

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
September 12, 2024 – 2 p.m.
Via Phone/WebEx/Training Annex**

Members Present by Phone/WebEx: Elwin Crawford, M.D., Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., proxy for Jon Simmons M.D., Tracy Doughty, Rony Najjar, M.D., Teresa Grimes, proxy for Josh Snow, David Hughes, Jon Howell

Members Absent: Scott Harris, M.D.

Member Present: Benjamin Von Schweinitz, M.D.

Staff Present: Alice Floyd, Tabatha Ross, Chris Palmer

Guests by Phone/WebEx: Michele Jones, Michael Minor, Sean Gibson, Will Montalban, John E. Blue, II, Jim Fox, Lianne Brown, Kate Rogers, Kristy Jones, Carolyn Bern, Maggie Poole, Renee Mills, Darwina Johnson, April Turner, Rob Green, Stephanie Spain, Kelly Hicks, Lynn Morrison

Welcome

In Dr. Harris' absence, Dr. Crawford welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order.

Dr. Crawford announced two new STHSAC appointees: Mr. Josh Snow from USA Health University Hospital and Dr. Benjamin Von Schweinitz from UAB Hospital.

Adoption of June 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Crawford asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 12, 2024, meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

System Updates

Trauma System

Dr. Kerby reported that work continues on the Accelerated Transfer process. He hopes to meet with the Alabama Hospital Association to discuss how to move forward constructively to get the process approved and in place.

Dr. Kerby commented on plans to add Level IV Trauma Centers to the trauma system. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is currently revising the Level IV standards which should be complete after the first of the year (2025). Once the ACS process is complete, the information will be reviewed and the current trauma rules revised.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford reported that the last of six Regional Stroke Symposiums was conducted in the West Region on July 18. The Severity-Based Stroke Triage (SBST) routing will begin in the West Region on October 22. Once the West Region begins SBST routing, the entire state will be routing stroke patients according to the state plan which directs suspected large vessel occlusion (LVO) strokes to a mechanical thrombectomy-capable stroke center within 1 hour, if possible. If the 1-hour time frame cannot be met,

the patient will be routed to an available stroke center for evaluation and thrombolytics, if indicated. Dr. Crawford commented that this effort has taken a large amount of work and many people were involved. He continued that once the changes are system wide, this will provide better patient care and enhanced treatment modality for LVO patients.

Dr. Crawford reported that a stroke site visit was conducted on June 11 at John Paul Jones Hospital in Camden. The hospital applied for Level III Stroke Center status. During the site visit, the team recommended additional stroke system training for hospital staff. The training was provided and the West Region Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) approved continuing the application process. Dr. Crawford added that the hospital is being assisted by UAB with teleneurology. The hospital is rural and they can improve the care that stroke patients in that area receive. Dr. Crawford asked if there was any objection to delaying the vote on John Paul Jones Hospital's system entry until after discussing another stroke hospital's status change which will also require a vote. There were no objections to his request.

Dr. Crawford reported that the state team met with Mobile Infirmity (MI), a Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (Level IIa) in the stroke system on June 30 after receiving an application for a level change. MI applied for and received The Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) Certification. The state team voted to continue the application process. The Alabama Gulf EMS System RAC met on August 16 and approved MI's designation from Level IIa to Level I CSC status in the stroke system.

Dr. Crawford asked for a motion to approve John Paul Jones Hospital to enter the system as a Level III Stroke Center and for a level change for MI from Level IIa to Level I. He asked if there were any questions regarding either hospital. There were no questions. A motion was made and seconded and the motion carried without objection.

Dr. Crawford commented that there is a large number of stroke centers in the system and the travel time to revisit them is significant. The state team has piloted virtual stroke site visits for several stroke hospitals and they have gone well. On-site visits will still be conducted with new system entries and in other situations.

Troy Regional Medical Center (TRMC), a Level III Stroke Center, had a virtual site visit on August 19. They were asked to do some additional training to meet one of the requirements. The training should be completed within the next 2 months and then presented to the Southeast Region RAC for approval. If approved by the RAC, TRMC will be on the December STHSAC agenda for a vote.

Medical Center Enterprise and Dale Medical Center had virtual site visits on September 6. Dr. Crawford reported they both went well. If approved by the Southeast Region RAC, both hospitals will be on the December STHSAC agenda for a vote.

Mizell Memorial Hospital is scheduled for a virtual site visit and will be added to December's agenda as well.

Acute Health Systems (AHS) Report

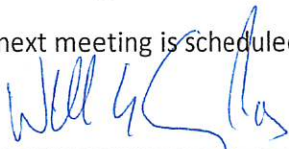
AHS data are being reviewed in a different manner, therefore, there was no AHS Report presented. A 6-month report will be presented at the December meeting.

AHS Conference

Dr. Crawford announced an inaugural AHS Conference has been scheduled for December 9, 2024, in Clanton. He encouraged everyone to participate and to reach out to AHS staff for more information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, at 10 a.m.



William Crawford, M.D., for
Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council



Alice B. Floyd, B.S.N., R.N., EMT-P
Acute Health Systems Manager