

# State Trauma Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

**DATE: JUNE 3, 2025**

**MINUTES PREPARED BY: TRAUMA SYSTEM STAFF**

**LOCATION: NORTH METRO EVENT CENTER, SHOREVIEW MN**

## Member Attendance

- Rick Breuer
- Kris Drevlow, D.O.
- Mark Ebeling, Paramedic
- Julie Gutzmer, M.D.
- Jordan Haltaufderheid
- Robert Jacobs, M.D.
- Kim Johnson, R.N.
- Denise Klinkner, M.D.
- John Lyng, M.D.
- Michael McGonigal, M.D.
- Kyle Nelson, M.D.
- Thomas Pahl, PA-C

## Staff Attendance

- Maria Flor
- LynMaree Harris
- Tim Held
- Tammy Peterson
- Zora Radosevich
- Dee Telkamp
- Gina Vue

## General Audience in attendance

Review Appendix A.

## Agenda

### Approval of Agenda and March 4, 2024, Minutes – Tom Pahl, PA-C

The agenda and the March 4, 2024, minutes were approved with the correction to the abbreviation from the American Ambulance association to MN Ambulance association.

### Executive Committee Report – Tom Pahl, PA-C

A networking opportunity for the Trauma Medical Directors (TMD) or Co-TMDs occurred prior to the STAC meeting. All TMD and Co-TMDs are encouraged to collaborate and attend.

### Staff Reports – MDH Staff

Mr. Held reported:

- Recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the State Trauma System will occur at the December STAC meeting.
- There will be more to report on the federal budget in September.

Ms. Flor reported:

- The education plan includes application and site review training, coffee with the coordinators, L3 and L4 orientation, and the trauma PI series. There have been over 300 attendees at these training offerings since the start of the year. The feedback received from these offerings have been positive.
- The ACS is working on L4 guidelines and are revising the rural trauma team development course (RTTDC) for release later this year.

### Office of Emergency Medical Services – Dylan Ferguson

- The State EMS Data Manager, Dave Rogers, has retired. Any questions related to MNSTAR and Hospital Hub should be routed to Mr. Ferguson. There are staff in the office who have been trained to support the Hospital Hub. They are looking to refill the position soon.
- The new Grants and Financial Manager is starting tomorrow.
- The State EMS Medical Director position has many candidates and will be determined soon.
- A recognition program has launched for individual EMS practitioners to recognize excellence of service, years of service, and a retirement program for those who served 15 years or more.
- The 2024 EMS system report was published last month.
- 159 ambulances services were awarded the 2024 Clinical Excellence Award for EMS.

## American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Report – Dr. Klinkner

- The meetings that occurred:
  - The spring COT meeting was March 12-14.
  - The ATLS 11<sup>th</sup> edition was introduced.
  - The ATLS app is live for apple and android with the 10<sup>th</sup> edition data.
  - The L4 criteria was released for comment and will be closed on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - The ATLS instructor was updated to include nurse practitioner and physician assistances.
  - Dr. Blondeau is leading the initiative to create the disaster plans for Regional Medical Operations Coordination Centers (RMOSCC).
  - The instructor course for the 11<sup>th</sup> edition must take an update course prior to the instructor course.
  - Minor updates were made to the TBI practice management guideline last week. The urology and chest practice management guidelines are in the works to update.
  - RTTDC will support \$500 per course taken. Reach out to Dr. Blondeau to receive reimbursement.
- Future meeting dates:
  - The Minnesota Surgical Society meeting is in October 24-25 in Minneapolis. The resident paper competition will be at this fall meeting. There will be two winners. The winners will get \$500, and travel paid by MNCOT.
  - Fall COT will be held October 4-7, 2025, in Chicago, IL.
  - TQIP will be held November 8-10, 2025, in Chicago, IL.

## Advisory Council on Traffic Safety Report – Robert Jacobs, M.D.

### Data trends on public safety:

- It was analyzed that there were 3700 deaths on MN roadways.
- 16% of total deaths out of 580 were motorcycle crashes.
- 60% of motorcycle fatalities were not wearing helmets.
- 2/3 of female deaths were passengers.
- There were no lane splitting fatalities in the years analyzed however the council voiced their disagreement with lane splitting legislation.
- At the April meeting:
  - There was a pilot project in the St. Cloud area to use the Roadway Inventory System for Crash (RISC) data and learning modules to decrease fatalities.

