

KY Trauma Advisory Committee
GENERAL Committee MEETING
February 20, 2024 (Virtual)
3 PM – Virtual



Minutes

The meeting was opened by Dr. Richard Cales, Chair. There was attendance taken, and guests participating in the call were identified and welcomed.

Minutes from the December 19, 2023, meeting had been distributed by email with the meeting announcement for review/comment. There were no changes noted, so the minutes will stand approved as distributed.

GUEST PRESENTATION was made by **Dr. Jason Smith**, Chief Medical Officer, UofL Hospital on a “*Trauma and Prothrombin Complex Concentrate*” (TAP) trial that the University of Louisville Hospital was undertaking. This was to introduce a new clinical study related to bleeding control during Mass Transfusion Protocol (MTP) situations. To learn more about the TAP trial visit <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/cis/tap-trial-at-louisville>. It was noted that To OPT OUT of the TAP trial visit <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/cis/tap-trial-at-louisville/opt-out-of-trauma-research>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach/Public Education: Nothing reported, other than work with potential sponsors on trauma legislation.

Potential 2024 Legislation: Mr. Bartlett was asked to view the trauma and EMS related bills being considered by the General Assembly at this time. He reported that he, Dr. Cales, Dr. Bernard, and Keith Smith (from Baptist Health EMS and a member of the KY Board of EMS) met with Senator Steve Meredith on a potential bill to help the Trauma Care System. Mr. Smith was also going to talk with Senator Meredith about helping with a potential bill to assist with EMS Education. It was apparent that our draft legislation had a number of overlapping concepts, and there was a decision made to attempt a cooperative, combined effort.

- **SB 177** – “Super Speeder” Bill was sponsored by Senator Steve Meredith. As of the date of the meeting, it was in the Senate Appropriations & Revenue Committee (Chaired by Christian McDaniel; Vice Chair is Amanda Mays Bledsoe). As introduced, the bill would allocate 35% of the projected \$200 fines from a 25+ MPH violation into the existing **Trauma Care System** fund being held by the KY Department for Public Health. The trauma-related funds would be used for the administrative costs of the program, support for the trauma advisory committee, and support for trauma education, scholarships, public awareness and information. The bill provides financial help for a verified trauma center that needs to transfer an uninsured or under-insured trauma patient by an emergency ambulance service. The bill also includes language to assist designated trauma hospitals with support for physicians associated with their trauma programs. Funds would also support the cost of the trauma registries at designated trauma centers, and the cost of procurement and managing the Kentucky Trauma Data Bank system. In addition, 15% of the funds in the bill would be provided to a KBEMS managed fund that will support EMS Training and Education Institutions (TEI), especially in rural areas, which are running Paramedic training programs. The funds will also provide stipends for potential students, and help for the sponsoring ambulance service with costs associated with sending the individual for training. Senator Meredith also allocated 50% of the funds for a Rural Hospital loan program that will support the development of medical facilities for counties that do not have a rural hospital at this time, and it could help a critical access hospital that wanted to convert to the new Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) program set out by new CMS rules.
- **HB 57** – This bill would remove the classification of ambulance services from existing law, and would authorize the movement of this process to KBEMS regulations. The bill also facilitates EMS personnel reciprocity with other states. The bill passed the House with some amendments and was in the Senate’s Committee on Committees awaiting assignment to a regular committee for review.
- **HB 185** – Called the “Coal County Paramedic Scholarships” bill, this legislation would take coal severance tax money to create paramedic scholarships administered by the KY Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). It was in the House Committee on Committees awaiting assignment to a regular committee for review.
- **HB 416** – This bill would create an “EMS Professions Foundation” to help with PTSD support, and to provide supplemental funds to EMS personnel for meeting educational requirements. This is similar to an existing program for fire fighters, and as of the meeting it was in the House Committee on Committees.

- **HB 484** – Called the “EMS Education Grant Program”, this bill would set-up additional five or six EMS Training and Education Institutions (TEI) education centers, primarily in rural areas, provide tuition support, and financial assistance for EMS services to recruit and send personnel for Paramedic training. This bill, through the normal budget process, was assuming that there would be about \$6-million made available in the current budget request. It was noted that this is essentially a companion to SB 177 in that the assumption here to “seed” the creation of the TEIs and the grant program, then use the regular on-gong funds from the “Super Speeder” program to support and continue the programs without additional General Fund money. It was in the House Local Government Committee.
- **HB 192** – Is an injury prevention effort, supported by the KY Office of Highway Safety, that would create a “pilot” work zone traffic camera program to automate citations to speeders in construction work zones. Signage with lights would be required to advise when the system is active. There have been some House Committee Substitute and House Floor Amendments, and it has had two readings in the House to date.

As of the meeting date, it was noted that we are approaching the half-way point in the Session, and it would be helpful for KyTAC members to reach out to local legislators to get them both engaged, and supportive.

