expects reorganization and legislative remedies to result.

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

Dr. Klinkner reported:

- The Spring COT meeting is next week. There will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of trauma being recognized as a disease.
- Updated spinal injury data was reviewed at the Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) conference. It can be accessed from the Best Practices of the ACS website.
- There is interest at the national level about how rural trauma care impacts outcomes.
- The Region IV meeting was well attended. She invited participants to contact her with suggestions for future meetings.

Dr. McGonigal acknowledged the passing of Dr. William Marks, co-chair of the ACS Verification Review Committee.

Rural Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) Briefings

Jane Smalley reported on behalf of the Northeast Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (NERTAC):

- The committee hosted one to two Rural Trauma Team Development courses each year prior to the pandemic. There are plans to resume as restrictions lift.
- Stop the Bleed trainers were purchased and education provided.
- Case review for performance improvement purposes is conducted at most of meetings.
- Fall prevention educational materials are provided to any NERTAC member wishing to offer community education.
- The NERTAC has been challenged by not being able to meet in person and some RTAC positions remain unfilled. Frequent turnover of hospital staff has made it difficult to connect with program leadership at those facilities.
- The region would benefit from data and support to advance regional performance improvement.

Dr. Patei Iyegha reported on behalf of the Minnesota Metropolitan Trauma Advisory Committee (MMRTAC):

- The MMRTAC continued to meet virtually during the pandemic.
- Challenging case reviews are jointly discussed at their meetings, some resulting in the creation of best practices pathways.
- During the past year the Committee has focused on care delivery for the pediatric and geriatric populations. Best practice pathways were developed for the management of hip fracture and reversal of anticoagulation in traumatic brain injury. A work group is currently developing resources to manage non-accidental trauma in the pediatric population. For the geriatric population, they are building on past accomplishments. The goal this year is to disseminate some of these best practice pathways across the system.
- The biggest challenge facing the region is finding a suitable replacement for Ron Robinson, MMRTAC Coordinator, who recently retired.
- The MMTRAC hopes to be able to promote the Stop the Bleed campaign at the state fair this year. The STAC can assist the region by supporting this endeavor financially or organizationally and by assisting in the dissemination of best practice pathways around the state.

Dr. Daniel Stephens reported on behalf of the Southern Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (SMRTAC):

- The SMRTAC has successfully implemented Stop the Bleed training and distributed many Stop the Bleed kits around the region.
- Six members have been appointed.
- A performance improvement sub-committee was started.

- Practice management guidelines for cerebral vascular accident screening and multi-level pain control were released.
- The SMRTAC has found it challenging to maintain engagement in the remote meeting environment. Several positions remain unfilled. Distribution of practice management guidelines requires administrative resources, which are often scarce.

Applicant Review Committee Report (ARC)

Mr. Forseth announced that Regions Hospital and Regions Gillette Children’s Specialty Hospital were both recently re-verified as Level 1 Trauma Hospitals by the ACS.

He then reviewed four hospitals recommended by the ARC for designation: Lake Region HealthCare (Level 3), Community Memorial Hospital, Essentia Health Holy Trinity, and Essentia Health Moose Lake (Level 4s).

The ARC’s recommendation served as the motion to recommend the hospitals for designation; the motion carried.

Mr. Forseth then reviewed the hospitals recommended by the ARC for a 12-month extension of their current designation due to deficiencies: Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Glacial Ridge Health System, Olmsted Medical Center, and Regina Medical Center (Level 4s).

The ARC’s recommendation served as the motion to recommend the hospitals for extension; the motion carried.

Mr. Forseth reviewed the 120-minute Transfer Waiver request from Bigfork Valley Hospital, which the ARC recommends granting.

The ARC’s recommendation served as the motion to recommend granting the request; the motion carried.

Mr. Forseth reported on:

- Cuyuna Reginal Medical Center, Crosby’s intent to apply for a Level 3 Designation in December.
- A self-report letter from CHI St. Joseph’s Park Rapid’s self-report regarding continuous surgeon coverage.
- A self-report letter from Sanford Bemidji’ regarding case review meeting attendance.

Trauma Program Manager’s Meeting

Ms. Laura Anderson reported that the program managers share a common concern about delays in receiving ambulance reports.

Dr. Burnett noted that hospitals can arrange to download a copy of the EMS run report from the Hospital Hub.

Open Floor

A question submitted through Chat inquired about the state of some proposed changes to the Level 3 and 4 Trauma Hospital Designation Criteria that appeared on a past STAC agenda. Mr. Ballard indicated that the STAC did not have time to address them at that meeting, but they will be introduced in the future.

Adjourn/Next Meeting

Ms. Bong moved to adjourn; Ms. Flor seconded; the motion carried by general consensus at 1:41 p.m.

The next STAC meeting is Tuesday, June 7th, 2022, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The location is to be determined.