

# State Trauma Advisory Council

## Minutes

June 7, 2022

Minnesota Department of Health  
Shoreview Community Center, Shoreview

### Attendees

#### Members Present

Tami Bong, R.N.

Rick Breuer

Aaron Burnett, M.D.

Kris Drevlow, D.O.

Mark Ebeling, Paramedic

Angi Grimm, R.N.

Julie Gutzmer, M.D.

Denise Klinkner, M.D.

Steven Lockman, M.D.

Michael McGonigal, M.D.

Kyle Nelson, M.D.

Thomas Pahl, PA-C

Elizabeth Weber, M.D.

#### Members Absent

Col. Matt Langer

John Lyng, M.D.

#### 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. and introduced Ms. Angi Grimm, the new Level 3/Level 4 Trauma Program Manager representative. The STAC members and MDH Staff introduced themselves and expressed appreciation to audience for attending in person.

### Approve Agenda and March 1, 2022 Minutes

Dr. McGonigal suggested that agenda item #11 be deferred until September due to Dr. Lyng's absence.

**Mr. Paul moved to adopt the agenda as amended and minutes as published; Mr. Ebeling seconded. The motion carried by general consensus.**

### 2023 STAC Meeting Dates

Dr. McGonigal reviewed the proposed 2023 STAC meeting dates.

**Mr. Breuer moved to adopt the 2023 STAC meeting dates meeting dates as published; Dr. Weber seconded. The motion carried.**

## Staff Reports

Mr. Held reported:

- The trauma system's funding request was included in the Health and Human Services omnibus bill, which did not receive a vote.
- The data sharing agreement between MDH and the EMS Regulatory Board has been executed. Data can begin flowing as soon as the technological capabilities are in place.
- Grace Liu has been hired as a student worker. She will be assisting the epidemiologist with data analysis.
- Julie Hoffer, the trauma system epidemiologist, has taken a new position in MDH. Her position will be filled as soon as possible.
- Marty Forseth is retiring at the end of June. Mr. Forseth has served as the trauma designation coordinator for six years. LynMaree Harris has been hired as his replacement. Ms. Harris will begin on June 22.

Mr. Ballard reported:

- A new online designation application is being tested by a few hospitals. The new system will replace the existing application that is no longer being supported.
- The e-learning trauma modules for nurses continue to be developed. The approximately four-hour curriculum is aimed at helping nurses to recognize and mitigate life and limb-threatening injuries. Mr. Pahl asked for clarification of the nurse training requirements. Mr. Ballard indicated that the training requirements are effective on January 1, 2023 when hospitals are expected to have a training plan to bring nurses into compliance.
- Dr. Weber, the STAC's Orthopedic Surgeon representative will be retiring following this meeting. The vacancy will be posted soon.

## Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board Update (EMSRB)

Mr. Dylan Ferguson, Executive Director of the EMSERB provided an overview of the legislative auditor's report that was released earlier in the year. He reviewed the 19 recommendations relating to both the Board and the EMS industry. Initial focus is on established performance metrics and ensuring that every ambulance is inspected by March 2023.

Mr. Burnett invited STAC members to suggest performance measures related to trauma care.

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

Dr. Klinkner reported:

- The COT celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of trauma being recognized as a disease at their meeting in March. A Governor's proclamation has been requested.

- Verification criteria for level IV trauma centers were not included in the recently published version of *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient*. The criteria will be included in the seventh edition.
- Minnesota is well represented on the ACS COT's new rural trauma care committee, including STAC member Dr. Julie Gutzmer.

## Rural Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) Briefings

Ms. Bong reported on behalf of the Central Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (CENTRAC):

- CENTRAC has provided 150 *Stop the Bleed* kits to schools. Car seats and bike helmets were distributed in the community last year.
- A pre-hospital trauma conference was hosted which featured speakers from several organizations throughout the region.
- The region is looking forward to offering Rural Trauma Team Development Courses (RTTDC) again.

Ms. Deb Syverson reported on behalf of the Western Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (WESTAC):

- WESTAC began reviewing some clinical measures informed by data from the trauma registry. They offered to share their work with other regions.
- RTTDC continue to be offered.

