

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
September 17, 2025 – 1 p.m. Virtual /Training Annex**

Members Present Virtually: Scott Harris, M.D., Elwin Crawford, M.D., Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., Tracy Doughty, Rony Najjar, M.D., Teresa Grimes, Jon Howell, Benjamin Von Schweinitz, M.D., Josh Snow, Stacy Hines, Jon Simmons, M.D.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Alice Floyd, Chris Palmer, Sara Matthews, Tabatha Ross

Staff Present Virtually: Michele Jones, Jamie Gray, Sancha Howard, Brent Hatcher

Guests Present Virtually: Sean Gibson, Travis Parker, Jordan Nesmith, John E. Blue, II, Stephanie Spain, Kristy Jones, Renee Mills, Allan Pace, Michael Minor, John Fox, Kevin Paschal, April Turner, Erin Patterson

Welcome

Dr. Harris welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Adoption of March 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2025, meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes. The Minutes were approved without objection.

System Updates – Trauma System

Dr. Kerby announced that the University of South Alabama Hospital had successfully completed their American College of Surgeons Level I Trauma Center Verification with no deficiencies.

Dr. Kerby reported that site visits had been completed on August 5, 2025, for Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola for Level I Trauma Center designation and on August 19, 2025, for Baptist Hospital Pensacola for Level II Trauma Center designation. He stated that the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for Alabama Gulf Emergency Medical Services System (AGEMSS) met September 9, 2025, and voted for them to continue in the trauma system.

Dr. Harris asked if anyone wanted to extract a hospital from the two hospitals for discussion. There were no comments. A motion was made to approve both trauma system applicants. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

Dr. Kerby stated that site visits had been conducted at Huntsville Hospital for Level I Trauma Center designation and Baptist Medical Center South for Level II Trauma Center designation. These items would be presented for review at the next RAC meeting, according to Region before coming to STHSAC for vote.

Dr. Kerby announced that Mizell Memorial Hospital Level III Trauma Center had withdrawn from the trauma system, due to loss of surgical coverage.

Dr. Kerby stated that a Blood Product Availability Study would soon be conducted by Dr. Zain Hashmi at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). A survey would be distributed to collect data. He stated that the results would be discussed at the next Trauma Surgeons' meeting.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford stated that site visits for verification or reverification had been completed at Vaughn Regional Medical Center for Level III Stroke Center designation; Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola for continued Level I Stroke Center designation; and Baptist Hospital Pensacola for continued Level IIa Stroke Center designation. Vaughn Regional Medical Center was approved by the West Alabama RAC on August 26, 2025, to continue the application process. Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola and Baptist Hospital Pensacola were approved by the AGEMSS RAC on September 9, 2025.

Dr. Crawford reported that Bibb Medical Center and Tanner Medical Center East Alabama were currently running and doing well as Level III stroke centers. He stated that both hospitals are located in rural areas where stroke centers are needed.

Dr. Harris asked if anyone wanted to extract a hospital from the group of three hospitals for discussion. There were no comments. A motion was made to approve all three stroke system applicants. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

Cardiac System

Dr. Crawford reported that he and Acute Health Systems (AHS) staff are working on a statewide Cardiac/STEMI system plan. He said that there should be something to present to STHSAC within 12 months and then the next steps would be to set up a pilot program.

AHS Report

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

Data Points for AHS Report

Dr. Crawford made a request to the group for additional data points to the AHS Report. Dr. Kerby stated that this would be an agenda item at the next Trauma Surgeons' meeting, and he should have something to report at the next STHSAC meeting. Dr. Najjar wants to look at the healthiness of the trauma system in relation to over and under triage, overuse of transfers, and morbidity and mortality rates.

AHS—RAC Appointments/STHSAC Appointment

Ms. Floyd stated that appointment terms were expiring and requests had been made for new appointments. Ms. Floyd introduced and welcomed the new Alabama Hospital Association appointees Josh Snow, of the University of South Alabama Hospital, and Stacy Hines. Ms. Floyd stated that the information would be disseminated, accordingly, when everything has been completed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is December 12, 2025, at 10 a.m.



Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., Chairman
Statewide Trauma and Health Systems Advisory Council



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