

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

Monday, November 18, 2024

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. Emily Cantrell, Board Chairperson, at 10:34 a.m., on 11/18/2024 at the CHI Good Samaritan, Kearney, NE. 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. Dr. Cantrell 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:

- Mike Bailey
- Dr. Zachary Bauman
- Tami Bokelman
- Dr. Emily Cantrell
- Dr. Chad Duval
- Dr. Charity Evans
- Ashley Farrens
- Mackenzie Gasper
- Marcia Harmon
- Renae Jacobson
- Sandra Kirchner
- Jozef Kuehn
- Dr. Eric Kuncir
- Jessica Lee
- Katie Pierce
- Scott Reifschneider
- Dr. William T. Sorrell
- Lori Terryberry-Spohr
- Mindy Walters
- Dr. Abdalla Zarroug

The following Board members were absent:

- Jill Coddington
- Dr. Rommie Hughes
- Kyle Kellum
- Dr. Richard Malyszek
- Shana Romero
- Dr. Alesha Scott
- Dr. David Voigt
- Susan Wilson

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

- Regan Blackwell
- Tonja Bohling
- Michelle Eutsler
- Carol Jorgensen
- Diane Schoch
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Sharon Steele
- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Reifschneider made the motion, seconded by Bauman, to adopt the agenda for the 11/18/2024 State Trauma Advisory Board meeting.

These minutes have been approved by the
State Trauma Advisory Board on
01/10/2025.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Walters, and Zarroug. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Kellum, Malyszek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, and S. Wilson. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Pierce made the motion, seconded by Harmon, to approve the minutes of the 8/16/2024 meeting.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Walters, and Zarroug. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Kellum, Malyszek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, and S. Wilson. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Cantrell introduced new Board member, Dr. Charity Evans, the COTs Chair. Dr. Cantrell summarized the expired/expiring positions on the Board.

AGENDA ITEM: OFFICE OF EMERGENCY HEALTH SYSTEMS PROGRAM UPDATES

Program reports are provided in the handouts, submitted for Board review prior to the meeting, and were posted in the portal. Wren welcomed the new EMSC Program Manager, Regan Blackwell.

- a. EMS Program: T. Wilson commented on the EMS Assessment (see attached). There were 21 findings and 9 recommendations. This project will be incorporated into LB1108 funding. The bill passed this year, but funding won't be available until end of first quarter in 2025. LB1108 provides for funding for the OEHS supporting EMS, Trauma, CISM, and EMSC. It will double the OEHS budget. Additional updates will be discussed when the Data/QA and Trauma Information Highway Committees give their reports.
- b. Education and Training Agency Compliance: No new updates.
- c. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Wilson reported currently statewide there are about five hospitals designated as Pediatric Ready or have a PECC designated. The EMSC program will focus on incorporating Pediatric Ready Hospital Designation and designation of a PECC when Hospitals designate as Trauma Centers as these designations share much of the education and equipment requirements. Trauma centers can designate as Pediatric Ready by designating a PECC, Education, Pediatric Equipment, completing the survey, and filling out the application.
- d. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: No new updates.
- e. Trauma Program: No new updates.
- f. Stroke/STEMI Program: No new updates.
- g. OEHS Data Systems: Bauman brought up the topic of an ACS Statewide Trauma System Review. The question was raised, "Does a statewide assessment cost the same as a state verification? Statewide assessment cost is \$80,000. State verification cost is \$65,000. Statewide assessment is different than the BIS. It is a larger overview of the trauma system. Discussion was held. T. Wilson said it is worth looking into and getting costs estimates back.

AGENDA ITEM: COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Region 1 Committee – Pierce gave an update. November 1, 2024 was the last Region 1 meeting. Two non-designated facilities attended that are looking at getting verified and a third facility that has shown interest. Discussion surrounded getting Trauma Medical Directors involved in education. PI Topics were discussed for future meetings, and participants requested data on transfers from Level 3 & 4 which ended up getting discharged from Level 1 & 2 facilities

within 24 hours. Children's has P-TAC program up and running. There will be 3 sessions per year. The NE ENA has pledged support to get more TNCC and ENPC instructors across the state for 2025. If anyone is hosting a course, please contact Katie Pierce.

