

**KY Trauma Advisory Committee
General Membership Meeting
October 22, 2025 @ 4 PM EST**
[In-person session –virtual option became available.]



MINUTES

Call to order & Welcome - (Dr. Richard Cales, Chair)

- **Minutes from August 19, 2025** were approved on a voice vote without dissent.
[Available: <https://www.kyha.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Trauma-Advisory-Committee-8-19-25-8-22-25.pdf>]
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Data/Quality:** Julia Costich, KIPRC, noted that most of the Level-IV trauma centers have now joined the movement to the Image Trend trauma registry platform, as have a number of the Level-III programs. Level-I and Level-II facilities can select their own options. The University of Louisville is obviously already using the Image Trend platform, and the University of Kentucky is in the process of moving their registry to that platform. This is also the platform that the Kentucky Trauma Data Bank (KTDB) will be going to. The complete data set transition should be complete in the February-March timeframe.
 - **Education:** Tracie Burchett at UofL, and other Trauma Program Managers, updated their course offerings for later this year, and early 2026.
 - **ATLS Courses:**
 - **Ascension St. Vincent/Evansville**, Nov. 6-7
1.5 day hybrid course;
Address questions to: Marie.Stewart@ascension.org
[Flyer attached to August 19th minutes – see link above.]
 - **UK ATLS Course:** (Point of contact: Molly.Banta@uky.edu, Educa. Coord.)
 - December 9-10 – 2 day Traditional course is now *completely booked*.
 - March 17 & 18 - 2 day Traditional course is filling rapidly.
 - April 21 – Instructor course
 - July 22 – 1 day Refresher course
 - August 18 & 19 - 2 day Traditional course
 - October 27, 2026 – Refresher course
 - December 8-9, 2026 - 2 day Traditional course
 - **UofL ATLS Courses:** (Point of contact: tracie.burchett@uoflhealth.org)
 - February 12-13, 2026 – 2 day Traditional Course
 - April 22, 2026 – Refresher Course
 - >More 2026 dates to come
 - **RTTDC courses**
 - **November 12, 8 AM – 3:30 PM ET at Frankfort Reg. Medical Center**
Registration is free; lunch & CE offered.
Interested contact Lydia.Tims@hcahealthcare.com
[P: 502-226-7878/M: 859-613-0422] to get more info or register.
 - **November 13, 8 AM – 3:30 PM CT at the TJ Health Pavillion in Glasgow, KY**
Registration is FREE. Register through Andrea.Palmer@hcahealthcare.com
 - **EMS for Children Programs:** Morgan Scaggs, the Kentucky EMS for Children program administrator, reported that they are working on a 'catch-up plan' at this time related to their pediatric readiness site visits. The Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition (PECC) is also working on a district plan to facilitate regional planning and coordination, and will be looking for folks willing to serve as the PECC Regional Coordinators in their district.

- **Outreach/Advocacy**

- **Rural Health Transformation grant program:** Dr. Mary Fallat noted that about 6 weeks ago information was released at the federal level about potential funding for a Rural Health Transformation (RHT) grant program. She and Dr. Bernard have included in a request that went through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) Secretary Dr. Steve Stack to set-up and fund a Regional Medical Operation Coordination Center (RMOCC) in Kentucky. She noted that there was a similar program in the state during the COVID pandemic, but it has since gone away. The previous MOCCs, which were typically focused on several of the regional healthcare coalition areas, helped to track available beds, and coordinated the movement of patients when necessary. The version they have been reviewing is based on a model from the Southwest Texas Region (referred to as the STRAC), and would serve as a coordination center for monitoring available beds. They could then assist with the transfer of patients to appropriate facilities during a surge or disaster. Requests for RTH funds would have to be approved by the Cabinet and included in their package going forward to the federal government, so at this time we are uncertain what will be included in the final package.
- **Potential EMS Program Improvements** – Dr. Fallat referenced a recent survey by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) related to EMS. Reportedly the survey may be of some value in looking for ways to help better coordinate between EMS and trauma centers.

Dr. Fallat also discussed the development of a **STARS** program, which would help identify to EMS personnel those patients with special needs. This could assist with their care, and potential referral to appropriate facilities in a timely manner. More information to come.

