

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

April 22, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the State Trauma Advisory Board was called to order by Sandra Kirchner, Board Chairperson, at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, April 22, 2022. The meeting was held in person at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital, 10 East 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Room B/C, Second Flood, Kearney, NE. 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 April 19, 2022. Sandra Kirchner 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:

- Jill Coddington
- Dr. Chad Duval
- Marcia Harmon
- Renae Jacobson
- Dr. Eric Kuncir
- Sandra Kirchner
- Jessica Lee
- Katie Pierce
- Chad Reutlinger
- Shana Romero
- Karen Saxton
- Dr. William T Sorrell
- Lori Terryberry-Spohr
- Benjamin Tysor
- Laken Vrbas
- Mindy Walters
- Jackie Wright

The following Board members were absent: Mike Bailey, Dr. Zachary Bauman, Tami Bokelman, Dr. Emily Cantrell, Dr. Rick Fermelia, Pete Festersen, Dr. Angela Hanna, Dr. Rommie Hughes, Dr. David Voight, and Susan Wilson.

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

- Tonja Bohling
- Carol Jorgensen
- Andrew Ngochoch
- Diane Schoch
- Sharon Steele
- Edith Titamoh
- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Dr. William Sorrell made the motion, seconded by Mindy Walters, to adopt the agenda for the April 22, 2022 State Trauma Advisory Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Coddington, Duval, Harmon, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reutlinger, Romero, Saxton, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Tysor, Vrbas, Walters and Wright. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Fermelia, Festersen, Hanna Hughes, Voight and Wilson. Motion carried.

These minutes have been approved by the  
State Trauma Advisory Board on  
July 25, 2022.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Wright made the motion, seconded by Harmon, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 meeting.

Voting Yes: Coddington, Duval, Harmon, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reutlinger, Romero, Saxton, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Tysor, Vrbas, Walters and Wright. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Fermelia, Festersen, Hanna Hughes, Voigt and Wilson. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: Regional Updates**

All regional and committee updates were provided in the handouts. There were no additional updates.

**AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems Program Updates**

All OEHS Program updates were provided in the handouts. There were no additional updates.

**AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Trauma System Medical Director Update**

There was no update.

**AGENDA ITEM: Data/QA Committee Update**

Jill Coddington and Mindy Walters gave an update on the Data/QA Committee. Registrar Networking Meetings via Zoom have been highly attended with 40 participants at the last meeting. These are focusing on networking and registrar education. The next meeting will coincide with Trauma Nurse Coordinator Day.

The Data/QA Committee discussed setting up a list serve that can provide contact information and information sharing, especially with the new Data Dictionary coming out.

The Data/QA Committee discussed proposed changes/updates to the Data Dictionary and setting up a registrar training similar to the ACS. The committee also discussed - data quality and mapping issues.

**AGENDA ITEM: Designation Committee Chair and Co Chair Nominations**

Sherri Wren gave a summary on the Designation Committee Chair and Co-Chair nominations. No Chair or Co-Chair were elected at the last Designation Committee meeting. Leadership is needed in these positions. She summarized duties for this office. Karen Saxton was nominated via email. The floor was opened for other nominations. Discussion commenced. Mindy Walters nominated Renae Jacobson.

**MOTION:** Kirchner made the motion, seconded by Pierce, to approve Karen Saxton as the Chair and Renae Jacobson as Co-Chair of the Designation Committee.

Voting Yes: Coddington, Duval, Harmon, Kirchner, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reutlinger, Romero, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Tysor, Vrbas, Walters and Wright. Voting No: None. Abstain: Jacobson and Saxton. Absent: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Fermelia, Festersen, Hanna Hughes, Voigt and Wilson. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: Trauma in Nebraska :**

Jonathan Meyer, MD, Student, Epidemiology, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center gave a PPT on "Trauma in Nebraska". A copy is available on request.

**AGENDA ITEM: EMS Board Strategic Plan**

Tim Wilson reported on the EMS Board Strategic Plan. The last plan was created in 2016 and all but two goals were attained. The new plan will focus priorities on volunteer model of service delivery sustainability, EMS workforce shortage, funding and EMS as an essential service.

