

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
December 11, 2024 – 10 a.m.
Virtual /Training Annex**

Members Present Virtually: Scott Harris, M.D., Elwin Crawford, M.D., Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., proxy for Jon Simmons M.D., Tracy Doughty, Rony Najjar, M.D., Teresa Grimes, David Hughes, Benjamin Von Schweinitz, M.D.

Members Absent: Josh Snow, Jon Howell

Staff Present: Alice Floyd, Tabatha Ross, Lori Stringer, Jamie Gray, Sara Matthews

Staff Present Virtually: Michele Jones

Guests Virtually: Lynn Morrison, Stephanie Spain, April Turner, Glenn Davis, Travis Parker, Renee Mills, Priscilla Bode

Guest Present: John E. Blue, II, Michael Minor, Sean Gibson, Will Montalban, Jordan Nesmith, Spencer Howard, Kenneth Kirkland

Welcome

Dr. Harris welcomed everyone and thanked them for their work before calling the meeting to order.

Adoption of September 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 12, 2024, meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as submitted. The Minutes were approved without objection.

System Updates

Dr. Crawford provided information about the December 9, 2024, Acute Health Systems Conference. He stated it went very well and was well attended. There was significant positive feedback from the attendees. Dr. Crawford stated that he is appreciative of Administration's support of the conference.

Trauma System

Dr. Kerby stated there are plans to add a Level IV Trauma Center designation to the trauma system. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is expected to release new criteria after the first of the year. Once the ACS criteria is available for review, the current trauma rules will be revised.

Dr. Kerby thanked Dr. Harris for his assistance in coordinating a meeting with the Alabama Hospital Association to discuss Accelerated Transfer and Rescue Stop processes.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford reported that the West Region started Severity-Based Stroke Triage (SBST) routing on November 4. SBST routing through the Alabama Trauma Communication Center is now statewide and working well. According to the state plan, stroke system patients with a suspected large vessel occlusion (LVO) stroke are routed 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 thrombolytic therapy if indicated. Dr. Crawford commented that this statewide effort has taken a large amount of work and many people were involved.

Piedmont Columbus Hospital, a Level IIa Stroke Center in the stroke system, began SBST routing on November 4. Dr. Crawford acknowledged that our out-of-state partners are appreciated.

A virtual stroke site visit was conducted on August 19 for Troy Regional Medical Center, a Level III Stroke Center in the stroke system. During the site visit, the team recommended additional stroke system training for hospital staff. After the training was completed, the Southeast Regional Advisory Council (RAC) approved continuing the application process.

On September 6, the state team conducted virtual site visits for Dale Medical Center and Medical Center Enterprise. Both hospitals are currently designated as a Level III Stroke Center in the stroke system. The state team voted to continue the application process for both stroke centers. The Southeast RAC also voted to continue the application process for both hospitals.

Dr. Harris stated the action items could be voted on as one item or individually. Dr. Harris asked if anyone wanted to vote on the hospitals separately and there were no comments. A motion was made and seconded to carry the action items as a single vote; there were no objections. A motion was made and seconded to approve the three stroke centers; the motion carried without objection.

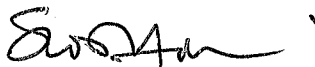
Dr. Crawford reported that Andalusia Health and Mizell Memorial Hospital are scheduled for an in-person stroke site visit on December 18. Mizell Memorial Hospital was scheduled for a virtual site visit in August; however, IT issues prohibited completing the visit. Both will likely be on the agenda for the March STHSAC meeting.

Acute Health Systems (AHS) Report

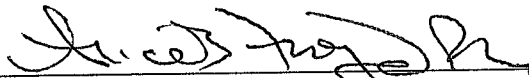
Michael Minor presented the AHS Report. There were no questions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is to be determined.



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