- **Potential request for trauma funding in FY 2026 General Session:** Mr. Bartlett reported that the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) has listed 'Trauma System Funding' as one of their 2026 KHA Legislative Priorities. They note that Kentucky law already establishes a trauma system but does not fund it. Most states fund their trauma systems through general fund appropriations, fees, fines, or some combination. This results in increased survival rates, lower cost of treatment, and improved triage and destination determination for higher levels of care. KHA added that trauma system is not expensive, but it needs a consistent source of revenue in the form of annual appropriations. The request includes both monies to support the core trauma system operational costs, and assistance to help the KY Board of EMS fund the creation of some additional Training and Educational Institutions (TEI) and support to implement the growth of EMT and Paramedic programs as requested in HB 484 from the last session which was approved but went unfunded. The KHA position is that having a viable, functional EMS transport system is critical to the success of the trauma system.
- **Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Working Group Updates** - C. Lokits, Chair, reported that both the Louisville Metro EMS, and the Lexington/Bluegrass regional area Prehospital Whole Blood program (Lexington Fire/Jessamine/Madison/Scott Counties), continue to do well. Louisville partners with UofL Hospital and the American Red Cross; and the Lexington program partners with UK and the Kentucky Blood Center. The initial start-up costs are significant, and there have been a few inquiries from other programs but at this time we are unaware of any additional programs preparing to come on-line. Dr. Cales suggested that this could be an area for future research projects.
- **Verifications:** Kim Howard noted that there are a number of re-verification and initial verification visits being planned at this time. Trauma-related physicians and nurses interested in assisting are encouraged to contact her.

- **Upcoming Level-IV Verification Visits:**

- Morgan Co. ARH November 4
- Ephraim McDowell Haggin/Ft. Logan November 5
- Highlands ARH November 11
- TJ Samson Glasgow & Columbia December 8
- Whitesburg ARH (Date pending)

- **Upcoming Level I-III ACS Verification Visits:**

- UK Chandler (Level-I Adult) November 3
- St. Joseph London (Level-III) January 29-30, 2026

- **Others reportedly in development:**

- Baptist Health Corbin
- Med Center facilities
- Additional ARH facilities

- **Old Business**

- **KyTAC Lawrence Family Bequest Fund Investments:** Mr. Bartlett reminded the committee that these were funds gifted in 2017 by the family of a former KyTAC member, Linda Gayheart, to help the trauma program. The funds are held in trust by KHREF (the non-profit foundation associated with KHA) on behalf of KyTAC. He also noted that KyTAC had previously decided to invest the original \$250,000 gift, and only use the earned interest for trauma related educational and development projects. Current balance: \$413,154.81; Available balance for projects: \$163,154.81
 - Mr. Bartlett noted that the Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) course, being conducted as part of the 2025 Kentucky Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium, had asked for financial assistance to keep the cost down for students, and encourage broader attendance. The projected costs would be about \$3,000, plus the hotel costs for AV support (about \$3,300). There were no objections or concerns raised.
 - Mr. Bartlett then reported that KHA and KHREF have been reviewing the performance of their investments and fund management, and has made a recommendation that we shift our funds to **Community Trust** from **Cerity**, as they were doing with their invested funds. Projected average returns would be slightly higher (1% after expenses), and they felt that there would be improved custody and service arrangements. There was a motion made and seconded to approve the change as outlined by KHA/KHREF, and **it was approved unanimously on a voice vote.**
- **ACS COT Potential Level-IV Recommendations:** Dr. Mary Fallat (an ACS COT member), and Dr. Andrew Bernard, Chair of the KY Chapter of ACS COT, were asked to update the committee on any actions that their national Committee on Trauma (COT) may have taken with regards to their proposed recommendations related to guidelines for Level-IV trauma centers (though there is no intention for ACS to get involved with Level-IV verifications). KyTAC was reminded that this pending review was the basis for deferred action on some potential trauma system regulation changes that were being considered to clarify the role of Advanced Practice Practitioners (APP) with physician telehealth consultation support in a rural trauma center. *[Note that APPs typically refer to physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.]*

Dr. Bernard reported to the group that at the national level, the COT has a draft of the report but it has not yet been released. With regards to discussions between the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and ACS COT, they have apparently decided to 'agree to disagree'. The COT draft indicated a willingness to allow an APP take a lead role, and do telehealth consultation when needed; but the ACEP position is that there must be a physician in the ED at all times.

Reportedly, there have been some national surveys show that in rural areas of the country full time ED physician staffing has been difficult, and they could not operate without the use of APPs. Dr. Cales noted that the Kentucky Hospital Association has also done a survey of ED staffing in the state, and there are some of our facilities which appear to indicate that it would be difficult to operate their Emergency Department without the use of APPs; and if required a few said they might need to close their ED. Dr. Ryan Stanton, who indicated that he is the incoming President Elect of ACEP at the national level, said that they have passed legislation in several states (including Indiana) to require a physician in any facility that is an Emergency Department, and that the KY Chapter of ACEP is planning on proposing a similar bill during the 2026 General Assembly for Kentucky. He also indicated that they have applied for some rural grants to support emergency physicians in rural settings.

