

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems  
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting  
March 16, 2026 – 1 p.m.  
Via Phone/WebEx/Training Annex**

**Members Present by Phone/WebEx:** Scott Harris, M.D., Elwin Crawford, M.D., Tracy Doughty (proxy for Teresa Grimes), Ben Hansert, Stacy Hines, Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., Rony Najjar, M.D., Benjamin Von Schweinitz, M.D.

**Members Absent:** Jon Howell, Jon Simmons, M.D.

**Staff Present:** Alice Floyd, Sara Matthews, Chris Palmer, Melissa Tolar

**Staff by Phone/WebEx:** Brent Hatcher, Tabatha Ross, Steven Stringer

**Guests by Phone/WebEx:** Brandie Alldredge, John E. Blue, II, Kimberly Coley, Jim Fox, Marvin Miller, Renee Mills, Michael Minor, Jordan Nesmith, Allan Pace, Kevin Paschal, April Turner, David White

**Welcome**

Dr. Harris welcomed all participants, including the newest council member, Mr. Ben Hansert, and called the meeting to order.

**Adoption of December 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2025, meeting. Dr. Von Schweinitz made the motion, and Dr. Kerby seconded. The Minutes were approved without objection.

**System Updates**

**Trauma System**

Dr. Kerby presented the trauma system report. He stated that there were three trauma hospitals to be considered for approval to continue in the system at their current status. On January 20, 2026, an onsite visit was conducted at Children's at Erlanger, and on February 9, the North Region Regional Advisory Council (RAC) voted to recommend their designation be renewed as a Level I Trauma Center in the Alabama Trauma System (ATS). On January 12, an onsite visit was conducted at North Mississippi Medical Center, which participates in the ATS as a Level II Trauma Center. On February 3, the West Region RAC voted and approved them to continue in the system as a Level II Trauma Center. USA Health University Hospital recently received Level I verification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The Gulf Region RAC voted on January 29 for them to continue in the system as a Level I Trauma Center.

Dr. Harris asked if anyone had questions or wished to vote on any of these hospitals separately. There being no further discussion, Dr. Harris asked for a vote to approve the continuation of the three aforementioned trauma hospitals in the system at their designated status. The vote carried without objection.

Dr. Kerby informed the group that Vaughan Regional Medical Center has applied to be a Level III Trauma Center in the ATS. A site visit is scheduled for April 21. He also stated that the University of Alabama

Birmingham Hospital (Level I) has received ACS reverification. Their application is in process and should be ready in time for the next STHSAC meeting.

### **Stroke System**

Dr. Crawford reported for the stroke system. He stated that on January 12, an onsite survey was conducted at North Mississippi Medical Center (NMMC). The West Region RAC voted on February 3 for NMMC to continue participating in the system as a Level IIa Stroke Center. Dr. Crawford also provided an update on Atrium Health Floyd Cherokee Medical Center, which had previously been approved to enter the system as a Level III Stroke Center. He stated that their LifeTrac workstation has been installed and they are now in the process of executing their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the stroke system. He added that progress is being made in renewing existing MOUs with hospitals throughout the stroke system.

Dr. Harris asked if there were any questions or discussion. Hearing none, Dr. Harris asked for a vote to approve the continuation of North Mississippi Medical Center as a Level IIa Stroke Center. The vote carried without objection.

### **Cardiac/ST-Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) System**

Dr. Crawford reported that the planning stage of the statewide STEMI system is nearly complete. He stated that the first draft of the plan had been sent to an external reviewer for recommendations, and the Acute Health Systems (AHS) staff are now in the process of reviewing and incorporating those suggestions into the plan. Dr. Crawford anticipates the initial plan should be ready to present to the council this fall in preparation for launching a STEMI system pilot program. He reminded the council that it would be beneficial to run the pilot program first before developing rules for the STEMI system, since some rules may need to be modified based on the outcome of the pilot program. Dr. Harris thanked Dr. Crawford for the update and asked if there were any comments. There were none.

### **AHS Report**

Michael Minor presented the AHS Report, which included trauma system data for the date range of April 1—September 30, 2025. There were no questions about the report. Mr. Minor then acknowledged Dr. Crawford to share some additional information regarding data points for the report.

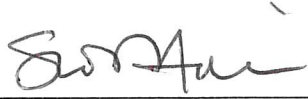
### **Data Points for AHS Report**

Dr. Crawford stated that AHS would like to receive suggestions from the STHSAC members for any additional data points that would be helpful to reflect on the AHS Reports. Dr. Crawford explained that sometimes there is some discrepancy between regional report totals and the AHS Report totals due to the fact that data being reported to the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) is being processed on a part-time basis by staff whose primary duty is to help route patients through the system. He assured the council that the data is accurate but there may be some lag time on when it is processed.

Mr. Minor added that in the past, a 2-month delay had been implemented for the data processing time. Due to increase in volume, he stated that they may consider increasing that to a 3-month delay in order to bring the reports up to date. Dr. Harris thanked Mr. Minor and Dr. Crawford for the updates and asked if there were any further questions or additional topics for discussion. There were none.

**Next Meeting**

June 16, 2026, at 1 p.m.



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



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