- Mr. Jacobs signed his support to a letter for continued ACTS funding.

## Applicant Review Committee Report – LynMaree Harris

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) verified the following hospitals:

- ACS Re-verification Level 1:
  - Essentia Health- St. Mary's Medical Center
- ACS Re-verification Level 2 Pediatric:
  - Essentia Health- St. Mary's Medical Center

The Applicant Review Committee (ARC) recommends the following hospitals for either designation or designation with follow up:

- Level 3 designate with follow up:
  - M Health Fairview Ridges
- Level 4 designate:
  - Essentia Health Fosston
  - M Health Fairview Lakes, Wyoming
  - Mille Lacs Health System, Onamia
  - Sanford Westbrook Medical Center
  - Sanford Worthington Medical Center
  - Sleepy Eye Medical Center
  - St. Francis Medical Center, Breckenridge
- Level 4 designate with follow up:
  - Essentia Health Ada
  - Sanford Bagley Medical Center

**The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted with the following recusals: Mr. Ebeling from Sanford Westbrook and Sanford Worthington.**

The ARC recommends the following hospitals' extension of their current designation, to continue working on deficiencies:

- Level 4 designation extensions
  - Madelia Community Hospital (6 months to 12/31/2025)

**The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted without recusals.**

The ARC recommends the following hospitals' extension of their current designation, while they await a site visit:

- Level 3 designation administrative extensions

- Essentia Health St. Joseph's Medical Center, Brainerd (9/30/2025 temporary)
- Level 4 designation administrative extensions
  - CentraCare Redwood Hospital (extend from 12/2025 to 3/2026)
  - Northfield Hospital (extend from 12/2025 to 6/2026)

**The vote to approve ARC's recommendation was adopted with the following recusals: Dr. Jacobs from CentraCare Redwood.**

The following out of compliance self-reports were submitted this quarter. Most of these have been resolved.

- Level 3
  - M Health Masonic Children's Hospital, Minneapolis (L3) – *18.2 Trauma Training*

Ms. Flor presented the dashboard from the survey results from post-site visits. The surveys are sent to TPMs, TMDs, and CEOs following a site visit. The dashboard will be presented twice a year following each site visit season in June and December. It was also shared with the Site Reviewers at their annual training. This feedback helps the Trauma System's PI processes.

## Trauma Program Manager Networking Meeting Report – Heidi Altamirano, R.N., Caitlin Pohlen, R.N.

Ms. Altamirano from the L1 and L2 Trauma Program Managers reported:

- Discussed ACS site visit completion and ACS site visit preparations.
- Discussed healthcare challenges, staffing, efficiency, and how to share the benefits of the Trauma Program.
- Discussed the new software system integration of data with the new EMS system.

Ms. Caitlin Pohlen from the L3 and L4 Trauma Program Managers reported:

- L3 meeting:
  - A new breakout room with Microsoft Teams allowed online participation and was well received.
  - Discussed 15.2 criteria and clarified questions.
  - Discussed the new criteria and expectations after it is released.
- L4 meeting:
  - There were discussions on massive blood transfusion protocols and whole blood.
  - Discussed PI from tertiary centers.
  - Discussed c collars and the stock at each facility.

Ms. Pohlen announced that this is her last time in this role. They are looking for someone else to fill this role for the meeting in September.

## RTAC Briefings – CENTRAC, SWRTAC, WESTAC

Ms. Sara Stolt reported on behalf of the Central Minnesota (CENTRAC)

- Stop the Bleed projects.
- Challenged with lack of activity post-COVID compared to pre-COVID.
- Held four education opportunities throughout the region. They are planning to schedule five more education opportunities for the fall.

Ms. Flor reported on behalf of the Southwestern Minnesota (SWRTAC) with written notes from Ann Jenson.

- Challenged with lack of attendance but those that attend are consistent and have great discussions.
- Challenged with leadership and staffing. Both the Chair position and Secretary position are open.

Ms. Deb Syverson reported on behalf of the Western Minnesota (WESTAC)

- Great collaboration and commends WESTAC attendees for their participation.
- At their last meeting, there was an education training on burn management. Remote attendance was available at that meeting.
- At their next meeting, Josh Chan from Glacial Ridge will be coming to present about the autistic patient.
- Tom Vanderwal will be retiring as the EMS Director of the Greater West on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Looking forward to using the data from the data workgroup.
- There will be a presentation on whole blood and blood availability at one of their next meetings.

