

**Minutes of the Statewide Trauma and Health Systems
Advisory Council (STHSAC) Meeting
March 18, 2025 – 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, Jon Howell, Benjamin Von Schweinitz, M.D.

Member Absent: Josh Snow

Staff Present: Alice Floyd, Chris Palmer, Jamie Gray, Sara Matthews

Staff Present Virtually: Steven Stringer

Guests Virtually: Charles Erwin, Allan Pace, Jim Fox, Sean Gibson, Glenn Davis, Travis Parker, John E. Blue, II, Jim Corder M.D., Stephanie Spain, Kevin Paschal

Guests Present: Jordan Nesmith, Spencer Howard

Welcome

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

Adoption of December 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2024, meeting. It was noted that Dr. Von Schweinitz's name was omitted from the list of participating members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes with the addition of Dr. Von Schweinitz's attendance. The Minutes were approved without objection.

System Updates – Trauma System

Dr. Kerby stated Level I and Level II Trauma Center site visits are due later this year. He commented on plans to add Level IV Trauma Centers to the system. The American College of Surgeons is revising the current Level IV standards and once ready they will be distributed for review and comment. Dr. Kerby stated that he spoke with Dr. Williamson at the Alabama Hospital Association (AlaHA), who was supportive and in favor of Level IV Trauma Centers being added to the Alabama Trauma System. It was noted that adding a new trauma center level would require a change in the trauma rules.

Dr. Kerby reported that he and Dr. Williamson also spoke about the Accelerated Transfer (AT) process which was paused in 2024. Hospital representatives have expressed concerns about EMTALA (Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act) violations and have requested a letter from CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) regarding EMTALA protections associated with AT. CMS representatives have declined to provide the requested letter. Dr. Kerby added that Dr. Williamson supports AT and would discuss with AlaHA staff.

Mr. Hughes asked if extended EMS rendezvous wait-times at helipads could create EMTALA issues. Dr. Crawford provided specific information and the citation from CMS documents related to EMS rendezvous at hospital helipads and when a medical screening examination was needed.

Stroke System

Dr. Crawford reported that since the December meeting of the Council, four stroke site visits were conducted and each hospital was found to meet Level III Stroke Ready inclusion criteria.

Both Andalusia Health in Andalusia and Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp applied to continue their status as Level III Stroke Centers in the Southeast Region. The state team voted to continue the application process for both stroke centers. The Southeast Region Regional Advisory Council (RAC) voted affirmatively to continue the application process for both Andalusia Health and Mizell Memorial Hospital.

Bibb Medical Center in Centreville, which is in the West Region, and Tanner Medical Center East Alabama in Wedowee, which is in the East Region, applied to join the stroke system as a Level III Stroke Center. The state team voted to continue the application process for both stroke center applicants. The West Region RAC voted affirmatively to continue the application process for Bibb Medical Center; the East Alabama RAC voted affirmatively to continue the application process for Tanner Medical Center East Alabama.

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

Cardiac System

Dr. Crawford reported that a significant amount of work had been done to develop a statewide STEMI (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction) Plan. There have been multiple meetings with the EMS Regions and Acute Health Systems staff. There is more to do and when the plan is ready, it will be vetted and sent to the STEMI Workgroup for review. Dr. Crawford added that he is hopeful that the STEMI System will be operational in about 18 months.

Acute Health Systems (AHS) Report

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

Data Points for AHS Report

Dr. Crawford commented that he would like to provide a data-driven picture of the overall health of the systems and asked for ideas on reports that would be useful to the Council. Dr. Najjar would like to see trauma system outcome data to include specifics to improve patient outcomes. Dr. Kerby mentioned having quarterly meetings focused on trauma system performance improvement. The meetings could be case-based conference, or people could submit cases to discuss. He stated that this could provide an opportunity for improvement across the system whether through resources or training, etc.

Dr. Harris mentioned ADPH has access to de-identified hospital discharge data and ADPH's Office of Informatics and Data Analytics (OIDA), could be a potential source of data for comparison.

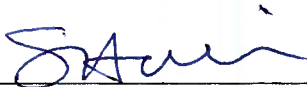
Dr. Corder commented that trauma follow-up would be helpful, especially feedback from the Level I Trauma Centers.

Dr. Von Schweinitz commented that related to data, he has used the Jefferson County Coroner's Report to capture previous healthcare system encounters which may be missing. It is used primarily for stroke and STEMI patients. Dr. Harris said this data would be useful. He further stated that OIDA facilitates ADPH's ability to reach out to other entities with data pools to determine what access could be obtained.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is June 12, 2025, at 3 p.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-B
Acute Health Systems Manager