



State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting

Minutes

Date/Time: July 14, 2005
Location: High Point Regional Health System
High Point, NC
Chair: Michael Rotondo, MD
Recorder: Cindy Arnold

Present:

Cape Fear Valley Medical Center

Carleen Sparks

Carolinas Medical Center

Jennifer Bratz

Greg Fleming

James Payne

Dennis Taylor

Michael Thomason

Cleveland Regional Medical Center

Michael Barringer

Denise Reid

Betsy Tesseneer

Duke University Medical Center

Carolyn Foley

Claudia McCormick

Steven Vaslef

Ginger Wilkins

Ginger Williams

Forsyth Medical Center

Peggy Crisp

Matthew Merritt

High Point Regional Health System

Kelly Conklin

Jim Dasher

Shawn Griffin

Brenda Grizzelle

Mission Hospitals

Michael Buechler

Mark Johnson

Kelli Moore

Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital

Leigha Shepler

NC Office of EMS

Sharon Rhyne

NCCEP

Robert Schafermeyer

New Hanover Regional Medical Center

Brenda Harrington

Marylou Moeller

NorthEast Medical Center

Paula Fox

Sonya Miller

Presbyterian Hospital

Patricia Wilburn

UHS of Eastern Carolina

Cindy Arnold

MeLinda Bartlett

Lois Moore

Michael F. Rotondo

Scott Sagraves

Bonnie Snyder

Tammy Spain

Jamie Walker

Central Data Collection Agency

Annette O'Dell

Sharon Schiro

UNC Health Care System

Bruce Cairns

Cat Colvin

Christine Ogden

Chip Rich

Carol Schermer

Michele Rudisill

Wake Forest Univ. Baptist Medical Center

Donna Joyner

Linda Kalafut

Gail Kluttz

Wayne Meredith

Shannon Tilley

Dianne Wheaton

WakeMed

Sylvia Scholl

Betsy Sullivan

Osi Udekwa

Dr. Michael F. Rotondo called the meeting to order and new members were recognized. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) minutes of the April 19, 2005 meeting be approved.

Subject: NC American Trauma Society

Discussion: Dennis Taylor announced that Emergency Medicine Today will be held October 1-5 in Greensboro.

Educational offerings will include a difficult airway course for prehospital providers and TNCC course. Karen Collum will speak on trauma and pregnancy and Art Cooper is scheduled to speak on pediatric trauma. Shannon Tilley, Marylou Moeller, Gail Klutz and Linda Kalafut recently attended the ATS Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Scholarships for 2006 will focus on trauma related research and will range from \$750 to \$1500. Membership boards for RACs are being developed and will include membership applications.

Subject: NC Committee on Trauma

Discussion: Steve Vaslef gave an update from the Performance Improvement/Outcomes Subcommittee noting progress on the outcomes benchmarking project and state PI plan development. Chip Rich gave an update on the NC COT Resident & Fellow Research Competition held July 8 at The Grove Park Inn in Asheville. 15 abstracts were presented. Winners were as follows:

- 1st Place – R.S. Martin – Wake Forest University School of Medicine
“Increased Insulin Requirements are Associated with Pneumonia after Severe Injury”
- 2nd Place – Steven Camp – Carolinas Medical Center
“Anemia Guideline with Emphasis on Erythropoietin Does Not Decrease Red Blood Cell Transfusions”
- 3rd Place – I.B. Buchanan – University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
“The Burn Center as a Universal Model for Critical Care Education”

First place winner will proceed to regional competition in November.

Michael Rotondo announced that East Carolina University will be hosting the NC ACS Annual Meeting being held July 7-9, 2006 in Myrtle Beach. Wayne Meredith will be residing as president at this meeting.

The NC COT Resident & Fellow Research Competition will be incorporated into the program schedule. The Education Subcommittee continues to make progress on the Rural Trauma Team Development Course. Michael Thomason gave an update on activities of the Trauma System Development Subcommittee and reviewed key issues surrounding combined ACS Verification and State Designation site visits, including:

- Electronic medical record – what parts of the record must be in hard copy format at time of visit?
- ACS process for consultation visit – communication between ACS and NC OEMS. It was suggested that an in-state physician be included as an ad-hoc member of the ACS consultation site team.
- Report cycle differences – Dr. Meredith reported that the ACS will continue to use the 3-year period for verification visits.
- Duplication of information for RFP and PRQ
- Coordination of scheduling visits
- Chart selection
- Site visit with earlier consult visit without OEMS presence

An executive summary will be developed and presented at the next meeting. Sharon Rhyne noted that it would take approximately 18 months to process a rules change and that it is likely that some rule change proposals may be proposed for approval by the 2006 and/or 2007 legislative session.

