

State Trauma Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2025

MINUTES PREPARED BY: TRAUMA SYSTEM STAFF

LOCATION: NORTH METRO EVENT CENTER, SHOREVIEW MN

Member Attendance

- Tami Bong, R.N.
- Rick Breuer
- Kris Drevlow, D.O.
- Mark Ebeling, Paramedic
- Julie Gutzmer, M.D.
- Jordan Haltaufderheid
- Kim Johnson, R.N.
- Denise Klinkner, M.D.
- John Lyng, M.D.
- Michael McGonigal, M.D.
- Kyle Nelson, M.D.
- Thomas Pahl, PA-C
- Peter Tanghe, M.D.

Staff Attendance

- Maria Flor
- LynMaree Harris
- Tim Held
- Tammy Peterson
- Zora Radosevich
- Dee Telkamp
- Gina Vue

General Audience

See Appendix for general audience in attendance.

Agenda

Approval of Agenda and September 9, 2025, Minutes – Tom Pahl, PA-C

The agenda and the September 9, 2025, minutes were approved.

Staff Reports – MDH Staff

Mr. Held reported:

- The STAC meeting location will move to Plymouth starting in March 2026.
- *Today marks the 20th anniversary of the STAC.*
- *An overview of the evolution of the Trauma System from 1992–2005; key legislative milestones from 2005-2025 that have shaped its development; and a recognition of key leaders and coalitions over the years.*

Ms. Flor reported:

- Statewide performance improvement findings from post-site visit surveys will be shared.
- The new education plan, which includes:
 - The new Trauma Medical Director (TMD) and co-TMD orientation, to be offered quarterly. This was introduced this fall with good feedback.
 - The next Trauma Program 101 session scheduled for April 16th, with registration opening after the first of the new year.

Office of Emergency Medical Services Report – Dylan Ferguson

Mr. Ferguson reported:

- The office of EMS has hired a new Data Manager, Greg Woken.
- Hospital Hub metric improvements in data quality and timeliness.
- The Office of EMS will publish a report on pre-hospital blood programs by the end of 2025.
- Ambulance service grants of \$8.2 million will open for applications in 2026 with a deadline sometime in March.

Applicant Review Committee Report – Tammy Peterson

Mr. Held shared more history of the Trauma System, noting the names of the original Level 3 and Level 4 pilot sites which tested and subsequently led to modifications of drafted criteria. He also highlighted designation milestones achieved by hospitals over the years.

Ms. Peterson reported:

The Applicant Review Committee (ARC) recommends the following hospitals for either designation or designation with follow-up:

- Level 3 designate:
 - Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital, Grand Rapids
- Level 3 designate with follow up:
 - Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital, Detroit Lakes
- Level 4 designate:
 - CentraCare Health – Long Prairie
 - Madelia Community Hospital
 - Mayo Clinic Health System – Albert Lea & Austin, Austin Campus
 - Mayo Clinic Health System – Cannon Falls
 - M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Medical Center - West Bank
 - Pipestone County Medical Center
 - St. Gabriel's Hospital, Little Falls

The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted with the following recusals: Dr. Klinkner from Austin and Cannon Falls and Ms. Bong from CentraCare Health – Long Prairie.

The ARC recommends the following hospitals' extension of their current designation, to continue working on deficiencies:

- Level 4 designation extensions
 - Mahnomen Health Center

The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted with no recusals.

Ms. Flor reported:

- Post-site visit surveys were sent to Trauma Program Managers, Trauma Medical Directors, and Hospital Administration following site visits. Results and a performance dashboard will be presented twice a year following each site visit season in June and December. The dashboard will also be shared with the Site Reviewers during their annual training.
- There were 19 responses to the application process survey last season, with overall positive feedback received.

- Site visit case performance improvement data from 2023 to 2025 was reviewed, including the total number of cases, cases by category, and the levels of review each case reached.

RTAC Briefings – CENTRAC, NERTAC, WESTAC

Ms. Jodi Triplett reported on behalf of the Central Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (CENTRAC)

- The Trauma Thread events for EMS, RNs, Medics, and EMTs were hosted at five sites, with a total of 104 attendees. Participants received tourniquets kits and high visibility vests. Survey feedback showed strong interest in continuing these events and expanding Stop the Bleed training opportunities.
- New applications were received for voting positions.
- Challenges remain around in-person participation.
- The state Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) will be organizing more Stop the Bleed sessions specifically for teachers.
- CENTRAC is seeking support or donations of Stop the Bleed kits from other RTACs for the Teachers Association in November.

Mr. Lucas Goodin reported on behalf of the Northeastern Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (NERTAC)

- In-person attendance has increased at the recent meetings.
- Engagement with case presentations remains a challenge. NERTAC is developing a feedback form to collect member interest and potential case topics or presentations.
- The Arrowhead Conference will be in January, where NERTAC will have an exhibit booth.
- A Wilderness Medicine Program was hosted in August, featuring multi-day camping and wilderness medicine skills training.