## Data Work Group Report

Ms. Flor reported that a recommendation to adopt the data dictionary came from the Minnesota System for Tracking Resources, Alerts and Communication (MNTrac) leaders to adopt the data dictionary into the data work.

Ms. Sarah Tannert-Lerner presented on the proposed hospital dashboards.

## Unfinished Business:

### Level 3/Level 4 Criteria Work Group Report – Michael McGonigal, M.D.

Dr. McGonigal reported:

- Initiatives that have the greatest potential to remove barriers and improve outcomes for trauma patients across the state have been identified.

### **Transfer Process – Maria Flor**

Ms. Flor shared the MNTrac bed availability status dashboard tool. There is a healthcare collation from every region that has access to MNTRAC and can provide access to others in their facilities if needed. Every user needs an individual account.

### **New Business: Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) program**

Mr. Pahl shared POCUS as a standard in trauma care and asked for insight on how the program can support facilities. The POCUS project provides free training for one more year. They are looking to identify local champions to help create programs at each hospital.

### **Open Floor**

None.

### **Next meeting**

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: North Metro Event Center, Shoreview MN

## Appendix A: General Attendance

- Joshua Chan—Glacial Ridge
- Ellie VanErik—Perham, Bemidji, Bagley
- Jodi Triplett—Centra Care
- Cynthia Olmaty—Essentia Health, Duluth
- Danielle Kleszyk—Sanford Bemidji, Bagley
- Marleen Knott—Sanford Thief River Falls
- Kristin Clark—Aspirus, St Luke's
- Amanda Hill—Aspirus, St Luke's
- Cheryl White—Essentia
- Nina Bradfield—Essentia
- Steph McKnight—Essentia
- Austin Wall—Essentia
- Peggy Sue Garter—MCHS, Fairmont
- Kari Coates—MCHS, Mankato
- Bobbi Sandberg—MCHS, St. James
- Kristen Hedeem—MCHS, SE Region
- Amy Havard—CRMC
- Rachelle Deerne—Mercy, Allina
- Angie Harmon—Riverwood Health Care Center
- Courtney Brandt—Fairview Lakes + Northland
- Michael Doering—Fairview
- Alyx Bystrom—Fairview Ridges
- Kelly Handyside—Grand Itasca Hospital
- Tanda Tavakley—Fairview St John's + Woodwinds
- Mary Kay Kaiser—Fairview Southdale
- Lisa Pearson—UMMC
- Mark Scott—Essentia St. Mary's
- Chad Richardson—HCMC
- Gwen Meyer-Mayo Clinic – Rochester



## MINNESOTA STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM

- Kristen Hedeem—Mayo Clinic, SE MN
- Katie Bennett—Windom Area Health
- Many Sturges—Glencoe Regional Health
- Melissa Beaver—Allina Owatonna
- Mark Johnston—Regions, Burn
- Heidi Altamirano—Regions, Trauma
- Ashley Geisenhof—Sleepy Eye Medical Center
- James Morgan--Sleepy Eye Medical Center
- Sara Stolt—Centra Care, Long Prairie, Sauk, Melrose, & Monticello
- Colin Gneme—Centra Care, St. Cloud
- Vickie Nowling--Cambridge
- Caleb Raiko—CHI, St. Joseph's
- Laura Gonska—CHI, St. Joseph's
- Mike Curtols—Essentia
- Melanie Smalley—North Memorial, Robbinsdale
- Karen Melian—Lakeview Hospital, Stillwater
- Ashley Haberman—Sanford Worthington
- Laura Plesner—Children's Minnesota
- Ann Gihl—CALS Program
- Dylan Ferguson—OEMS
- Mor Zi Allina – Abbott Northwestern
- Amanda Anderson—Mercy Hospital, Unity Campus
- Rachel Duchsherer—Mayo, Rochester
- Nancy Nyberg Allina – Mercy
- Jennifer Daiser—North Memorial, Robbinsdale
- Key Hasiel—Grand Itasca
- Maureen Meyer—Mayo, Rochester
- Amanda Paiel—EH, Moose Lake
- Teri Herman—Allina, Mercy

## MINNESOTA STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM

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