

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

Friday, August 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Trauma Advisory Board was called to order by Dr. Emily Cantrell, Board Chairperson, at 10:30am, on Friday, August 18, 2023. The meeting was held via Zoom. 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 08/10/2023. 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:

- Dr. Zachary Bauman
- Dr. Emily Cantrell
- Dr. Chad Duval
- Mackenzie Gasper
- Dr. Angela Hanna
- Marcia Harmon
- Dr. Rommie Hughes
- Renae Jacobson
- Kyle Kellum
- Sandra Kirchner
- Dr. Eric Kuncir
- Jessica Lee
- Katie Pierce
- Karen Saxton
- Dr. Alesha Scott
- Dr. David Voigt
- Mindy Walters
- Susan Wilson

The following Board members were absent during roll call: Mike Bailey, Tami Bokelman, Jill Coddington, Shana Romero, Dr. Michael McCann, Dr. Tom Sorrell, Lori Terryberry-Spohr, and Ben Tysor.

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

- Tonja Bohling
- Carol Jorgensen
- Bruce Meier
- Andrew Ngochoch
- Sharon Steele
- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren
- Suzanna Glover (DHHS Attorney)

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

10:33 a.m. Dr. Tom Sorrell joined the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Bauman made the motion, seconded by Lee, to adopt the agenda for the August 18, 2023 State Trauma Advisory Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Bauman, Cantrell, Duval, Gasper, Hanna, Harmon, Hughes, Jacobson, Kellum, Kirchner, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Saxton, Scott, Sorrell, Voigt, Walters, and S. Wilson. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Bokelman, Coddington, McCann, Romero, Terryberry-Spohr, and Tysor. Motion carried.

These minutes have been approved by the
State Trauma Advisory Board on November
17, 2023.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Bauman made the motion, seconded by Gasper, to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting.

Voting Yes: Bauman, Cantrell, Duval, Gasper, Hanna, Harmon, Hughes, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Saxton, Scott, Sorrell, Voigt, Walters, and S. Wilson. Voting No: None. Abstain: Kellum. Absent: Bailey, Bokelman, Coddington, McCann, Romero, Terryberry-Spohr, and Tysor. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems Program Updates

All OEHS Program updates were provided in the handouts. Carol Jorgensen added Bruce Meier has been hired as the Western Region EMS Specialist. He is going through orientation/training and is located out of the Scottsbluff Office. He is on the call today. Dr. Cantrell welcomed Bruce. Jorgensen will be sending out information today or Monday to the hospital contacts.

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Updates

- a) Region 1 – Katie Pierce gave an update. The Omaha Area Trauma Symposium will be held September 15, 2023. Registration links for both events were sent out by Sherri. Dr. Kuncir added at the end of the symposium on the second day, there will be the Nebraska Committee on Trauma (COT) meeting with the resident paper competition.
- b) Region 2 – Makenzie Gasper gave an update. Region 2 will have their Trauma Symposium on September 8, 2023 at the Nebraska Innovation Campus. This is an in-person event.
- c) Region 3 – Renae Jacobson gave an update. There were about six facilities that got designated or will have visits this year. There are no visits/designations scheduled in 2024. Three Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC) were held this year. This is short of their goal. The Emergency Services and Trauma Conference will be held on October 20, 2023 in Kearney.
- d) Region 4 – Susan Wilson gave an update. There will be an ATLS course in October.
- e) Data/QA Committee – Mindy Walters gave the update. Meetings are scheduled from 10-11 a.m. on the second Monday of each month. The next one is on September 11, 2023. There is a network meeting next Tuesday. The topic will be Injury Prevention and how to use your data from your own data registry to plan out your injury prevention program. Presenters will be Mindy Walters, Mackenzie Gasper, and Tracy, the injury prevention coordinator from Kearney. Andrew has made updates on all the changes that were requested in ImageTrend. She thanked Mackenzie Gasper for working with the administrative parts of ImageTrend to get them updated and Mason Holmes for his help with the Agency and EMS links between EMS Elite System and the Trauma Registry. Once Andrew gets approval to share the data from the state reports, testing of the data will start. Within the next 30-60 days the committee will drill down these reports and utilize the information to recognize some of the trends. Any special requests of reports should be directed to this Committee. Walters asked Wren to comment on changes that Jill Coddington would like to submit to the Data Dictionary based on the new National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB) requirements. Wren said she looked at these changes. Some proposed changes will not go into effect until 2025 and she deferred the question of making changes that won't go into effect until 2025 to Suzanna Glover, DHHS Attorney. Glover said the changes for 2025 cannot be made. The only changes that can be made are for the 2024 calendar year. Saxton suggested a cycle be developed to continually make the updates and adopt the NTDB stuff into our Data Dictionary as there is no reason to keep two separate data elements. Walters brought forward the following regulation changes: the inclusion criteria (i.e., asphyxiation codes need updated), initial height and weight had description changes, ED airway management and ED imaging diagnostics sections need altered, and the advanced directive description has changed. The definitions need to be updated, the data itself does not need changed. No elements are added or removed. There are no new definitions for 2024, but in 2025 there are multiple new elements. In the previous discussion, per Suzanna Glover, DHHS Attorney, changes cannot be made that go into effect two years out. Changes can only be made for the