Subject: Trauma System Leadership Committee

Discussion: Dianne Wheaton reported that subcommittees continue to make progress in trauma system review and web site development. Sharon Rhyne gave an update on the NC Office of EMS at the Trauma System Leadership meeting.

Subject: Trauma Registrars

Discussion: MeLinda Bartlett reported that Linda Spallone has resigned as Chair and MeLinda has assumed this role. Educational offerings will be held at the end of each quarterly state trauma meeting beginning in October. 2nd Annual Symposium will be held October 13 in Chapel Hill. Phase II of data validation will begin soon. Revisions are being made to quality control reports. John Kutcher, Jr., CEO and President for Digital Innovation, Inc., gave an overview of NTRACS at the Trauma Registrar meeting.

Subject: Central Data Collection Agency

Discussion: Sharon Schiro reported that there are currently more than 185,000 records in the NC Trauma Registry from the 13 facilities participating through NTRACS. Two facilities using NTRACS did not submit data in April 2005. The NC Trauma Registry currently has 17 facilities participating using the ISSAC mechanism with 2 more close to being signed on. Some facilities have voiced concern about signing on to the NCTR through ISSAC due to lack of funding for IT support. Sharon will conduct a survey of all hospitals to identify issues regarding NCTR participation and help resolve these concerns. Copies of

correspondence to CEOs will be mailed to medical directors and RAC coordinators for their assistance in communication and follow up.

Quarterly training on NTRACS and NCTR issues will be offered following STAF meetings.

Subject: NC College of Emergency Physicians

Discussion: Robert Schafermeyer reported he made presentation at the Senate Subcommittee in support of Senate Bill 189 – An Act to Regulate the Sales and Operations of All-Terrain Vehicles – sponsored by Senator Purcell. This bill passed the Senate and is currently pending House approval. He encouraged members to immediately contact House representatives to request support of this bill. He also encouraged members to utilize screening and brief intervention (SBI), short counseling sessions, to improve care for patients with alcohol-related injuries.

Subject: NC Air Medical Association

Discussion: Dennis Taylor reported that program directors, chief flight nurses and medical directors from all programs with air medical services met in May and discussed statewide mutual aide agreements. Air activation criteria are also being reviewed. A research study will be conducted on the effectiveness of Auto Launch. Future meetings will be scheduled around the EMS Advisory Council meeting dates.

Subject: Office of EMS

Discussion: Sharon Rhyne reported that the Trauma Task Force submitted their report to the EMS Advisory Council in May. The NC Office of EMS will present a proposed action plan at the August meeting. The first area that must be addressed is how inclusive our trauma system should be. A cost study would likely follow this determination. Sharon also reported that letters will be sent to all trauma centers asking them to specify how replant surgery patients are currently being handled by their system. Sharon reported that funding for the federal Trauma-EMS program was not recommended at the House level. However, the Senate Committee on Appropriations has recommended an appropriation of \$3.418 million (same as last year). Should the Senate approve funding, a final amount would likely be determined by a conference committee composed of both Senate and House members. This funding has provided \$40,000 to each state's trauma program over the last few years. RAC coordinators were reminded that annual reports are due at the end of August. Sharon noted that all EMS facilities will be sent letters in the next month or so asking them to specify their RAC affiliation and encouraging participation in a RAC. Art Cooper will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming Emergency Medicine Today and will speak on trauma as a public health issue, as well as pediatric trauma. Sharon reported she would probably forward everyone a report on brain injuries in North Carolina as soon as it was released to the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council the week of July 18th. Trauma research manual is being revised. Proposed meeting dates for 2006 were discussed and proposed dates will be sent out for final consideration. New Hanover Regional Medical Center received a redesignation certificate at the State EMS Advisory Council meeting in May. Carolinas Medical Center was recommended for renewal for an additional four years.

Subject: RAC Affiliation vs. Transfer Pattern

Discussion: Discussion was held regarding how RAC affiliations affect transfer pattern and management of patients when hospital is on diversion. It was suggested that the primary facility either accept the patient or facilitate transfer of the patient to another facility.

Action: Potential solutions to be developed and distributed at next meeting for approval. Sharon Rhyne will talk with those in the State's Division of Facility Services to see what their thoughts are on additional beds in the future.

Subject: Digital Innovation Inc.

Discussion: John Kutcher, Jr., CEO and President for Digital Innovation Inc., reported on the development of NTRACS and optional modules available, including pocket PC version, database access, report writer, and performance improvement management. NTRACS 4.0 version to be out in August 2006. An upgrade, NTRACS 3.5, will be out in Fall 2005.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.