Potential Regulation Updates: Mr. Bartlett reported to the Committee that he has reached out to Deputy Public Health Commissioner Trish Okeson about the status of the potential changes to the KyTAC Regulations. They had been working on an impact analysis, and was doing some follow-up with the regulation drafter at KHA

The most significant change to the regulations is the addition of the new National Pediatric Emergency Readiness standards that have been adopted by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma for Level I to III trauma centers, and was endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) in their “*Joint Policy Statement—Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department*” in 2009, the “*Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department*” joint statement in [Pediatrics published 2018](#), and a new joint policy statement titled “*Access to Optimal Emergency Care for Children*,” published in the May 2021 issue of [Pediatrics](#).

There were some other minor changes related to internet link references that had change or were no longer valid, and the inclusion of a “Field Triage” document that is in the Kentucky Hospital Reference Manual, which had to be dealt with in a manner similar to regulation changes.

Data/Quality/PI & Registrar Updates: Julia Costich noted that there has been concern about data quality coming from the ESO system. Problems with the data provided caused a delay, and follow-up changes to the **Kentucky Trauma Data Bank 2022 Annual Report**, before its final release in December.
[To download a copy from the KIPRC website [click here](#).]

Unfortunately, we cannot change vendors at this time, there is concern that some of the alternatives are also being acquired by third parties. Samantha Baker (UofL) noted that they are also looking at alternatives. Mr. Bartlett reported that during his conversations with others in the National Trauma Managers organization he has learned that we are not the only state that has been reviewing options, and have been preparing RFPs to solicit alternatives. He is expecting that this will be discussed in more detail at their annual meeting in May.

Education Committee: As part of the **2024 KY Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium**, Oct 17-18, 2024 at the Galt House in Louisville, there was a discussion about planning for an [Abbreviated Injury Scale \(AIS®\)](#) Coding Course due to the upcoming transition to the AIS15. Starting in the 2025 patient admission year the National Trauma Data Standard (NTDS) will retire AIS05 and update AIS08, and AIS15 will be the only acceptable version of AIS defined and accepted. Kim Denzik and Samatha Baker from the University of Louisville Trauma Institute are part of the hosting team, and made three proposals to request financial assistance from the KyTAC special educational funds to encourage participation while helping to keep the costs down for trauma centers.
[Proposal #1: cover the full costs (\$750 each) for up to 20 students @ \$15,000; Proposal #2 was for the bequest funds to cover the AIS course fees (\$500 each) for up to 20 students @ \$10,000, with the registrants covering their required \$250 book fee; and Proposal #3 was for the fund to cover the book fee (\$250) for up to 20 students @ \$5,000, with the students covering their own AIS \$500 course fees.] Mr. Bartlett noted that as of February 1, 2024, the KHREF accounting office confirmed that we had \$84,680 available. We are anticipating using about \$5,000 to help with an upcoming Rural Trauma Team Development (RTTDC) course in the Eastern KY HCC region, hosted by Pikeville Medical Center. There is also discussion about an RTTDC course at ARH Harard being coordinated by Shay Hall. After some general discussion, there was a motion and a second to go with Proposal #2. The motion was approved.

[As background, AIS incorporates current medical terminology providing an internationally accepted tool for ranking injury severity. AIS is an anatomically based, consensus derived, global severity scoring system that classifies an individual injury by

body region according to its relative severity on a 6-point scale (1=minor and 6=maximal). AIS is the basis for the Injury Severity Score (ISS) calculation of the multiply injured patient. The AIS provides standardized terminology to describe injuries and ranks injuries by severity. Current AIS users include health organizations for clinical trauma management, outcome evaluation and for case mix adjustment purposes; motor vehicle crash investigators to identify mechanism of injury and improve vehicle design; and researchers for epidemiological studies and systems development.]

Pikeville confirmed they are still proceeding with plans for their [ATLS Hybrid and Refresher Course](#) March 26th from 9 AM to 5 PM ET. For questions contact [Angie Reed](#) at Pikeville Medical Center. The University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky also indicated that they have ATLS Courses on the FACS/ATLS website for those interested.

EMS for Children Programs: Morgan Scaggs reported that the upcoming **8th Annual KY Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition (KPECC) Meeting** on March 6th, 8 AM to 5 PM, had over ninety (90) registered as of this call. She noted that there were more EMS than hospital participants at this time, and urged hospital coordinators on the KyTAC call to consider registering before the February 26th deadline. The program will be at the Kentucky State University Research Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, in Frankfort; and it will not be shared virtually. Morgan reviewed several of the agenda highlights with the group.

Pediatric Pandemic Network Program: Dr. Mary Fallat reported that they have received a new **Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN)** grant which includes funding for the **STARS program**. The **Special Needs Tracking and Awareness Response System**, or "STARS," is a one-of-a-kind program designed to improve emergency care for children with medical complexities. Through the creation of personalized, emergency care plans that are written specifically for EMS and emergency department staff, intensive training and the development of a centralized web-based system that integrates with 911 dispatching systems, our goal is to make emergency care safer for our most fragile children. [STARS is a single program developed and maintained by multiple pediatric hospitals and used by many emergency and EMS agencies. STARS allows medical professionals to access important patient information and care instructions before they even arrive at the patient's side. This way, they can provide faster, more skillful care for better patient outcomes.] Dr. Fallat said that they have funding for a program manager to coordinate the program, and those interesting can [contact her](#).