- b. Region 2 Committee – Gasper gave an update. Bryan Medical Center hired a Trauma Medical Director who is onsite now but, will officially be starting in January. She will get the Board his contact information. He has applied for the Trauma Board to be the Region 2 Medical Director. PHTLS will start next year.
- c. Region 3 Committee – Jacobson gave an update. It has been a quiet year as far as Designations go but, will pick up in 2025. Region 3 PI Committee meeting will be by Zoom on December 11, 2024. September 20, 2024, the EDN Trauma Conference was held and had good attendance. Most everyone is done with their 2024 education. Jacobson has started to compile the education throughout the state for 2025. If you would like a copy of the list, contact Renae Jacobson. Three RTTDC classes were held in 2024. Four RTTDC classes are scheduled for 2025. An ATLS Course for Region 3 is coming up.
- d. Region 4 Committee – Bokelman gave an update. They just had their annual trauma conference with 100 participants attending and it went well. They have an ATLS class coming up.
- e. Data/QA Committee – Walters reported at the end of 2024 they will end with seven educational classes. December 6, 2024, they will be holding their last class with the topic being AIS15 Coding Changes. Starting January 1, 2025, everyone reporting to ACS TQIP must start using the AIS15. One recommendation is for someone from DHHS staff attend registry meetings for appropriate interpretation of the data, possibly Sharon or Mason. The goal was to adopt the 2025 NTDB Data Dictionary with the hybrid state data dictionary, but this subcommittee has been on hold since February due to the delay in the RFP and NEMSIS. Data Drill Down: the goal is to look at data quality and interpretations for injury prevention and outreach. No changes in data drill down since the last report due to delays involving NEMSIS. There were questions on access to data to drill down and T. Wilson responded. The Department is working with the Data and Epidemiology Teams. The priorities right now are performance measures and reporting with the Highway Safety Grant. Then filtering that down to other needs. The upgrade from 3.4 to 3.5 is going well.

T. Wilson is trying to get a person with background in data analysis assigned to OEHS for both EMS and Trauma data review. The Data Dictionary will be reviewed and updated. People using third-party systems should expect delays since some of the data elements have changed and changes in statutory language do not conform with the data standards causing the Department to be restricted in their ability to implement those. T. Wilson is working with Data and Administration determine how to move forward. Bauman asked for clarification on a previously requested data from OEHS. T. Wilson will check on this and see if this request has been assigned to Sharon or Mason. Lack of data was discussed. T. Wilson commented currently there are about four data analysts assigned to the OEHS, but their time is divided between several offices in DHHS. T. Wilson has made requests to administration for a dedicated person to be assigned strictly for the OEHS program. Gasper volunteered her time to help with data. Discussion followed. Wilson is working with the Epi Team to create dashboards to see in real time (zero time) the status of the Nebraska trauma system. The Department is looking at other states, particularly Montana, as a reference. Cantrell suggested the Board vote on making DHHS data support a priority.

MOTION: Pierce made the motion, seconded by Bauman, to approve DHHS prioritize the statewide Trauma assessment by ACS.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Walters, and Zarroug. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Kellum, Malyszczek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, and S. Wilson. Motion carried.

MOTION: Pierce made the motion, seconded by Kuehn, to approve DHHS prioritize data support to accomplish data reporting for analysis and Board activity.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Walters, and Zarroug. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Kellum, Malyszczek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, and S. Wilson. Motion carried.

- f. Designation Committee – Jacobson reported the last time they met was right before the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2024. The ShareFile and documents that go into it were discussed. The Advanced Level PRQ is being worked on to get it up-to-date with regulations. The EMS Visit Document was created to hand out with the PRQ materials to invite EMS to the site visit. A future goal is to create a list of expectations for reviewers. The Clarification document has been updated as of August.
- g. Financials to Support Improvement Committee – Pierce reported this committee is still working on their goal of getting an annual report done.
- h. Trauma Information Highway Committee – Jacobson reported. The PI Toolkit has been created to help with designations. The next goal is to put links on the State Trauma website. This will help with some of the tasks the State is working on.
- i. Quality Trauma Care Matrix Committee – Spohr reported. This committee needs a charter definition of what they want to accomplish. They are seeking input on what their job is or if another committee should absorb them.

