

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the State  
Trauma Advisory Board**

January 25, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the State Trauma Advisory Board was called to order by Dr. Emily Cantrell, at 10:30 am, on January 25, 2021. 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 January 20, 2021.

**ROLL CALL**

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

- Dr. Shahab Abdessalam
- Mike Bailey
- Dr. Zachary Bauman
- Tami Bokelman
- Diane Canedy
- Dr. Emily Cantrell
- Dr. Rick Fermelia
- Ryan Hamburger
- Sandra Kirchner
- Chad Reutlinger
- Dr. William T. Sorrell
- Benjamin Tysor
- Dr. David Voigt
- Laken Vrbas

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Juan Asensio, Paul Dongilli, Pete Festerson, Dr. Rommie Hughes, Robby Rehmlandt and Ginger Schmidt.

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

- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren
- Elizabeth Coker
- Diane Schoch
- Andrew Ngochoch
- Teresa Hampton
- Becka Neumiller
- Ben Leseberg
- Carol Jorgensen
- Debbie Kuhn
- Michelle Eutsler
- Sharon Steele
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Brad Harm
- Laura Huggins

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Sorrell made the motion, second by Kirchner, to adopt the agenda for the January 25, 2021, State Trauma Advisory Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Abdessalam, Bailey, Bokelman, Canedy, Cantrell, Fermelia, Hamburger, Kirchner, Reutlinger, Sorrell, Tysor, Voigt and Vrbas. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Asensio, Dongilli, Festerson, Hughes, Rehmlandt and Schmidt. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Abdessalam made the motion, second by Tysor, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting.

Voting Yes: Abdessalam, Bailey, Bokelman, Canedy, Cantrell, Fermelia, Hamburger, Kirchner, Reutlinger, Sorrell, Tysor, Voigt and Vrbas. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Asensio, Dongilli, Festerson, Hughes, Rehmlandt and Schmidt. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: State Update**

Bauman gave a brief reminder on the upcoming public hearing on the trauma rules and regulations. He also presented a PowerPoint presentation on reviewer initiative, the benefits of having reviewers in the same region for travel, education and time purposes, as well as some disadvantages in cases of conflict of interest. The other solution is having more reviewers. There was further discussion on how this affects the current rules and regulations, which are set for a 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing, February 8. The best solution would be to pull back the regulations to make this change. Also, when reviewers would go under contract with the Department, the applicant would need to disclose any conflicts of interest at that time.

**MOTION:** Canedy made the motion, second by Kirchner, to pull regulations from current review and to strike verbiage in 185 NAC Section 003.03.

Voting Yes: Abdessalam, Bailey, Bokelman, Canedy, Cantrell, Fermelia, Hamburger, Kirchner, Reutlinger, Sorrell, Tysor, Voigt and Vrbas. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Asensio, Dongilli, Festerson, Hughes, Rehbrandt and Schmidt. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: Data Dictionary Update**

Wilson and Ngochoch shared changes from the current Data Dictionary to the updated one, which adds rehabilitation data, ICD codes, etc. Further discussion on when the Data Dictionary updates routinely, how this affects the rules and regulations in place. It was stated the regulations can be opened and updated when the dictionary updates.

**AGENDA ITEM: EHS Department Update**

Information was compiled from the Office of Emergency Health Systems and provided to the Board prior to the meeting. See Attachment A to the minutes for complete briefing.

Additional discussion on the trauma section included Bailey stating the EMS Board would like more involvement with trauma as it pertains to rules and regulations. This could possibly be a duty of the legislature committee. Also Hamburger stated for run reviews, EMS is not always asked to participate. He would like to have facilities include EMS in these more.

**AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Bills Update**

Wilson reported on a few bills introduced in the legislature which may be of interest to the board. LB581 is the helmet repeal bill. This bill includes adding eye protection to operators of a motorcycle or moped and also adds an exemption of persons over the age of 21 with appropriate certification may not need to wear helmets. The hearing for this bill is set for February 2.

LB240 is a bill which would require the use of an occupant protection system for each vehicle occupant. Seat belts are only required for front seat occupants at this time and this bill would require seat belts for all passengers. The hearing for this bill is set for January 26.

Bills for informational purposes are on the Open Public Meeting Act and a few related to COVID. If anyone wants to attend the hearings, the schedules can be found on the Nebraska Legislature website with dates and times and can be viewed on Nebraska Public Television (NET). Members of the public can submit letters in favor or opposing of the bills. Wren will send out a link to this website for the board.