**AGENDA ITEM: COVID Infrastructure Grant**

Sherri Wren shared that funds from the COVID Infrastructure Grant are slated to be used to send out an interview and survey, the results of which will be used as a launching pad for what should be focused on in the strategic plan. Listening sessions will be scheduled for the TNC day in June, the Trauma Board meeting in July, an EMS Board meeting and a generic stakeholders meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM: Trauma Regulations/Statutes**

Tim Wilson gave an update on the Trauma regulations and statutes. Trauma regulations were submitted to the governor's office on March 8<sup>th</sup> and are waiting for the governor to review and sign. Signing may take two to three months. Regulations will go into effect five days after signing. Two regulations will run for the remainder of the year. The Trauma Designation applications for initial or renewal submitted prior to the changes going into effect will follow the old regulation protocol; those submitted after the effective date will follow the new regulation protocol.

EMS statutory changes were not introduced this legislative session due to all the work that needed done this session. Due to this there are decisions the Trauma Board will need to make for consideration. Tim proposed two ways to make the statutory changes now that the legislative session is closed. One is to submit the statutory changes to Department of Health and Human Services and have them included with a larger bill that DHHS supports. This option does not have to be voted on, there just needs to be consensus. The other option is to reintroduce the changes through Senator Arch again next session. It was agreed upon for Tim and Sherri to start the process of submitting the statutory changes to the Department of Health and Human Services and then at the July meeting have Pete Festersen touch base with Senator Arche to reintroduce them again at the next legislative session.

**AGENDA ITEM: Implementation Plan for New Trauma Regulations**

Sherri offered additional points on the plan for implementing the new trauma regulations. The hospitals that she has scheduled for this year have all submitted their application, with one exception, and will fall under the current regulations. The board needs to revisit the list of educational requirements for hospital designations and update those that need updating due to regulation changes and post them to the website. Plans are to start educating the hospitals on the new regulations with learning sessions. Also, the Trauma Board needs to revisit the list of educational requirements and posting them to the website. The Designation Committee needs to start looking at revisions for all the forms, checklists, questionnaires and other paperwork. Sherri also suggested contracting with someone to do some of this work. Prepare in writing an interpretive guideline of how we collectively interpret a specific regulation so it's the same answer for every person. Something needs to be created for training new reviewers.

**AGENDA ITEM: Trauma Program Budget Update Education Dollars**

Tim gave an update of the Trauma Program Budget and the Education Dollars. Back in 2001 LB191 was passed which established the Fifty Cents for Life Fund, the Nebraska Emergency Medical Systems Operation Fund, where fifty cents from every vehicle registration is issued to the state treasurer to go

toward funding of the Office of Emergency Health Systems. The fund also supports the operation of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), EMS, and Trauma Programs.

The current trauma education budget is \$24,000-25,000/year which goes toward reimbursement for trauma education for facilities. There is also a budget to support the trauma reviewer contracts.

Spending is much higher than what is brought in. Revenues had a substantial decrease in 2020 that has not stabilized and no significant growth to this revenue is anticipated at this time. The actual amount of expense versus income has been an issue since 2008. At this point the issue is becoming critical and we are looking at shifting costs from this cash fund and get some general fund to maintain the operational level of the program.

The desire is to maintain the current level of service and staffing with the program. We are maintaining the contracts for the designations and maintaining the trauma education funding.

It has been explored to increase the 50 cent for Life Fund amount, but this would require a statutory change since it is designated in statute.

Other options discussed included charging an application fee to hospitals for designations, additional funding from taxing alcohol, assessing an additional fee to each DUI charge, offsetting larger ticket items with grant funding.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Reviewer Pool**

Tim gave an update on the reviewer pool process. The main roadblock is that the person working on this just turned in their resignation and will be leaving and Tim has not been told who the new person is who will be working on the reviewer pool. The head of procurement is aware of this situation at this point and is checking into where it failed. Tim will keep the board abreast of developments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Change October Meeting Date to Friday, October 14, 2022**

Sandy reminded everyone that the October meeting date changed to Friday, October 14, 2022 and it is an in-person meeting.

She also reminded everyone that the next meeting is via Zoom on Monday, July 25, 2022.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Public Comments**

None.

#### **CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by Sandy Kirchner.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tonja Bohling*

Tonja Bohling  
OEHS Administrative Technician