

**MEETING MINUTES of the
STATE TRAUMA ADVISORY
BOARD**

April 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Trauma Advisory Board was called to order by Dr. Eric Kuncir, Board Chairperson, at 10:33 a.m., on 4/11/2025 at the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln. The meeting was held in person. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website on 4/6/2025. Dr. Kuncir announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

- Dr. Zachary Bauman
- Tami Bokelman
- Dr. Emily Cantrell
- Jill Coddington
- Dr. Chad Duval
- Dr. Eric Ernest
- Ashley Farrens
- Victoria Hurlbut
- Renae Jacobson
- Sandra Kirchner
- Jozef Kuehn
- Dr. Eric Kuncir
- Jessica Lee
- Tia Manning
- Katie Pierce
- Dr. William T. Sorrell
- Susan Wilson
- Dr. Abdalla Zarroug

The following Board members were absent:

- Michael Downey
- Dr. Charity Evans
- Mackenzie Gasper
- Dr. Rommie Hughes
- Eric Jensen
- Kyle Kellum
- Dr. Alejandro Luis
- Scott Reifschneider
- Dr. Alesha Scott
- Lori Terryberry-Spohr
- Mindy Walters

The following staff members from the Department were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- Regan Blackwell
- Tonja Bohling
- Darla Hopwood
- Carol Jorgensen
- Teresa Hampton, *DHHS Attorney*
- Diane Schoch
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Lisa Steiner
- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

These minutes have been approved by the
State Trauma Advisory Board on July 23,
2025.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Dr. Duval made the motion, seconded by Kirchner, to adopt the agenda for the 4/11/2025 State Trauma Advisory Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Dr. Bauman, Bokelman, Dr. Cantrell, Coddington, Dr. Duval, Dr. Ernest, Farrens, Hurlbut, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuehn, Dr. Kuncir, Lee, Manning, Pierce, Dr. Sorrell, S. Wilson, and Zarroug. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Downey, Dr. Evans, Gasper, Dr. Hughes, Jensen, Kellum, Dr. Luis, Reifschneider, Dr. Scott, Terryberry-Spohr, and Walters. Motion carried.

10:38 a.m. *Mackenzie Gasper joined the meeting.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: S. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Dr. Sorrell, to approve the minutes of the 1/10/2025 meeting.

Voting Yes: Dr. Bauman, Bokelman, Dr. Cantrell, Coddington, Dr. Duval, Dr. Ernest, Farrens, Gasper, Hurlbut, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuehn, Dr. Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Dr. Sorrell, S. Wilson, and Dr. Zarroug. Voting No: None. Abstain: Manning. Absent: Downey, Dr. Evans, Dr. Hughes, Jensen, Kellum, Dr. Luis, Reifschneider, Dr. Scott, Terryberry-Spohr, and Walters. Motion carried.

Dr. Kuncir announced new Trauma Board members, Dr. Eric Ernest as the EMS Medical Director and Tia Manning as the Consumer Representative. Each introduced themselves.

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems (OEHS) Program Updates

Program reports are provided in the handouts, submitted for Board review prior to the meeting, and were posted in the portal.

- a. EMS Program: Jorgensen gave an update in addition to the report submitted. There were over 1,100 contacts in the first quarter. Three more services have closed – 425 are in service now. EMS Model Protocols and the new Model Protocols are updated and on the website. The telehealth pilot project has ended due to no more funding. The Community Paramedicine Feasibility and Sustainability Assessment is beginning and will end on September 30, 2025. The PHHS grant application for the funding cycle October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, has been submitted.
- b. Education and Training Agency Compliance: Snodgrass gave an update in addition to the report submitted. She is still looking for presenters for the monthly Zoom continuing education classes. Contact Wendy Snodgrass if interested in presenting.
- c. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Blackwell gave an update in addition to the report submitted. Funding has been 45% received. There are two new hospitals and two Emergency Medical Services that are pediatric-ready, making a total of nine hospitals and nine EMSC agencies. The EMSC Conference will be held December 5-6, 2025. There will also be an EMSC Conference in collaboration with the iExcel Center in September with satellites in Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Omaha, and Scottsbluff.