**AGENDA ITEM: Committee Assignments**

Wren gave a brief history where committees had been part of the trauma program in the past, however with the pandemic in 2020, these fell to the side. She presented a draft document of committee breakdown to the board, which was also distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Those board members interested to partake in a committee(s) need to get their name to Elizabeth Coker. After the committees are organized, Wren will send to public shareholders so interested parties may attend meetings.

**AGENDA ITEM: Dr. Cantrell Update**

Cantrell and Kirchner presented a draft letter to be signed via the board for the upcoming public hearing. This letter was sent to the board for review prior to the meeting. She also reminded the board if they wanted to send letters of support on behalf of their facilities or themselves, to get these in.

**MOTION:** Canedy made the motion, second by Bokelman, to approve the letter as written and present for the public hearing.

Voting Yes: Abdessalam, Bailey, Bokelman, Canedy, Cantrell, Fermelia, Hamburger, Kirchner, Reutlinger, Sorrell, Tysor, Voigt and Vrbas. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Asensio, Dongilli, Festerson, Hughes, Rehbrandt and Schmidt. Motion carried.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: April Meeting Update**

Cantrell gave the update to the April meeting where we will have a registry presentation as well as this meeting will be via Zoom versus travel to North Platte. There was an extension of the Executive Order by the Governor for public meetings until April 30, 2021.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Strategic Planning**

Wilson announced Maya was unable to present today due to internet issues, however, she would like to have a separate strategy meeting prior to the April meeting. Coker will send out a poll to the board for available dates and times.

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

Lori Terryberry-Spohr, Director of Rehabilitation Program at Madonna, was appreciative of learning more about the board. Also, she is an advocate for helmets and follows this bill when it is discussed.

Katie Pierce had a question about the board composition. This will be discussed at the April meeting.

#### **CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by at 12:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Coker  
Trauma Program Coordinator



## Attachment A

### State Trauma Advisory Board Meeting, January 25, 2021 Office of Emergency Health Systems Reports

#### a) Trauma System (Wren)

- 51 trauma centers designated
- Pending designations: Perkins County Health, Grant and Chase County Community Hospital, Imperial – both Basic
- Upcoming designation visits: Basic – Community Hospital, McCook; Avera Creighton, Creighton; Morrill County Community Hospital, Bridgeport; Gordon Memorial Hospital; Ogallala Community Hospital; Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance; and St. Francis Memorial, West Point. General – Mary Lanning, Hastings and CHI Health St. Elizabeth, Lincoln
- Recent consultations: Nebraska Medicine, Bellevue – Basic
- Training – TNC Day – targeted for June 2021; Trauma Disaster Survey and Town Hall webinar meetings – targeted for Spring 2021
- Draft Trauma Regulations – public hearing on February 8<sup>th</sup>
- Reviewer Request for Qualifications – drafting stage, next step is DHHS legal review, estimated completion date end of Spring 2021
- Board vacancies (applications due by February 15, 2021):
  - i. State – Rehabilitation Professional and 911 Dispatcher
  - ii. Region 2 – Consumer, Physician and 911 Dispatcher
  - iii. Region 4 – Rehabilitation Professional
- Trauma Registry Meetings currently underway

#### b) EMS Program (Jorgensen)

- The number of EMS individual contacts the EMS Program has thus far in 2021 is 207.
- The EMS Program started doing an “EMS Pulse Check” by email in the middle of November. It was done a couple times to check the status of EMS services pertaining to COVID. Questions asked pertained to funding, staffing, mental health, supplies, transport ventilators, number of ambulances, community status, willingness to do inter-facility transports and the distance, and treat and stay-at-home protocols. We will continue doing these as needed.
- The EMS Specialists continue to distribute surgical masks and N95 masks to services who request them.
- Some hospitals have been offering continuing education for EMS providers and nurses via Zoom or Webex. Thank you to those hospitals offering continuing education involving EMS.
- The EMS Program continues to provide technical assistance to EMS services, EMS providers, hospitals and trainings agencies on a daily basis.

#### c) Education and Training Agency Compliance (Snodgrass)

- Education class information can be emailed to Wendy to be included on the website training calendar. [Wendy.snodgrass@nebraska.gov](mailto:Wendy.snodgrass@nebraska.gov)
- Reimbursement funds are available for education classes for EMS providers. Guidelines can be found on the Education webpage.

