

Trauma Advisory Council

November 13, 2008

3:00 p.m.

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Charles Mabry
Dr. Clint Evans
Dr. Gary Petrus
Dr. James Graham
Dr. Paul Halverson
Dr. Ronald Robertson
Dr. Stan Burleson
Myra Looney Wood
Dr. Michael Mercer
Robert Williams
James Carter
K.C Jones
Ken Kelley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. John Cone
Dr. Michael Pollock
Dr. Roger Cagle
Dr. Sam Peebles
Bridget White
Jeremy Stogner
Richard Bernard
Colonel Winford Phillips

GUESTS

Dr. Judy Borland
Dr. Kent Westbrook
Representative Gene Shelby
Barbara Kumpe
Bo Ryall
Donna Parnell-Beasley
Donnie Smith
Joe Hennington
Kim Hall
Laura Guthrie
Renee Mallory
Ricky Hogan
Steve Bowman
Terry Collins

STAFF

Brian Nation
Roshada Taylor
David Taylor

I. Call to Order- Dr James Graham, Chairman:

The Trauma Advisory Council meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 3:02 p.m. by Chairman, Dr. James Graham.

II. Welcome and Introduction:

Dr. James Graham welcomed all guests and Council members.

III. Approval of Draft Minutes from the October 9, 2008 Meeting:

The Council reviewed the October 9, 2008 minutes. A correction request was made by Brian Nation to change "*Richard Williams*" to "*Robert Williams*" in section VI on page 3 of the minutes. Dr. Charles Mabry made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, followed by a second motion by Ronald Robertson. The Council approved the minutes.

IV. Regional Interest Meetings:

Council members discussed the possibility of hosting regional meetings to help inform the public about the proposed trauma system. Some concern was expressed since the legislative session begins on January 12, 2009. Even though the holiday season is approaching the decision was made to try to host meetings in each of the regions of the state.

Questions arose about the format of each meeting. Dr. Graham offered to create a short power point presentation to help standardize information for each meeting. He also suggested that a member of the Council be present at each meeting to answer questions.

Council members then discussed who should be invited to each meeting. It was suggested that legislators from each region, medical personnel, firemen, and police officers be among those invited.

During the discussion, the point was made that basic information needs to be provided to everyone. Council members need to ensure attendees at each regional meeting understand an overall trauma system is being proposed and get individuals to realize this is not building one new trauma center. The trauma system proposal is an effort to strengthen, tie together and enhance all parts of the existing medical system.

Five Council members and interested parties volunteered to host the regional meetings. Dr. Graham asked all volunteers to coordinate their activities with Brian Nation as they prepared for the meetings. Mr. Nation will assist with mailing lists for EMS services and fire departments.

While Council members were discussing the proposed regional meetings the idea of seeking out additional help was raised. Dr. Halverson then introduced Dr. Kent Westbrook who is working with the Arkansas Department of Health on a part time basis to assist with Trauma Systems development.

V. Progress Report on the Dashboard System:

Renee Mallory informed the group that the Dashboard system went live on November 3, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. The Dashboard system allows hospitals to check a list of services available at 35 participating hospitals before calling to arrange the transfer of a patient. This system can assist hospital personnel when they need to transfer a patient to a higher level of care.

Since this is a new system, hospital personnel are just beginning to utilize the information provided. Renee informed the Council there will be an additional training session for hospitals not participating in the initial training sessions.

VI. Progress Report on Trauma EMS Assessment:

Myra Wood reported to Council members that the EMS survey was completed on November 1, 2008. Out of the 202 Arkansas licensed EMS services, 104 responded. Myra informed the group she is in the process of compiling an official report, but could provide preliminary results.

VII. American College of Surgeons (ACS) Site Visit Update:

The ACS visited Arkansas on October 19 and 20. Dr. Halverson acknowledged and thanked Dr. Charles Mabry and Dr. Kent Westbrook for being able to arrange a meeting with the American College of Surgeons on short notice. Members of the American College of Surgeons Site Visit Team normally need a year to prepare but the team recognized the urgency of the situation in Arkansas and agreed to an abbreviated visit.

The site team consisted of a nurse, an EMT, and two trauma surgeons who all have expertise in trauma system development. They reviewed documentation related to the system in Arkansas and interviewed stakeholders from the community to assess the situation in Arkansas. A report will be prepared based on their findings and will be sent to the Arkansas Department of Health as soon as it is completed.

VIII. Open Discussion:

Terry Collins asked Council members if protective language could be included in the funding bill to protect quality improvement efforts. Members of the Council discussed the issue and possible ways this might be accomplished. Protective language was considered and utilization of an outside review company who would provide the protection was discussed.

Dr. Graham asked Council members to volunteer for a new subcommittee to review existing trauma designation applications. This subcommittee will review existing applications and startup requirements. Dr. Ronald Robertson, Dr. Gary Petrus, James Carter, Terry Collins, and Donna Parnell-Beasley volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. A meeting time will be established at a later date.

Barbara Kumpe, American Heart Association asked to address the group about stroke related data collection. She expressed her organization's support for funding a trauma system in Arkansas. She asked if it might be possible to combine data collection efforts if funding was made available and a trauma registry was put into place. She stated her organization would pay for the extra elements to be added to the trauma registry. Members of the Council discussed the proposal and tabled a decision on the matter for a later meeting.

IX. Next Meeting date:

The next Trauma Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 3:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Freeway Medical Towers Building in conference room 801.

X. Adjournment:

Dr. James Graham adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.