11:35am Kyle Kellum joined the meeting.

- j. Legislation Outreach Committee – Cantrell reported. Data is needed so the Legislature and other stakeholders will take this committee seriously. The Helmet Law was briefly discussed. There is a push to cut back on EMS education for volunteer squads annually. T. Wilson commented there are small groups of stakeholders in the EMS community that have the Legislators' ears that are pushing for a decrease in hours of education, decreasing knowledge and patient care, for EMTs, EMRs and Paramedics. Cantrell reminded the Board members of the coming start of the 2025 legislative session beginning in January.

MOTION: Bauman made the motion, seconded by Sorrell, to approve permission for Board members to contact legislators before and during the 2025 Legislative Session.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kellum, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, Walters, and Zarroug. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Malyszczek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, and S. Wilson. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a proposal in the legislature to lower EMS educational hours and how the Trauma Board can help keep current standards. T. Wilson commented the Trauma Board can be an active part of the solution in protecting the current EMS educational standards by supporting current training hours, making sure rural Nebraska EMS has qualified, well trained EMS individuals to care for the patients in the Trauma System. There is currently a tax credit of \$250 for EMS volunteers. This may increase up to \$1,000. There are movements to start looking at the reimbursement scales. These Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements received through the state are very low for EMS Services. EMS is considered a service and not a provider. Nebraska statutes allow and state that Emergency Service/care is considered an essential service in the State of Nebraska. However, it is an essential service that has no ownership or funding behind it. Another hot topic is there is no provision in state statute or law that says we must provide EMS. The EMS Assessment shows the volunteer model is not sustainable within the State or Nationally. Being looked at are ways to transition to other types of models that incorporate volunteers but also have a paid component to it.

- k. Statewide Education Committee – Kirchner reported Ashley Farrens and Jozef Kuehn are new members to this committee. She updated the Board on how the case reviews are coming. They are slated to start in January 2025. Though the Statewide Trauma Symposium in 2025 will be a

huge statewide education component, this group will focus more on regionwide case reviews and prehospital involvement as well.

The Board took a short break at 12:06pm, resumed at 12:26pm.

12:26pm

Dr. Zarroug left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: TRAUMA PROGRAM UPDATE Recording II

Wren gave an update on the Trauma Program. Education requests are up. Wren will be working on the 2025 Grant request which is due around March or April. This year (2024) we received \$89,000 with \$60,000 of that slated to go to the 2025 Statewide Trauma Symposium. The next year TNC Day is slated occur instead of the Statewide Trauma Symposium. The grant due date will come up quickly so if anyone has any suggestions on what to apply for let Wren know.

Department staff is busy with accounts payable/receivable, contracts, grants, paperwork, education, hospital designations and redesignations (these are getting done with Diane's help), orientation visits, turnover with TNCs and TMDs, mock reviews, audit reviewer contracts, Regional Committee meetings have been hit and miss. Regions are encouraged to meet as required in statute. PI meetings are where questions get answered and communities engage. The Department continues working on the Trauma Regulations. Reviewers are doing well, and the pool is full for now. DHHS Department staff is continuing to adjust to software changes and upgrades. A question was asked regarding training for new TMDs. There seems to be a lack of education and training for new TMDs. Wren offers a State orientation to new TMDs. Typically, it is the General Level centers that request the training. There is ability on the contract for an orientation visit separate than the designation visit. Wren has not received any requests for this recently. TMD training has been a discussion point in the Designation Committee also. Discussion was held. The Designation Committee will make an outline on what will be covered in the TMD Training. It was suggested that Physician Reviewers do chart reviews with the TMD. Bauman offered to come to the next Designation Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM MEDICAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