10:45 a.m. *Dr. Evans joined the meeting.*

- d. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: T. Wilson clarified CISM first responders number includes EMRs. He also added that CISM has been active lately especially with pediatrics.
- e. Stroke/STEMI Program: Nothing new.
- f. OEHS Data Systems: T. Wilson gave an update. He commented on the Data Systems Report and remarked if anyone has questions to reach out to Sharon Steele, Mason Holmes, or himself.
 - i. T. Wilson gave an update on the Data reporting. The data side will be changing internally. A new data request form is available. Requests will go through a formal process, using the Public Request Team. The OEHS has a new Epidemiology member, Yi, who will be working with trauma data. There will also be a new informatician member who will make

the connections/integrations between systems and processes between Nebraska Trauma Dictionary and third-party importers. A committee/group will be established to come up with a data use/implementation/quality improvement plan to determine what the priorities data needs are and how data will be utilized, as well as looking at creating and posting dashboard measures.

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Updates

- a. Region 1 Committee – Pierce reported that Region 1 met in February and the next meeting will be in-person at 11:00 a.m. on May 2, 2025. There has been one hospital redesignated, Winnebago, and one hospital interested in getting designated as a Level 4, Fremont.
- b. Region 2 Committee – Gasper reported CHI St. Elizabeth is working on designation. Bryan has their ACS on April 23-24. ATLS classes are scheduled. A hybrid class is meeting August 14, 2025, and a full two-day class is October 17-18, 2025. RTTDC is next week, and the next PI meeting is being scheduled.
- c. Region 3 Committee – Jacobson reported three hospitals have done their designation review. There has been one new designation application, Cozad. The next PI meeting will be on May 21, 2025. Three RTTDC classes are scheduled for 2025. There is a First Receivers Decontamination course in Lexington on May 14, 2025. Jacobson has a list of all classes in the state.
- d. Region 4 Committee – S. Wilson reported an RTTDC class was completed in Alliance three weeks ago and another scheduled in Kimball in two weeks. There will be an ATLS course on April 25 & 26, 2025. There was a mass casualty community drill with EMS at an airport in the panhandle. Several hospitals are coming up for reviews.
- e. Data/QA Committee – Coddington reported this committee has a meeting coming up on Monday. They did not meet in March. The focus of this committee is the Data Dictionary. Instead of a hybrid, a full data dictionary will be completed. A draft is being worked on. It will be sent within forty-five days for the Board to review. This committee is also staying up on ICD coding. There will be a Lunch & Learn in May 2025, with Jane McCormick presenting on Preexisting Conditions. A survey was conducted on what additional educational opportunities people would like to have offered. She also commented that the QA Committee submitted a data request per the new process, and it came back in a timely manner.
- f. Designation Committee – Jacobson reported that this committee met in both February and April and will meet again in May. Board input was requested on the Repository of Clinical Guidelines document. The Advanced Level PRQ application will be reviewed and revised by the current regulations. The Clarification Document is continually being updated. She spoke about having discussions during designations regarding education/orientation for new Trauma Medical Directors.
- g. Financials to Support Improvement/Legislation Outreach Committee – Pierce reported this committee has had no meetings. T. Wilson spoke about legislative updates. Discussion was held regarding the overlap of two committees, Financials to Support Improvement/Legislation Outreach and Data/QA Committees. Discussion was held regarding making connections with Senators.
- h. Statewide Education Committee – Farrens reported that this committee met in March. Committee goals and an outline were created. They want to clarify who the audience is. Is it to the trauma healthcare providers across the state, to the lay public, etc.? Is it a public health focus or specifically focused on Trauma. It was suggested this group have a Public Health focus. Farrens said they will change the focus of the committee and come back with a report at the next meeting.

The Board is doing a working lunch and took a short break to get lunch at 11:58 a.m., resuming at 12:16 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Trauma System Medical Director Update

Dr. Bauman gave a report on the Trauma Symposium on July 24-25, 2025. He also spoke about the reimplantation guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM: Trauma Program Update

Wren reported that she submitted the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant for 2025-2026. It is a competitive grant this year and is a two-year application. Funding was requested for the Trauma Symposium, the Trauma Nurse Coordinator Day, specialized courses, TQIP License, and an evaluation, which will stagger from year to year. It is unknown how much funding will be available this year.

Wren attended an American College of Surgeons (ACS) focus group with other Trauma Program Managers nationwide where they looked at rural trauma and leadership issues. The Department of Defense is coming to the National meeting in May to collaborate with various trauma systems. She reported a disconnect with the Committee On Trauma (COT). She spoke about submitting information on the trauma dashboard. T. Wilson clarified there are two different dashboards – Clear Impact, DHHS's internal dashboard and the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) dashboard.

AGENDA ITEM: Committee on Trauma (COT)

Dr. Evans reported there is a grant for Stop the Bleed classes in May at the Capitol for legislative aides.