upcoming calendar year. Sherri said the Committee needs to send any revisions for 2024 to her ASAP as the Department is working on revisions now due to Statute change made earlier this year. They can also start working on a draft of changes for 2025, but those won't be able to be moved forward until the following year. Discussion was held on adopting NTDB requirements. Wren will bring this up to T. Wilson to see if it can be proposed to Legal. Walters volunteered to be on the call to T. Wilson. Educating hospital staff about entering data into the Data Dictionary correctly was discussed. Networking meetings will focus on this now that Andrew has all the updates complete.

11:00 a.m. *Jill Coddington joined the meeting.*

11:05 a.m. *Tim Wilson joined the meeting.*

- f) Designation Committee – Karen Saxton gave the update. The big push is preparing of the Annual Reviewers Meeting in line with the November Board meeting. She also said the Committee created a document to standardize the tools used for the reviewers, specifically starting with the physician reviewer template. They made recommendations to the peer review questionnaire. The clarification document was updated in May, 2023. They are also discussing developing a PI Tool Kit. She asked if documents could be uploaded to the state website as resources for Critical Access Hospitals? Sherri said the state supports uploading documents as resources on the state website. The documents just need to be sent to her so she can send them to Tim Wilson for review and upload. Renae Jacobson and Karen Saxton will get together in September to put together the education material for the annual reviewer event. The next Committee meeting and annual reviewer event will be a hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting scheduled from 9:00 – 10:30 November 17, 2023 before the Trauma Board meeting. Sherri reminded the Committee to be careful of the number of Trauma Board members that attend this event so as not to have a quorum and it be deemed a public meeting and fall under the Public Meetings Act requirements. Jacobson asked if Wren could send a list of all the reviewers and those in training so they can keep track of numbers.
- g) Financials to Support Improvement Committee – Katie Pierce reported. She asked for clarification from the Board on the State of the Trauma System Report with financial data to support finding what kind of financial need there is for the Trauma Program included. The request for data information has been slow to get. Sherri suggested using the State Data Request Form for getting data from the State and for financial information the request can be made to Tim Wilson. T. Wilson will address, during the budget update, and answer questions brought up regarding financial and data information and give more direction to this committee on what the next steps are. Lee and Pierce will follow up with Tim for answers to any question they have.
- h) Quality Trauma Care Matrix Committee – Marcia Harmon gave the update. Not a lot done on this committee. The committee goals are to start with a survey with TNCs and/or administrators to see what they think the disparities are and where to focus efforts. Another goal is to push for accredited facilities by setting small goals to increase numbers. The Committee would like to talk to formerly designated facilities to see why they did not redesignate and what the barriers are for non-accredited facilities to get back on designation.
- i) Trauma Information Highway Committee – Renae Jacobson reported for this group. She mentioned the Committee has not met yet as several members are also on the Data/QA Committee, and they are waiting on the QA/QI meeting and getting the Trauma Registry changes done. Once this is done, this Committee will work on getting things on the website, talking about a data report for the state, and figure out how education rolled out, etc. It was suggested others on this committee join the QA/QI Committee.
- j) Legislation Outreach Committee – Dr. Kuncir reported. Senator Decay was identified as a Senator Sponsor. Helmet Law Repeal, funding of the Trauma System, improving education, Medicare reimbursement for violence prevention are top priorities to bring to the Senator's attention. To move forward two things are needed. 1) A document that states what the Trauma System currently funds and what is done with that money. 2) Data from the Nebraska Trauma

System so future goals can be identified based on data and outcomes. This depends on the reporting out of the Data Committee. They also identified that the state does not have an epidemiologist assigned to the Trauma Program. This would be another priority - to hire an epidemiologist to work on Trauma.

- k) Statewide Education Committee – Dr. Hanna reported this committee did not meet, however they put together the following education ideas: 1) Arrange for quarterly statewide meetings via zoom for case reviews with input from all hospitals. 2) Establish 1-2 prevention goals for state and all trauma-verified hospitals promoting prevention for a year based on data collection. 3) Include EMS in education in the case reviews, the symposium, etc. have standardized goals, follow-up, and feedback tools for their team. 4) To have a Statewide Trauma Symposium in two or three years, where all regional symposiums come together for the state symposium. 5) Develop statewide basic practice management guidelines for trauma. Dr. Hanna suggested for the quarterly meeting, if they could get a list of emails for the trauma program managers for all the hospitals, then they could send out a quarterly invite and rotate assigning who presents some cases. Jacobson suggested the Quality Trauma Care Matrix Committee and Education Committee work together. The Education Committee will plan for the first case review sometime this fall, so will need to get the contact information for all critical access hospitals and trauma centers. Department Legal, Suzanna Glover suggested, to de-identify information, cases should be run through the legal department of the hospital that is bringing the cases forward for review.

