

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

March 10, 2014, 10 a.m.

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

Members Present: Donald Williamson, M.D.

Members by Phone: Loring Rue, M.D., Rony Najjar, M.D., Richard Gonzalez, M.D.,
Chief A. J. Martin, Beth Anderson, Bryan Kindred, Douglas Tanner

Members Absent: William Crawford, M.D., Vernon Johnson, Alzo Preyear, M.D.

Staff Present: Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Dennis Blair, Stephanie Payne, Leslie Morgan,
Verla Thomas, Katherine Hert, Brian Hale, Michele Jones,
MisChele White, Darwina Johnson

Guests Present: Joe Acker, Dion Schultz, Denise Louthain

Guests by Phone: David Garmon, Michael Minor, Glenn Davis, Stephen Suggs, M.D.,
John Campbell, M.D., Ann Klasner, M.D., Sherry Melton, M.D.,
Allan Pace

Welcome

Dr. Williamson welcomed participants.

Adoption of September 12, 2013, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2013, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

Southeast Regional Pilot Acute Stroke System (SRPASS) Update

Dr. Nafziger provided an update on the SRPASS. She informed the group that since the stroke system was activated, 15 hospitals were participating. L.V. Stabler completed the inspection process and was designated by the On-site Inspection Team and the Regional Advisory Council to operate as a Level III stroke center. Crenshaw Community Hospital applied for designation. Dr. Nafziger informed the Committee that Wiregrass Medical Center had lost funding for telemedicine and was not currently accepting stroke patients. The facility was arranging an agreement with another hospital to provide neurological consultation and would inform the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) when the agreement was in place and they could resume accepting patients.

Dr. Nafziger informed the Committee that the next step would be to secure funding and develop legislation so that the stroke system could begin to operate statewide.

Children's of Alabama Provisional Designation

Dr. Nafziger reminded the Committee that the trauma rule change to add a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center designation had completed the public hearing process. The provisional Level I designation that was awarded to Children's of Alabama was extended to April 30, 2014, to allow the finalization of the rule change. Once completed, Children's would be awarded a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center designation. At the request of the STHSAC Review Subcommittee, trauma system patients who were transferred to the emergency room at Children's would be monitored for a six-month period of time to ensure the process worked efficiently.

Alabama Trauma System (ATS) Update

Dr. Nafziger stated that ATS Patient Entry Protocol 8.5 had been updated recently to Trauma System Protocol 1.16. Alabama Department of Public Health Legal Counsel made the OEMS aware that a rule change request would need to be completed for this protocol change. The rule change would be on the agenda at the next State Committee of Public Health meeting. A motion was made and seconded to initiate the rule change process to update Trauma System Protocol 8.5; the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Nafziger reminded the Committee that it was agreed, in the last meeting, to begin routing patients to the closest available trauma center, regardless of geographic or regional boundaries. She indicated that all ATS patients were currently being routed in this manner, and efforts were underway to adjust Regional Trauma Plans to reflect that change.

Dr. Nafziger informed the Committee that OEMS had received increased interest from hospitals in Region Five to join the ATS. Flowers Hospital, Southeast Alabama Medical Center, and Baptist South completed on-site inspections and the results were currently being analyzed.

Dr. Nafziger informed the Committee that Florala Hospital closed due to financial reasons, effective December 27, 2013.

ATS Data System Update

Ms. White apprised the Committee on the meeting that was held with representatives from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). OEMS received helpful feedback on how the data system operated. Ms. White reported that compliance with Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) number was 44 percent in 2013, in comparison to 34.5 percent in 2012. Instances where the ATCC number was entered into the form incorrectly were being located by reviewing patient care records with recovery software. Dr. Williamson thanked UAB and Dr. Loring Rue for sending their data management staff to meet and assist OEMS with the data system.

ATS Operations Report

Mr. Acker presented a review of the ATS Operations Report, as distributed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 16, 2014, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Room 1586.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.



Donald E. Williamson, M.D., Chairman
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council



Leslie Morgan, Administrative Support Assistant II
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council

Approved: September 22, 2014

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

September 22, 2014, 10 a.m.
Alabama Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower, Suite 520
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present: Donald Williamson, M.D., William Crawford, M.D.

Members by Phone: Loring Rue, M.D., Chief A. J. Martin, Bryan Kindred, Douglas Tanner, Alzo Preyear, M.D.