RTTDC course is being updated. Chapter writing has started this month. ATLS is being updated and is currently in beta testing. UNMC will have a beta testing site in July. Hybrid courses will come out after the update. APP can now be instructors.

Dr. Evans spoke about the military-civilian partnership program. Twenty-five centers were added to the military-civilian partnership program.

Medical Operation Center (MOC) and Regional Medical Operation Center (RMOC) was addressed – 1000 patients per day for 100 days from point of injury all the way through post-acute care. Omaha VA is a federal coordinating center. Nebraska is also an International Disaster Management Service Pilot Site (INDMS). There are five pilots. No VA nationwide has a trauma center, meaning if this scenario were to happen, the trauma systems of these areas would take the brunt of it (ongoing surgeries, medical care, and rehab). Military is on one medical record, EMS is on another medical record, and trauma has its own medical record. Coordination and communication need to occur between these systems. Funding was brought up and is still being discussed at the federal level between a Chief Medical Officer group and the Department of Defense (DOD). UNMC is a university research center and as such will be meeting with a group from the DOD next week on this. The goal is mass care - to know how many people we can get through this system safely. There is a COT group, an Omaha group and a Region 7 group that meet monthly. Dr. Evans commented that the Trauma Board will need to help with this project.

- a. State Assessment – Dr. Evans addressed the topic of doing a state assessment. She suggested a more consultative approach instead of American College of Surgery (ACS) driven approach. T. Wilson suggested working with procurement to issue a request for information (RFI) and with that information draft a request for proposal (RFP) to establish a potential contract. To see what is being done nationally, this is also being addressed at the State Conference by two national speakers, one from Arkansas and one from California. Budget and finance for this was discussed. It was decided to move forward with an RFI.

AGENDA ITEM: Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Presentation

Tim Adams, Consultation Lead on the project and Jim Morgan, Transportation Planner of the Omaha/Council Bluffs Metro Area Planning Agency gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) for the Omaha Metro Region, Safe Streets and Roads for All.

The final safety committee meeting will be held next week.

1:18 p.m.

Dr. Ernest left the meeting.

1:29 p.m.

Dr. Ernest returned to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Rehabilitation Designation

Bokelman reported on rehabilitation designation levels. They met with twelve to thirteen hospitals. Interest was low due to potential double-data entry. Hospitals were concerned about the additional workload this data collection would require as well as receiving patient data from hospitals patients are coming from.

1:59 p.m.

Dr. Ernest left the meeting.

2:00 p.m.

Jozef Kuehn left the meeting.

2:01 p.m.

Dr. Evans left the meeting.

2:04 p.m.

Dr. Evans returned to the meeting.

2:05 p.m.

Jozef Kuehn returned to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: TQIP Collaborative

No report. This committee is waiting for the Spring Report to come out. In the June meeting they will brainstorm and come up with some goals for the group. A report will be ready for the July meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Trauma Regulations

T. Wilson reported the department has gone through revision and DHHS Legal made their recommendations. Changes were made from these recommendations to Section 10, 11, and 12. The committee has not made their final review yet. The Data Dictionary is needed for review of Trauma Regulations; however, the Data Dictionary is not ready to go. After the committee has done their final review, the changes will need to go through a final review by DHHS Legal before being voted on by the Board. T. Wilson proposed getting the Data Dictionary and Trauma Regulations finalized in a month or two and then having a virtual meeting of board members and voting on changes at that meeting.

- a. Set meeting Date – Bauman made a motion to have the virtual meeting May 16, 2025. Discussion was held. Bauman withdrew his motion. Dr. Kuncir called to have a meeting in June and will work with T. Wilson and Committee members to schedule a meeting.

2:06 p.m.

Jessica Lee left the meeting.

2:10 p.m.

Jessica Lee returned to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: OEHS Program Budget

T. Wilson reported on the proposed budget. The proposed budget is for additional funding coming into the department. The department finance officer, Ryan Daly, has approved his portion. It is now waiting for director approval by Charity Menefee. Things included in the proposed budget are staff time, reviewer contracts for designations, continuing education, trauma designated facilities, and data systems. There is also added funding for the assessment.

AGENDA ITEM: Next Meeting Date

Dr. Kuncir reminded everyone that the next meeting date is an in-person meeting set for 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 23, 2025, at the Nebraska State Office Building (NSOB) in Lincoln.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comments

Dr. Bauman reminded everyone to take back to their teams the importance of not requiring CT scans, x-rays, etc. of rural hospitals, if it is outside their capabilities, to send patients to major centers.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m. by Dr. Kuncir.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling
OEHS Administrative Technician