

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems  
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting**

March 8, 2016, 10 a.m.

Alabama Department of Public Health  
The RSA Tower, Suite 1586  
Montgomery, Alabama

**Members Present:** Thomas M. Miller, M.D., William Crawford, M.D., Ricky Howell

**Members by Phone:** Sidney Brevard, M.D., Bryan Kindred, Jeffrey Kerby, M.D.,  
Rony Najjar, M.D., Beth Anderson, Vernon Johnson, Douglas Tanner

**Members Absent:** Alzo Preyear, M.D.

**Staff Present:** Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Mark Jackson, Choon Lang, Verla Thomas,  
Augustine Amenyah, Katherine Hert, Stephen Wilson, Karen Bishop

**Guests Present:** Dion Schultz, Travis Parker, John E. Blue, II, Glenn Davis, Joe Acker

**Guests by Phone:** David Garmon, Denise Louthain, Allan Pace, Stephen Suggs, M.D.,  
Ann Klasner, M.D., Priscilla Brewer

**Welcome**

Dr. Miller welcomed participants.

**Adoption of December 8, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of December 8, 2015, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

**Trauma System Update**

Dr. Crawford reported that Trauma Rule 420-2-2-.08 was being updated to include the revised trauma protocol which became effective January 1, 2016. Due to findings from quality improvement reports, consideration was given to revise the language in the Trauma Rules regarding the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) notification timing. The proposed language would state that emergency medical services personnel (EMSP) “have” to contact ATCC instead of “should” contact ATCC for entry of patients into the trauma system before leaving the scene. Dr. Crawford reviewed the results of the Trauma Alert Survey submitted to Level I and II trauma centers. He stated that the survey sent to the trauma managers revealed that the optimal time to get a trauma team ready is fifteen minutes.

Dr. Najjar expressed concern over the process, the need for the system to improve, and for the hospitals to receive more advanced notice of the entry of trauma patients. He further stated that there are more problems with air transport than ground transport. Dr. Crawford stated that a survey was also sent to emergency medical services providers and EMSP to determine their knowledge of the trauma system. One hundred percent (260) of the surveys were returned by the providers, but only three percent (319) were returned by EMSP. As a result of the surveys, regional meetings would be held throughout the state to provide training on the trauma and health systems. In addition, the Office of Emergency Medical Services staff would be facilitating a statewide trauma and health systems satellite conference. Dr. Crawford informed the Council that the trauma inspection team visited Meridian, Mississippi, to meet with representatives to discuss their interest in joining the Alabama Trauma System, as a Level III trauma center. Representatives from Florida requested that the required six hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) be prorated. Dr. Najjar stated that the request could be granted with the stipulation that the CME hours were tracked to ensure completion.

### **Stroke System Update**

Dr. Nafziger reported that a total of 13 site visits had been conducted in the East and Gulf Regions. She stated that the *Get with the Guidelines* program data collection software super user account would be used to capture and analyze hospital data on stroke patients. Funding would be provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Letters of agreement would be amended by the participating hospitals to allow ADPH access to the stroke data. The stroke plans and the stroke rules should be finalized soon. Dr. Nafziger stated that there was concern that the University of Alabama at Birmingham would be the only Level I Stroke Center, but Erlanger is a certified comprehensive center and they have submitted an application for Level I state designation. In addition, three other stroke centers are working toward comprehensive certification.

### **Health Systems Data Report**

Mr. Amenyah presented a review of the Health Systems Data Report, as distributed.

### **Health Systems Report**

Mr. Acker presented a review of the Health Systems Report, as distributed.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 13, 2016, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Room 1586.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55 a.m.

---

Thomas M. Miller, M.D., Chairman  
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council

---

Choona Lang, Trauma Administrator  
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council