- a. Bauman did a follow-up with our state arm/hand reimplantation plan. It will be finalized in the next few months and an algorithm made including phone numbers of the nearest reimplantation center and presented at the next Board meeting.
- b. Bauman updated that there is a lot of discussion at the national level on the proposed TBI survey/project. HURT guidelines say six hours and then send home. To better assess this the board needs to understand what potential the critical access hospitals can handle. Permission has been granted by the Department to create a survey and send to these critical access hospitals and assess their capabilities. Bauman brought it to the Board's attention that he will create this survey and asked for feedback. Discussion was held and feedback given.
- c. Bauman gave an update on the State Trauma Symposium. Last month a planning meeting was held. Speakers and topics are being nailed down. The next meeting will be in January to solidify topics and get invite letters out to speakers. The location will be in Lincoln, NE at the Nebraska Innovation Campus. It will be held July 24-25, 2025. Hotel blocks are made. Parking is being worked on. The goal is to make it affordable. It is hoped that 200-300 people will attend. There will be themes, not tracks, for better quality. Some potential themes are Clinical, Governmental Affairs, Leadership Training, and Quality. Send any theme suggestions to Farrens or Bauman.
- d. The Committee On Trauma (COT) Regional Meeting will be December 4-6, 2024, in Kansas City, KS. The Region 7 includes the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri.

AGENDA ITEM: TQIP COLLABORATIVE

Pierce reported this committee has not met since the last Board meeting and is planning on meeting December 10, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM: REHABILITATION DESIGNATION

Bokelman reported this committee met in October with T. Wilson and Wren. The Committee's next step is to meet with Rehabilitation facilities across the state to determine a level of involvement. This will happen sometime in January or February.

AGENDA ITEM: TRAUMA DRAFT REGULATIONS

Wren reported a copy of the Trauma Draft Regulations was attached to the Board Packet. This draft was submitted to the board for consideration with revised language. The Regulation Committee approved this draft, now the Board needs to vote to approve the Draft Trauma Regulations.

MOTION: Cantrell made the motion, seconded by Kirchner, to approve the current Trauma Draft Regulations.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kellum, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, and Walters.
Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Malyszek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, S. Wilson, and Zarroug. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: DHHS BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

No update.

AGENDA ITEM: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cantrell reminded the Board her and Sandra Kirchner's last term will be up at the end of this calendar year and the Board needs to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. The floor was opened for nominations. Dr. Eric Kuncir nominated himself for the office of Chair. Ashley Farrens nominated herself for the office of Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Kuehn made the motion, seconded by Kirchner, that nominations cease, and the slated positions be filled with those nominated.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kellum, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, and Walters.
Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Malyszek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, S. Wilson, and Zarroug. Motion carried.

Thanks went out to Dr. Cantrell and Sandra Kirchner for serving in these positions. Wren added the Department will contact Kuncir and Farrens for the Executive Meeting to develop the agenda sometime in December.

AGENDA ITEM: 2025 MEETING DATES/MEETING POSTING LOCATIONS

Cantrell reminded the Board of the proposed 2025 meeting dates and asked for these to be voted on. Discussion was held. The following dates were decided on: Friday, January 10; Friday, April 11; Wednesday, July 23; and Friday, November 14.

MOTION: Bauman made the motion, seconded by Walters, to accept the revised 2025 meeting dates (Friday, January 10; Friday, April 11; Wednesday, July 23; and Friday, November 14).

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kellum, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, and Walters.
Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Malyszek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, S. Wilson, and Zarroug. Motion carried.

T. Wilson reminded the Board they need to approve the current postings.

MOTION: Cantrell made the motion, seconded by Bauman, to approve the postings of meetings continue as currently.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bauman, Bokelman, Cantrell, Duval, Evans, Farrens, Gasper, Harmon, Jacobson, Kellum, Kirchner, Kuehn, Kuncir, Lee, Pierce, Reifschneider, Sorrell, Terryberry-Spohr, and Walters.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coddington, Hughes, Malyszek, Romero, Scott, Voigt, S. Wilson, and Zarroug. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. by Dr. Cantrell.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling
OEHS Administrative Technician