AGENDA ITEM: Committees Discussion

Tim Wilson reminded everyone the regional committees (Region 1-4 Committees) are now in statute and they need to be meeting to meet the statutory obligation. The committees are no longer regional boards, and therefore are not under quorum rules. However, committees need to be diligent in adhering to the Trauma Board quorum regulations and don't meet a Trauma Board quorum.

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Update

Tim Wilson gave an update on financials. The Department Director has received permission to move forward with discussions regarding an increase to Fifty Cents for Life from both the Governor's Office and the Department CEO. T. Wilson will start getting information together and sending it out. He will share financials with the Board once he has them and then discussion can be held at a Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Trauma Statute & Trauma Regulations Revisions

Tim Wilson gave an update on the Trauma regulations and statutes. He reminded committees are now in statute and will need to be meeting on a regular basis. Trauma regulations are open for revision. T. Wilson would like to have a group, possibly the Legislative Outreach Committee, work with the OEHS on trauma regulation updates. Cantrell commented the Legislative Committee will help with this. With the statutory changes in the trauma regulations only one section was identified for removal from the regulations. This is the time, because they are open, recommendations can be made to regulations, so anything seen in the reviews that needs clarification, this is the time to get these things clarified in regulations. There was a question in the chat asking when does the window open/close to make changes to regulations. Regulations need to be completed within a year if there is a statutory change. He brought up the discussion of using the NTDB data dictionary. He has had some preliminary discussions with Teresa, so she is aware of the interest in using the NTDB. He thinks this may be a viable option but will have to have a supplemental portion.

AGENDA ITEM: Data RFP & Data/Annual Report

Tim Wilson gave the update. The revisions are finished and is being prepared to go to Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for an expedited review next week. This should be back in 10 business

days and will be posted. A contract should be in place by end of 2023 and transition can begin January 1, 2024. The data & annual report has been on the back burner due to priority issues.

AGENDA ITEM: EHS Program Evaluation

T. Wilson gave the update. There is PHHS funding that goes into effect in October. An evaluation of the Office of Emergency Health Systems will be done. The evaluation will look at the following: 1) how the OEHS operates internally; 2) how efficiencies are between programs; 3) staffing levels and if they are adequate or if there are needs; 4) needs of the individual boards. This will not be completed in time to present for the next legislative session.

11:45 a.m. Tim Wilson left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Trauma Program Updates

Sherri Wren welcomed Kyle Kellum to the Board as the Hospital Administrator Representative. We have applications for the Region 1 (this should be Region 2 as corrected later in the meeting) Trauma Medical Director and the APP Level 3 or 4, and the paperwork is in process for those. An appointment is rotating off. The EMS Agency Representative, Ben Tysor, has expired and this position will be posted. The program was granted \$60,000 for the Preventative Health Block Grant. This will be in effect October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. This will be used for specialty level classes registration reimbursement, focusing on injury prevention, leadership and management, the annual Trauma Nurse Conference, and for the TQIP license. There has been discussion regarding kinds of classes that may be funded. Looking at bringing in speakers for webinars and focusing on registry training in addition to AIS 15 registry training. Designations are continuing to move forward. The program is continuing to grow. She thanked Dr. Hughes for coming in person to the last Trauma Nurse Conference the conference. Questions from feedback were: 1) do we need to move it in the future; and 2) do we need to look to doing a webinar or training of some kind for new trauma medical directors? It was noted there has been a drop in physician engagement.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Trauma System Medical Director Update

Dr. Bauman gave updates. He encouraged participation in symposiums, conferences, etc. Nebraska is up for a three-year review by the American College of Surgeons. One of the recommendations from the ACS is that the state has a plan for the reimplantation of extremities, specifically hands. For levels 1 & 2, ACS verified centers need to have a plan on where these patients will be handled – will they be transferred out or handled at your institution. Bauman will reach out to Level 1 & 2 hospitals regarding what their capabilities are regarding reimplantation, specifically hand, reimplantation.

AGENDA ITEM: TQIP Collaborative Update

Saxton gave an update (see Agenda packet). Diane Schoch leads this committee, and it is comprised of every TQIP reporting organization in the state. She went through the high-level statistics. Pierce presented areas of improvement, specifically for Elderly Blunt Multisystem with Mortality, and a drill down exercise. The driller tool was provided by ACS. The results left the committee with more questions about risk adjustment and questions regarding withdrawal of care. The shock patient data will be ready for the next meeting. Saxton commented the number of patients looked at will be expanded for the shock patient data. Walters asked for a copy of the full report. Pierce responded she will share the google folder with Walters.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comments

Sherri corrected her earlier statement of “Region 1 Trauma Medical Director applications” to the “Region 2 Trauma Medical Director applications”.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Cantrell reminded the Board the next meeting is an in-person meeting in Kearney on Friday, November 17, 2023. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m. by Dr. Cantrell.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling
OEHS Administrative Technician