State Trauma Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: MARCH 3, 2026
MINUTES PREPARED BY: TRAUMA SYSTEM STAFF
LOCATION: PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER, PLYMOUTH, MN

Member Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

- Maria Flor
- Tim Held
- Tammy Peterson
- Zora Radosevich
- Dee Telkamp
- Gina Vue
- Sarah Tannert-Lerner

General Audience in attendance

See Appendix for list of general audience in attendance.

Agenda

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

The agenda and December 9, 2025, minutes were approved.

Staff Reports – MDH Staff

Mr. Held reported:

- This is a non-budget year; preliminary versions of legislative bills were heard.
- Dr. Jacobs will vacate his seat following this meeting. A posting to fill the Level 1 and Level 2 Orthopedic Surgeon seat will be issued soon.

Ms. Flor reported:

- The education plans for the remainder of the year.
- Trauma Program 101 will be on April 16th. Trauma Program Managers, Trauma Medical Directors, and Hospital Administrators are welcome to attend.
- New tools, templates, and sample documents have been added to the hospital portal.

Office of Emergency Medical Services Report – Dylan Ferguson

Mr. Ferguson reported:

- Case submissions to Hospital Hub have increased substantially.
- Minnesota Management and Budget have revised the state budget forecast, indicating a decrease in projected resources.

ACS– Committee on Trauma Report

No Report.

Advisory Council on Traffic Safety (ACTS) Report

Dr. Jacobs reported:

- The most recent ACTS meeting was held on February 11th.
- The ACTS chair transitioned to a vice chair role.
- Automated vehicles will be tested in Minnesota.

- Fatalities decreased between 2023 and 2024; the ACTS report is available on the Minnesota Department of Transportation website.
- Key findings from the research and data committee included reductions in overall citations and seat belt citations, with impairment citations remaining stable.

With Dr. Jacobs stepping down from STAC, he conveyed ACTS's strong preference that this seat continues to be filled by a physician or other clinician.

Applicant Review Committee Report – Dee Telkamp

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) verified the following hospitals:

- ACS Re-verification Level 1:
  - Mayo Clinic Hospital Saint Mary's Campus, Rochester
  - Mayo Clinic Hospital Eugenio Litta Children's Hospital, Rochester
- ACS Re-verification Level 2:
  - Aspirus St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth

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

- Level 3 designate:
  - Park Nicollet Methodist, St. Louis Park
  - United Hospital, St. Paul
- Level 4 designate:
  - CentraCare Health – Redwood Hospital, Redwood Falls
  - Children's Minnesota, St. Paul
  - Lake Region Healthcare Elbow Lake Medical Center
  - Olivia Hospital and Clinic
  - Owatonna Hospital
  - Sanford Tracy Medical Center

The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted with the following recusals: Dr. Drevlow from Owatonna, Mr. Ebeling from Sanford Tracy, Ms. Bong from CentraCare Redwood, Dr. Nelson from Owatonna, and Ms. Johnson from Owatonna.

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

- Level 3 designation extensions
  - Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center 3/2026 to 9/2026

- Level 4 designation extensions
  - Community Memorial Hospital, Cloquet 3/2026 to 9/2026
  - Essentia Health Holy Trinity Hospital, Graceville 3/2026 to 9/2026

The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted with the following recusals: Mr. Breuer from Community Memorial Hospital.

The ARC recommends the following hospitals' extension of their current designation, while they await a site visit:

- Level 3 designation administrative extensions
  - Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis; 6/2026 to 12/2026
  - Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Crosby; 6/2026 to 9/2026
  - Alomere Health, Alexandria; 9/2026 to 3/2027
  - Riverwood Healthcare Center, Aitkin; 9/2026 to 3/2027

The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted with the following recusals: Dr. Nelson from Abott Northwestern, Ms. Johnson from Abbott, and Dr. Drevlow from Abbott.

The following out of compliance self-reports were submitted this quarter. Most of these have already been resolved with staff has providing technical assistance and guidance to remedy.

- Level 4
  - Sanford Thief River Falls – Trauma Training Surgeon – resolved.