## Applicant Review Committee Report (ARC)

Mr. Forseth reviewed the hospitals recommended by the ARC for designation:

- Level 3: Essentia Health St. Joseph's, Brainerd; M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital, Minneapolis
- Level 4: CentraCare Paynesville; CentraCare Sauk Centre; Essentia Health Ada; Granite Falls Health

**Ms. Bong recused from the vote on CentraCare Health Paynesville and CentraCare Sauk Centre. The ARC's motion carried.**

Mr. Forseth then reviewed the hospitals recommended by the ARC for a 12-month extension of their current designation due to deficiencies: M Health Fairview Lakes Medical Center, Wyoming; Mille Lacs Health System, Onamia; Pipestone Medical Center; Sanford Westbrook Medical Center; Sleepy Eye Medical Center (Level 4s).

**Mr. Ebeling recused himself from the vote on Sanford Westbrook Medical Center. The ARC's motion carried.**

Mr. Forseth reviewed a self-report letter from Mayo Clinic Health System – Austin and Albert Lea - Austin campus. The issue has since been resolved. No action is needed.

The STAC and audience recognized the hospitals recommended for designation.

-Break-

## Election of Officers

Dr. McGonigal acknowledged Vice-Chair Pahl's services over the past two years. Mr. Paul thanked the STAC and recognized the staff.

Mr. Ballard reviewed the offices up for election, noting that the chair is recommended by the STAC but appointed by the commissioner. The vice-chair is elected by the STAC. Dr. McGonigal transferred chairmanship of the meeting to Mr. Pahl to preside over the election of officers.

Ms. Bong moved to recommend Dr. McGonigal for re-appointment as chair. Mr. Breuer seconded. There were no additional recommendations. The motion carried.

Dr. Weber nominated Ms. Bong for vice-chair. There were no additional nominations. Ms. Grimm moved to elect Ms. Bong; Dr. Klinkner seconded. The motion carried.

## Leadership Development Work Group Report

Ms. Bong reported the Leadership Development Work Group has completed a draft of a trauma program leader training manual. The material was developed from existing materials in use by M Health Fairview trauma programs as well as sources outside of the state.

Dr. McGonigal noted that it is important that several people from different perspectives review the draft.

## Open Floor

Robin Talley, Laura Anderson, Heidi Altamirano, and Tracy Larsen reported about the topics addressed at the trauma program managers networking meeting early in the day:

- Trauma hospitals struggle to receive timely EMS patient care reports.
- There was interest in creating a method for RTACs to share resources and best practices with each other. Dr. McGonigal will discussion discuss it with the Executive Committee.
- There were concerns about delays in the production of the e-learning modules and the impending criteria requirements. Mr. Ballard indicated that hospitals should have expectations for nurses to complete the education and a plan to accomplish it, but do not have to complete the training by January 1. Ms. Bong offered to share her course curriculum.
- Ms. Talley expressed concerns about insufficient support for the program and staffing shortages amid the pandemic.
- Concern was also expressed about the inability of Level 1 and 2 Trauma Hospitals to accept transfers due to staffing shortages and high censuses. They discussed the need for strategies that advocate for the needs of trauma patients.

- The group indicated a desire for a staffing guide based on trauma patient volume because there is considerable variation in the amount of staff resources allocated to trauma programs from one hospital to the next.
- Community *Stop the Bleed* was discussed. Schools are often resistant to the training due to competing priorities and time limitations.

Dr. Drevlow inquired about making changes to the Level 3 and 4 Trauma Hospital designation criteria. Mr. Ballard noted that the current criteria is new and full implementation has been hindered by the pandemic. He suggested measuring the efficacy of the current criteria before entertaining changes. Dr. McGonigal mentioned that he would like to develop a formal system to collect and evaluate proposed criteria changes. He will discuss it with the Executive Committee.

Mr. Kinde and Jon Roesler provided a brief overview of a project the MDH Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury (TBI/SCI) program that will identify TBI/SCI patients and connect them with community rehabilitation resources sooner. To succeed, hospitals will need to authorize MDH to receive ADT (admit, discharge, and transfer) messages.

## Adjourn

**Mr. Ebeling moved to adjourn; Ms. Bong seconded. The motion carried by general consensus and the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.**

The next STAC meeting is Tuesday, September 13, 2022, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Shoreview Community Center.