#### d) Emergency Medical Services for Children and Critical Incident Stress Management Program (Kuhn)

- The Heartland EMS for Children hosted two virtual symposiums. There were 2,089 participants who participated in the human trafficking symposium and approximately 500 who joined in Children with Special Health Care Needs. We feel these have been a great success and plan to continue quarterly. The symposium planned for March will be on behavioral health issues in children.
  - We are currently waiting for the contracts to be approved for two nurses on the EMSC Advisory Committee. These contracts will utilize the carry over funds to begin the process of creating a voluntary hospital recognition process as well as prepare hospitals for the National Peds Ready Project (NPRP) assessment. This process will assist EMSC to improve performance measures 04, 06 and 07. We hope to have a packet ready by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Once the packet is approved by the Committee, the nurses will begin contacting hospitals and sending the packets out.
  - The hospital NPRP assessment will open in May 2021. It is the largest initiative to improve the readiness of emergency departments to care for children in the US.
  - The ambulance assessment went live on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The goal is an 80% response rate, which will be difficult to achieve this year. We struggled last year to achieve an 83%. This year with COVID, will make the process harder to achieve. Any assistance anyone can provide to support EMSC to reach the 80% mark will be greatly appreciated. Currently we are at 34%.
  - No CISM trainings scheduled for 2021 at this time. We are in need of volunteers.
  - CISM provided approximately 100 interventions across the state in 2020. During the first two weeks of 2021, the team responded to 10 debriefings.
  - We are currently looking into a system for emergency notification for team members when an intervention is requested.
- e) **Stroke/STEMI System (Neumiller)**
- No updates at this time
- f) **Licensure (Huggins)**
- Per executive order 20-10, license renewal is being deferred for EMRs, EMT Intermediates, Advanced EMTs and paramedics. Expiration dates for these licenses will now appear as 6/30/2021 on the License Lookup unless the licensee has renewed. Licenses for these types may continue to defer renewal until the COVID-19 State of Emergency is lifted. Licensees may choose to renew now through the online renewal portal. Postcards have been send out for each license type.
  - We just went through EMS Instructor renewals and had 54 instructors not renew this year.
- g) **Data Update (Steele)**
- Hospital Hub review is in progress. Hospitals who did not have access to Hospital Hub have been contacted and asked to provide an individual the hospital would like to be assigned as a facility administrator in Hospital Hub for their facility. MMRS Regions are being updated to reflect which trauma region a hospital is in Hospital Hub.
  - Reviewing 3<sup>rd</sup> party imports from ambulance services are submitted to the eNARSIS system to ensure records from 3<sup>rd</sup> party importers are making it into the eNARSIS system. 3<sup>rd</sup> part importers are ambulance services not submitting via direct entry into the NE Elite software.



## Attachment B

### State Trauma Advisory Board Meeting, January 25, 2021 Regional Trauma Reports

#### a) Region 1

- Children's Hospital – save the date for Children's Trauma Symposium – Friday, June 4
- Nebraska Medicine:
  - i. New Staff:
    - Dr. Sheppard – new trauma surgeon started fall 2020
    - Cody Wyatt – Trauma Coordinator – Outreach/Injury Prevention
    - Kendra Bloch – Trauma Coordinator – PI
    - Allison Sundeen – Trauma Coordinator – Education
  - ii. ACS reverification visit – September 2021
  - iii. Starting an FCCS program (Fundamental of Critical Care Support) spring/summer 2021

#### b) Region 2

- Bryan's Trauma Grand Round series has resumed and will be held virtually from 1200-300 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month through August
- We have resumed monthly Stop the Bleed classes at the Nebraska Community Blood Bank-Bryan
- Bryan Education:
  - i. ATLS refresher – February 12
  - ii. TNCC – February 22-23
  - iii. ATLS – April 8-9
- Southeast Community College: TNCC – April 6-7
- Region 2 quarterly PI meeting scheduled for February 19, 1030-1200
- Monthly lunch and learn – general topics
- CHI Trauma Grand Rounds – every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
- Updated on regional designations

#### c) Region 3

- 2021 facilities to be re-designated: McCook Community Hospital
- Held a PI meeting in October via Zoom and the spring meeting to be announced
- RTTDC – presented to four hospitals in 2020. We will be restarting up in May after a pause for COVID.
- Education:
  - i. CHI Health Good Samaritan:
    - ATLS – March 4-5
    - TNCC – April 28-29, October 27-28
  - ii. Grand Island St. Francis:
    - TNCC – March 18-19, September 29-30
    - ENPC – April 15-16, October 13-14
    - ATLS – August 19-20
  - iii. Great Plains:

- TNCC – February 18-19, May 20-21, November 18-19
- ATLS – October 15-16
- EMS Flat Rock – tentatively set for August 7
- Trauma Conference – September 2

**d) Region 4**

- No update from this region