Trauma Program Manager Networking Meeting Report– Heidi Altamirano, R.N., Merleen Knott, R.N.

Ms. Altamirano from the L1 and L2 Trauma Program Managers reported:

- Many hospitals are on a hiring freeze.
- Level 1 and Level 2 TPMs met with Level 3 and Level 4 TPMs to identify priorities and preferred feedback mechanisms between referring and tertiary centers.

Ms. Merleen Knott from the L3 and L4 Trauma Program Managers reported:

- Both in person and virtual participation have increased.
- The group reviewed tools and crosswalks related to the new criteria found on the Trauma Hospital Portal.
- Fancy Finds and other educational updates were shared.
- Two speakers provided education on pediatric emergency care
- The Pediatric Readiness national survey is open and will close on May 31st.

Trauma Medical Directors/Co-TMD Networking Meeting Report – Tom Pahl, PA-C

Mr. Pahl reported that work continues on guidelines related to rib fracture management and associated strategies to optimize clinical care.

RTAC Briefings – MMRTAC, SMRTAC, SWRTAC

Ms. Melanie Smalley reported on behalf of the Metropolitan Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (MMRTAC)

- May 22nd is Stop the Bleed Awareness Day; metro facilities are encouraged to host activities during that week, and facilities statewide are also encouraged to participate.
- MMRTAC plans to provide Stop the Bleed training at the Minnesota State Fair in August.
- Maintenance and enhancements of the MMRTAC website are ongoing.
- A new c-spine injury resource has been developed and posted on their website.

Ms. Kari Coates reported on behalf of the Southern Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (SMRTAC)

- SMRTAC has transitioned its meetings from Zoom to Microsoft Teams to facilitate calendar integration and access.
- Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) presented an educational session in September, with approximately 70 attendees.
- Quick Clot education was provided in December.
- Efforts are underway to establish and operationalize the performance improvement (PI) subcommittee.
- RTAC practice management guidelines are being updated.

Ms. Ann Jenson reported on behalf of the Southwestern Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (SWRTAC)

- Meeting attendance remains modest but consistent; efforts are focused on increasing participation.
- Case reviews occur regularly at RTAC meetings.
- Members provide Stop the Bleed education at multiple sites.
- Ambulance guidelines have been revised and disseminated to local ambulance services.
- SWRTAC will host its first “lunch and learn” session on cervical collars.
- Ongoing challenges include vacancies in the Chair and Treasurer positions.

Data Work Group Report – Sarah Tannert-Lerner

Ms. Flor reported that a new trauma data quality report has been developed and will be released in the second quarter. Secure reports will be available on the Trauma Hospital Portal. A reference document explaining the data report will also be posted in the Portal; this represents the first time this level of data has been made available to hospitals.

Ms. Tannert-Lerner reviewed charts and graphs of the data; some hospitals will not receive reports due to unresolved barriers with third-party vendors. Ms. Flor and Ms. Tannert-Lerner will offer upcoming Q&A sessions focused on Data Quality Reports.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Flor proposed clarifications to Level 3 and Level 4 trauma criteria

- In Level 4 criterion 4.3.2, revising the table title from “Age-specific respiratory” to “Age-specific respiratory distress”
- In Level 4 criterion 4.3.4.2 and Level 3 criterion 5.1.4.2, revising the table title from “age-specific tachycardia” to “Abnormal age-specific heart rate”
- In the Level 4 criterion 4.3 and the Level 3 criterion 5.1, adjusting the age range for age-specific vitals from “1–2” to “1 - < 2.”
- In Level 4 criterion 4.3.4.8.3, revising the phrase “open and multiple long bone fracture” to “open long bone or multiple long bone fractures”.

Dr. Drevlow moved to accept the four changes as noted above, to review implementation in January 2028, and to clarify the long bone fracture language. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Further discussion clarified that radius/ulna are one unit and tibia/fibula are one unit. This was unanimously agreed upon and suggested to add to the helpful tips section.

New Business

Ms. Annette Larson presented an overview of the Toward Zero Death (TZD) Program and its statewide traffic safety initiates.