Ms. Deb Syverson submitted written report on behalf of the Western Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (WESTAC)

- Rib fracture guidelines were reviewed at the most recent meeting.
- WESTAC continues to support and promote Stop the Bleed initiatives throughout the region.

Data Work Group Report – Sarah Tannert-Lerner

Ms. Tannert-Lerner presented drive time maps through the history of the trauma system as hospitals became designated.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Flor presented data on criteria-based work groups from 2012 to 2025. Since 2012 there have been 21 months of work dedicated to Level 3 criteria, 39 months focused on the Level 4 criteria, and 21 months addressing combined Level 3 and Level 4 criteria. Minnesota Statute grants the Trauma System the authority to revise criteria as needed to align with advancements in modern medicine and patient care.

Level 3/Level 4 Criteria Public Comment Report – Maria Flor and Tim Held

Ms. Flor reviewed the process steps and the overview of public comments received:

- The criteria for public comment were shared across multiple formats, trainings, and online forums to promote engagement.
- A total of 40 public comments were received.

Mr. Pahl acknowledged and thanked all contributors who submitted public comments. The public comments were shared with the STAC members prior to the metering and categorized as follows:

- Comments identifying criteria needing clarification.
- Comments that can be address through ongoing education or updates to the “Helpful Tips” section.
- Comments that expressed support or raised minor, isolated points.
- A small number of comments requiring technical revisions, which were reviewed and vetted through the Executive STAC Committee and are recommended for approval.

Dr. McGonigal presented a summary of the work group’s rationale and recommendations. STAC made modifications to several areas based on public comments and incorporated these into the proposed changes.

A motion to approve the proposed updated criteria changes with an implementation date of January 1, 2027, was made by McGonigal and seconded by Lyng. The motion carried unanimously.

The approved Level 3 and Level 4 criteria changes will be published on the Statewide Trauma System website.

Designated Hospitals expiring within the next year will receive invitations to a special January session focused on the criteria transition process.

Open Floor

Dr. Klinkner shared a free resource called [Sim Box \(https://www.emergencysimbox.com/\)](https://www.emergencysimbox.com/), for practice of pediatrics readiness skills.

Ms. Telkamp led a 20th STAC anniversary celebration exercise for TPMs, TMDs, and CEOs, followed by an interactive trivia quiz ending with a future call to “Let’s Continue to Grow Together”. Cupcakes were shared.

Next meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Plymouth Community Center, Plymouth

Appendix

General Attendance

- Dylan Ferguson, OEMS
- Merleen Knott, Sanford Thief Riverfalls
- Tanda Tavakley, MHealth Fairview
- Kelly Handyside, Grand Itasca
- Nicole VanErp, Faribault Medical Center
- Melissa Beaver, Owatonna Hospital
- Meghan Simpson, Children’s Minnesota
- Jeff Loder mower, United Hospital
- Dan Johnson, CALS
- Ann Gihl, CALS
- Sara Adams, Buffalo Hospital (Allina)
- Tammy Gallagher, HCMC
- Lucas Goodin, NERTAC
- Santaria Heggy, Carlton First AMS
- Adam Sherdian, AEMSA
- Katie Lam, Hennepin
- Collen Wood, Hennepin

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM

- Teri Herman, Mercy (Allina)
- Mallory Haas, Mercy
- Nancy Nyking, Mercy
- Kristen Hediern, Mayo Clinic
- Sarah Raleigh, Allina Unity
- Beth Aller, Hennepin
- Danielle Kleszyke, Sanford Health
- Ashley Haberman, Sanford Worthington
- Mandy Sturges, Glencoe Regional Hospital
- Katie Bennett, Windom Area Health
- Lisa Pearson, UMMC
- Courtney Brandt, Fairview Lakes & Northland
- Hutch A. Hamisch, Regions Hospital
- Mark Johnson, Regions
- Todd Emanuel, Mayo
- Deb Vincent, Mayo
- Rachel Duchsherer, Mayo
- Amanda Anderson, Mercy
- Caleb Roiko, CHI St. Joseph's
- Laura Gonska, CHI St. Joseph's
- Ellie Dierkhising, CHI St. Joseph's
- Laura Plasencia, Children's
- Melanie Smalley, North Memorial
- Jodi Triplett, Centracare
- Shannon Olsen, Fairview
- Sarah Raleigh, Allina
- Justin Harrington, Thief River Falls
- Mike Doering, Fairview
- Chad Richardson, HCMC

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM

Minnesota Department of Health

Statewide Trauma System

625 Robert Street N

PO Box 64975

St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

651-201-4147

health.trauma@state.mn.us

www.health.state.mn.us

09/09/25

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4147.