Verification Committee: Kim Denzik reported that a Level-IV verification site visit has been scheduled for Owensboro Twin Lakes on March 12th. This is being processed as an "initial" verification site visit.

Sandy Tackett is working with ARH Middlesboro on a Level-IV re-verification follow-up from their last visit due to a one-year provisional status. This follow-up involves a focus review of some specific targeted areas, and will hopefully be resolved satisfactorily by the end of March.

The next Level-IV re-verification site visit will most likely be scheduled over the summer at Tug Valley ARH. In late 2024 and early 2025 Norton Children's and UK Chandler will most likely be visited by the ACS COT Verification Review Committee for their renewals.

Old Business: There were no Old Business items brought to the floor.

New Business:

- 1) KIPRC's **Ky Occupational Safety & Health Surveillance (KOSHS)** newsletter was mentioned as a potential resource for trauma center injury prevention and outreach education coordinators. Mentioned were recent featured FACE reports on a [Teen Truck Driver who Dies in a Single Vehicle Semi-truck Rollover](#); a [Carpenter who Dies After Fall from 6-foot Ladder](#); and a [Farm Services Driver who was Killed in a Highway Crash](#).
<See more in the KIPRC Resources Library. [Link](#) to subscribe>
- 2) March – National Poison Prevention Week – March 10-16
- 3) April – National Playground safety Week – April 21-27
- 4) May – National Bike Safety Month; National Water Safety Month; National Trauma Awareness Month; Safe Kids Week (May 5-11); and National Stop the Bleed Month (May 25th is National Stop the Bleed day).

Future meetings:

- a. Steering Committee – March 19 @ 3 PM ET (Virtual)
- b. General Meeting – April 16 @ 3 PM ET (Virtual)

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



Richard Bartlett, Secretary
KY Trauma Advisory Committee

KyTAC Appointed Members in attendance on February 20, 2024 for KyTAC Meeting:

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Mr.	Richard	Bartlett (3)	MEd	KY Hospital Association	KY Hospital Association
Dr.	Andrew	Bernard	MD	UK Healthcare	UK Level-I Trauma Center
Dr.	Richard	Cales (1)	MD	Emergency Physician	At-Large
Dr.	Julia	Costich (2)	JD, PhD	KIPRC	Injury Prevention Programs
Mr.	Chase	Deaton		KY Trans Cab. Incident Mgmt.	KY Transportation Cab.
Dr.	Mary	Fallat	MD	Norton Children's/KY EMS-C	KY Bd of Medical Lic.
Dr.	Brian	Harbrecht	MD	UofL Dept. of Surgery	UofL Level-I Trauma Center
Dr.	Jacob	Higgins	RN	University of Kentucky	KY Board of Nursing
Mr.	Christopher	Lokits	EMT-P	Louisville Metro EMS	KY Board of EMS
Ms.	Morgan	Scaggs	EMT-P	KY EMS for Children Program	Pediatric trauma
Ms.	Sandy	Tackett	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	Level-II Trauma Center
Ms.	Ellen	Williams	RN	KY Children's/UK Healthcare	Level-I Pediatric Trauma Ctr

KyTAC Appointed Members absent on February 20, 2024:

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Dr.	William	Barnes	MD	Livingston Hospital	KY Medical Association
Dr.	Tony	Decker	MD	Owensboro Health Hospital	ACS, KY COT
Ms.	Fayetta	Gauze	RN	Tug Valley ARH Hospital	Level-IV Trauma Centers
Ms.	Amber	Hamlin	RN	Nurse	At-Large
Ms.	Patty	Howard	RN	UK HealthCare	Emergency Nurses Assoc.
Dr.	Karan	Shah	MD	Baptist Health	ACEP, KY Chapter
Dr.	Steven	Vallance	MD	Frankfort Reg. Med. Center	Level-III Trauma Centers

Others on the call for the briefing:

Deborah Baker, RN, St. Joseph London
 Samantha Baker, UofL Hospital
 Rebecca Beams, RN, Ephraim McDowell James B. Haggin
 Deb Campbell, RN, KY Hospital Assoc.
 Kim Denzik, UofL Hospital
 Shay Hall, Highlands
 Scott Helle, UK Center for Rural Health
 Baillie McCane, RN, UK
 Emily McGuffey, Medical Center/BG
 Mike Mixson, RN, Owensboro Health
 William Moss, MD, Medical Center/BG
 Margaret Nelson
 Amie Peel, RN, UK
 Jerry Prather, MD, Baptist Health
 Angie Reed, RN, Pikeville Med. Center
 Candice Reynolds, RN, UK
 Dr. Jason Smith, MD, UofL
 Lydia Tims, Frankfort Regional Hospital
 Stephanie Upton, UofL
 Ward Wagenseller
 Seth Wilson, RN, Medical Center/BG

Plus one more on the telephone not identified.