Members Absent: Richard Gonzalez, M.D., Beth Anderson, Vernon Johnson, Rony Najjar, M.D.

Staff Present: Sarah Nafziger, M.D., Dennis Blair, Stephanie Payne, Leslie Morgan, Verla Thomas, Brian Hale, Michele Jones, MisChele White, Darwina Johnson, Choona Lang, Stephen Wilson, Hugh Hollon

Guests Present: Joe Acker, Glenn Davis

Guests by Phone: David Garmon, Michael Minor, Ann Klasner, M.D., Allan Pace, Denise Louthain, Margie Cole, Dion Schultz

Welcome

Dr. Williamson welcomed participants.

Adoption of March 10, 2014, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2014, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

Southeast Regional Pilot Acute Stroke System (SRPASS) Update

Dr. Nafziger provided an update on the SRPASS. She informed the Council that in the 12 months that the stroke system has been operational, 1,900 stroke patients had been entered into the system. In addition, Crenshaw Community Hospital received Level III stroke designation, resulting in a total of 17 stroke centers in Region Five. Dr. Nafziger informed the Council that the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) examined activating other regions for the stroke system, and found that would require an additional \$226,000 in funding. The goal is statewide participation in the stroke system, with the addition of the STEMI system, which should not require additional funding. Dr. Nafziger reported that, in response to the concerns of

the Council, language would be added to HB517 to allow the STHSAC to separate into Councils specific to each health system and to add additional members, as needed.

Dr. Williamson reported that the 2015 budget request had been received. Due to the success of the trauma and stroke systems in Alabama, funding for a statewide stroke and STEMI system would be sought in the next 18 months. Dr. Williamson thanked the STHSAC, OEMS, the hospitals, and prehospital providers for their dedication to the acute care systems. A motion was made and seconded to approve proceeding with the statewide stroke and STEMI systems; the motion carried unanimously.

Alabama Trauma System (ATS) Update

Dr. Crawford provided an update on the trauma system, and reported that an electronic vote was conducted to approve the Level I designation of Children's Hospital and the activation of Region Five for the ATS; both votes were approved.

Dr. Crawford informed the Council that the regional trauma plans were updated and most had been approved by the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). These plans were included in the meeting packets for review by the Council, and an electronic vote to approve the plans would be requested before the next STHSAC meeting.

Dr. Crawford reported that the process for Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (QA/QI) was altered slightly to increase efficiency in reaching resolutions. In the past, all QA/QI issues were identified by the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) communicators. The communicators were instructed to send any protocol issues directly to the regional agencies for examination, and only forward to OEMS if further investigation or action was required.

Dr. Crawford reported that the process appeared to be working well, and had resulted in only 12 QA/QI issues being forwarded to OEMS in the last six months.

Dr. Crawford received a request from Dr. Klasner for each trauma center to nominate a "children's champion" to advocate for pediatric patients that arrive at their facilities.

Dr. Crawford requested that each trauma center send the contact information for their nominee to Dr. Klasner.

Dr. Crawford stated that he had discussed with Dr. Najjar his concerns about routing of isolated hand injuries, and Dr. Najjar suggested that perhaps these injuries could be handled more specifically in the regional trauma plans. Dr. Crawford agreed to report back to the Council once he had drafted a process or language to address these concerns.

Dr. Crawford explained to the Council that the entry of trauma system patients that were discharged from the emergency department had been a topic discussed in recent meetings. Many Level III trauma centers had not entered this data due to a lack of personnel, but some higher level trauma centers continued to enter those patients, as required by the regional trauma plan. Dr. Crawford agreed to consider the best way to get this data without placing undue burden on trauma centers, and propose a solution to the Council.

ATS Data System Update

Ms. White reported to the Council that ATCC number compliance from hospital and prehospital providers had improved and was currently at 71.6 percent. She reported that trauma system data within the registry was currently searchable and attempts to identify trauma system patients were ongoing. Ms. White stated that reports from this data were in the process of being developed.

ATS Operations Report

Mr. Acker presented a review of the ATS Operations Report, as distributed.

RAC Changes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the RAC membership changes, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for December 12, 2014, at 10 a.m., in Montgomery at The RSA Tower, Room 1586.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Donald E. Williamson, M.D., Chairman
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council

Leslie Morgan, Administrative Support Assistant II
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council

Approved: December 12, 2014