- Since 2003, traffic fatalities in Minnesota have decreased by approximately 43 percent, equating to more than 5,000 lives saved.
- TZD provides traffic safety education for all ages and regions of the state and offers workshops and webinars.
- TZD typically hosts an annual statewide TZD conference; this year will be an exception due to TZD’s sponsorship of the Governors Highway Safety Association meeting, scheduled for August 29–September 2.

Open Floor

The Trauma Conference is scheduled for May 1st; all are encouraged to attend. More than 200 registrations have been received, and registrations will close on March 13th.

Mr. Pahl reported that the Clinical Care Ultrasound project will conclude on April 1st.

Next meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Plymouth Community Center, Plymouth

Appendix: General Attendance

- Robin Trubeck, Maple Grove Hospital
- Melanie Smally, North Memorial
- Lori Sybrant, North Memorial
- Amanda Anderson, Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus
- Lindsey Maneval, St. Mary's Essentia Health DL
- Kur Martinsan, Centracare
- Mark Scott, SMMC – Essentia
- Cynthia Olmsted, SMMC – Essentia
- Alisha Schmidt, River's Edge Hospital
- Karen Melean, Lakeview Hospital
- Courtney Brandt, Fairview Lakes & Northland
- Lisa Pearson, UMMC
- Mary Kay Kieser, Southdale
- Tanda Tovakley, Fairview St. Johns & Woodwinds
- Mike Doering, Fairview
- Danielle Kleszyk, Sanford Bemidji
- Leah Grote, Essentia Health Virginia
- Krista Steele, Essentia Health – Deer River
- AJ Yusuf, Windom Area Hospital
- Naomi Mowers, CMH
- Elyse Meyer, St. Francis Regional Medical Center
- Ann Ingerrdm HCMC

- Tammy Gallagher, HCMC
- Kaytlin Hanson, HCMC
- Karen Lam, HCMC
- Linda Vogel, Essentia Health
- Cyd Olmsted, Essentia Health
- Deb Syverson, Sanford – Fargo
- Angela Jones, Essentia Health
- Christina Chuchna, Mayo – Rochester
- Rachel Duchshere, Mayo – Rochester
- Katie Bennett, Windom Area Health
- Mandy Sturges, Glecoe Regional Health
- John McCormick Deaton, Fairview
- Teri Merman, Allina – Mercy
- Racheal Nowling, Allina – Mercy
- Nancy Nyberg, Allina – Mercy
- Mallory Haas, Allina – Mercy
- Amanda Paul, EH Moose Lake
- Heather Gretschmann, CRMC
- Caleb Roiko, CHI St. Joseph's Park Rapids
- Laura Gonska, CHI St. Joseph's Park Rapids
- Ellie Dierkhising, CHI St. Joseph's Park Rapids
- Ellie VanEnk, Perham Health
- Hoshua Chan, Glacial Ridge Health System
- Angie Herman, Riverwood Healthcare center
- Ann Jenson, SWRTAC/SWEMS
- Mallory Haas, Mercy
- Heidi Altamirano, Regions
- Bobbi Sandberg, Mayo Clinic – St. James
- Steph Huber, MCHS Waseca New Prague
- Kari Coates, MCHS Mankato

- Bobbie Poehler, Lalawood Starks
- Peggy Sue Garber, MCHS Fairmont
- Colleen Wood, Regions
- Carissa Wils, CentraCare
- Alison Adams, Methodist
- Uroglmupalei Iyegha, Regions
- Ann Gihl, CALS Program
- Rachelle Damle, Allina – Mercy
- Meghan Simpson, Children's
- Jodi Triplett, CentraCare
- Melissa Beaver, Allina – Owatonna
- Nicole Van Erp, Allina – Faribault
- Dylan Ferguson, OEMS
- Kim Johnson, New Ulm Medical Center
- Jonathon Marshall, Cambridge
- Kristen Hedeen, MCHS – SE MN
- Laura Glasneck, Children's
- Sara Stotl, CentraCare
- Kelly Stangl
- Jess Walchesk

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