So at this point, Dr. Cales told the group that we are probably not in a position to take further action at this time. He also indicated that he would like to see a report from KHA that presents and summarizes their survey's findings.

- **There was no other Old Business to discuss.**

- **New Business**

- **Ophthalmology Telehealth consultation:** Mr. Bartlett reported that he had been contacted by Dr. Jason Stein, Chief Medical Officer for Eye Trauma Call. This is an Ophthalmology group that has been offering board-certified eye trauma care telehealth-ophthalmology consultation services to facilities that don't have this specialty on staff, and need to have a plan to deal with these situations to meet ACS trauma accreditation requirements. They reportedly use a HIPPA-compliant telehealth platform that is integrated into hospital EMRs to ensure seamless documentation and compliance. Reportedly, they are going live in the Georgia trauma system. Dr. Harbrecht felt that this approach is a 'work in progress', and wasn't sure how it would address some of the severe cases they see. The consensus was that we should pass on this for now.
- **There was no other business to bring before the committee.**

- **Next Meetings:**

- **Steering Committee** (based on schedule): November 18 *<Note this has been canceled as of 11/6.*
- **Next Full KyTAC Meeting** (virtual): December 16, 3 PM ET
- **2026 Trauma & Emergency Medicine Symposium:** October 21-22, 2026 in Lexington

- **Adjournment**

Dick Bartlett

KyTAC Secretary

KY State Trauma Program Director

Ky Hospital Association/KHREF

InfraGard Healthcare and Public Health Sector Chief

RBartlett@kyha.com

KyTAC Appointed Members in attendance on October 22, 2025 [# below notes virtual ZOOM attendance]

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.	Tony	Decker	MD	Owensboro Health Reg. Hospital	ACS, KY Chapter COT
Dr.	Mary	Fallat	MD	Norton Children's/KY EMS-C	KY Bd of Medical Licensure.
Dr.	Brian	Harbrecht	MD	UofL Dept. of Surgery	UofL Level-I Trauma Center
Mr.	Chris	Lokits	EMT-P	Louisville Metro EMS	KY Board of EMS
Ms.	Morgan	Scaggs	EMT-P	KY EMS for Children Program	Pediatric Trauma
Dr.	Bryan	Shouse	MD	Frankfort Reg. Medical Center	Level-III Trauma Center
Dr.	Ryan	#Stanton	MD	Central Emergency Physicians	KY Medical Association
Ms.	Sandy	Tackett	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	Level-II Trauma Center

KyTAC Appointed Members absent on October 22, 1015

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Dr.	David	Foley	MD	Norton Children's Hospital	Level-I Pediatric Trauma Ctr
Dr.	Jacob	Higgins	RN	University of Kentucky	KY Board of Nursing
Ms.	Fayette	Gauze	RN	Tug Valley ARH Hospital	Level-IV Trauma Centers
Mr.	Mike	Mixson	RN		At-Large
Mr.	Dale	Morton	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	KY Emerg. Nurses Assoc.
Dr.	Karan	Shah	MD	Physician Care Coord. Consult.	ACEP, KY Chapter

Others at the meeting:

Ginger Allen, Pikeville Medical Center
April Anderson, Harrison Memorial Hospital
Debbie Baker, CHI St. Joseph London
#Samantha Baker, UofL Trauma Program
Molly Banta, UK Healthcare
Rebecca Beams, Ephraim McDowell Health
#Matt Bozeman, MD, UofL
Michelle Broers, UofL Hospital
Elizabeth Coffelt, TJ Samson Health
Kate Congleton, UK Healthcare, PI
Trish Cooper, UK Healthcare, Trauma Registrar
Trey Darnell, UK Healthcare
Aubren Espinosa, UK Healthcare
Anna Felician, UK Healthcare PI
#Kari Hackney, ARH Our Lady of the Way Hospital
Shay Hall, Highlands Reg. Medical Center
Shannon Hogan, Norton Children's Hospital
Kim Howard, UofL Hospital
James Kuhn, TJ Samson Health
Eric Hagan, Med Center Health
Ben Hughes, UK Trauma/Surgical Service
Teri Johnson, Owensboro Health Twin Lakes
Jess Kendrick, UK Healthcare
#Aaron Kuzel, MD, UofL Health
Amy Lambert, UK Healthcare
Kim Maxey, Ephraim McDowell Reg. Med. Center
#Renee McClure, Rockcastle Hospital
#Keith Miller, MD, UofL Health
#Nick Nason, MD, UofL Health
Candice Reynolds, RN, UK Healthcare Trauma Program
Laura Richardson, UK Healthcare
Ashley Ritter, TJ Regional Health
Lydia Tims, Frankfort Reg. Med. Center
Zachary Warriner, UK Healthcare