

# Trauma Advisory Council

November 29, 2006

3:00 p.m.

Minutes

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Johannes Gruenwald  
Dr. Clint Evans  
Terry Collins  
K.C. Jones  
Ken Kelley

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Randall Fale  
Dr. Michael Pollock  
Dr. James Graham  
Jeremy Stogner  
Dr. Roger Cagle  
Dr. Ronald Robertson  
Dr. Wendell Pahls  
Robert Williams

## **GUESTS**

Don Adams  
Donna Parnell-Beasley  
Laura Guthrie  
Renee Mallory  
Kim Hall  
Scott Smith  
Nell Smith  
Donnie Smith  
Dr. Paul Halverson

## **STAFF**

Brian Nation  
David Taylor  
Roshada Taylor

## **I. Call to Order**

Dr. Johannes Gruenwald called the Trauma Advisory Council meeting to order on November 29, 2006 at 3:05 p.m.

He thanked all of the members who were able to make the meeting which was changed from November 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **II. Approval of October 18, 2006 Minutes**

The group reviewed minutes from the October 18, 2006 meeting. Since several members of the council were absent the minutes were held over for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

Dr. Gruenwald reminded everyone to sign in on meeting dates to ensure acknowledgement.

## **III. Update: Hospital and Medicaid Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council**

Dr. Halverson talked to the group about hospital and Medicaid coverage being considered for trauma system funding. He discussed the levels of trauma centers and the requirements for Level 1 Centers in the current Trauma Rules and Regulations. He expressed the possible need to have at least one level 1 trauma center in the western part of the state. He mentioned providing grant programs to facilities, which would help to support activities in the state. He finished by discussing possible funding streams with the group and mentioned that the Trauma Advisory Council's efforts were getting good attention from the press.

## **IV. Review of Existing State Trauma Plans (Washington State):**

Dr. Gruenwald supplied a handout about Washington State Trauma System and he discussed average patient payouts and the difference between Medicaid and cash pay patients. Dr. Gruenwald went on to discuss injury severity scores used to qualify for funding in the Washington system which is 13 for children and 9 for adults.

He also discussed the funding amount in Washington and he stated that it was flat and that inflation should be factored into funding in Arkansas' plan. He mentioned that Dr. James Graham, David Taylor, and Brian Nation will be visiting Washington State to learn more about their system.

### **Discussion of Washington State Visit:**

- **Possible Questions to ask-**

1. How is Washington planning to address the fact that periphery providers are leaving the system, and what are plans to fight or improve this?
2. How does Washington ensure all patients who qualify get counted?
3. To what extent has Washington been able to encourage specialists and keep them motivated?
4. Problems or pitfalls to be avoided? What would be done differently if there was a chance to do it over again?
5. Ratio of Uncompensated Care to compensated care in the Trauma population?
6. What is the criteria to qualify for Medicaid in Washington and can the process be expedited if a patient is on Supplemental Security Income.
7. How does Washington deal with rural areas in regard to transportation of patients?

### **V. Open Discussion:**

Terry Collins reported that out of 1,000 patients admitted to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences that 91 might be eligible for Medicaid based on existing statistics.

Ken Kelley representing the Arkansas Ambulance Association stated that the average patient contact time for EMS services is less than one (1) hour.

Assistance for EMS training and equipment was discussed.

The Maryland system was mentioned and the group asked how they were distributing their funds.

Auto insurance liability rates were discussed and whether the minimum level of coverage should be increased to help with uncompensated care.

#### **VI. Next Meeting Date**

The Trauma Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Dr. Johannes Gruenwald adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.