

**KY Trauma Advisory Committee  
General Membership Meeting  
December 16, 2025 @ 3 PM EST**

**MINUTES**



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

- **Minutes from October 22, 2025** were approved with no changes noted.  
[For those who would like to see them go to the Kentucky Trauma System website at:  
[https://www.kyha.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Trauma-Advisory-Committee\\_10-22-25.pdf](https://www.kyha.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Trauma-Advisory-Committee_10-22-25.pdf)]

**Committee Reports:**

- **Data/Quality:** Trish Cooper reported that UK is still testing files transferred from the Trauma Base system to Image Trend. They have not completed the conversion as of this date. Samantha Baker at UofL, who has been leading the conversion and transfer for the Level III and IV facilities that are making the transition to Image Trend, reported that they have been running reports on the imported data and things look good so far. Mr. Bartlett noted that during recent Verification Site Visits to some facilities with new Trauma Program Managers, it was suggested that they reach out to her for some assistance accessing older data, and how to run reports on this information for better Quality/Process Improvement results.

Ms. Cooper also noted that the Trauma Registrars are meeting periodically on Thursdays at Noon, and trauma managers were encouraged to have their registrar's send their contact information to her if not already on her trauma registrar info and meeting invite list. ([tecoop@email.uky.edu](mailto:tecoop@email.uky.edu))

There was some discussion about potentially looking for ways to utilize the EMS Data UUID (Universally Unique Identifier), a National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) required number generated by NEMSIS approved patient care report (PCR software), to reliably link data across different systems. The intent being to include it in trauma registries and state databases for better performance analysis, and tracking patients as they move through the system, to enhance patient care and system efficiency without compromising patient privacy. Mr. Bartlett noted that based on discussions he has had during National Trauma Manager's meetings, it seems like every time a patient is moved or transferred by EMS their PCR creates a new UUID, and use of this identifier has been generally limited. There was initially some push-back from KBEMS basis on privacy concerns, but Mr. Bartlett noted that after some email exchanges that appears to have moved the discussion to a willingness to explore this further in the future. He indicated that they will work on a follow-up meeting after the holidays.

[For those interested, here is a NEMSIS White Paper on their original concepts around the potential use of the UUIS to link EMS and Trauma Registries:  
[https://nemsis.org/media/nemsis\\_v3/master/UsageGuides/EMS\\_Trauma\\_Registry\\_Integration\\_Using\\_UUID.pdf](https://nemsis.org/media/nemsis_v3/master/UsageGuides/EMS_Trauma_Registry_Integration_Using_UUID.pdf)]

- **Education: Tracie Burchett & Molly Banta.** Tracie Burchett reported to the group that Amie Peel is no longer involved with UK's trauma program, and she introduced Molly Banta ([molly.banta@uky.edu](mailto:molly.banta@uky.edu)) as their new Trauma Outreach and Education Coordinator. She also reported that there is interest in restarting the Trauma Education Committee's regular meetings, and that she was going to reach out to get current education coordinator contacts. Mr. Bartlett urged the new and developing trauma centers to send their staff contact information to either person so they will be included on the Education Committee's information distributions, and for future meeting invites.
  - **ATLS & RTTDC Courses:** Ms. Banta noted that UK's upcoming ATLS courses were listed in the October minutes, but that the March course is now full. UofL has a two-day ATLS Traditional course February 12 & 13, and a Refresher Course April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Spots are still open, and those interested can reach out to Tracie Burchette. ([tracie.burchett@uoflhealth.org](mailto:tracie.burchett@uoflhealth.org))
  - Folks were encouraged to get their calendars marked with a "Save the Date" for **2026 Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium**, Oct 21-22 at the Hyatt in Lexington, with pre-

conference meetings and potential educational offerings on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bartlett noted that the planning committee may want to consider some additional trauma registrar & PI pre-courses given the number of new trauma program managers and trauma centers in development. The Abbreviated Injury Severity Scoring (AIS) program was mentioned since it teaches Injury Severity Scoring (ISS). Another thought would be information on programs about ICD coding, and the new Image Trend systems reporting options. There was discussion about the costs of doing the AIS and other courses, and Mr. Bartlett reminded the group that KyTAC has funds being held in reserve and invested for them with the KHA's non-profit foundation. These have helped with educational program costs in the past, and with KyTAC's approval could do so in the future.

- It was noted that Norton Children's Hospital has also been doing outreach educational programs recently, including courses on dealing with pediatric patients in a Mass Casualty Incident.
- There was no other education program information shared at this time.
- **EMS for Children Programs Updates:** Morgan Scaggs was not on the call. Mr. Bartlett noted that Morgan's program has partnered with KHA's KHREF foundation to assist with getting payments made for their verification site visits, and the development of some regional working groups. They are hoping to get their visits restarted in the near future. He also noted that for new trauma centers which have not been through the KY EMS-C site visit program, we have been asking the facility's Pediatric Emergency Coordinators (PEC) complete the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment (NPRA), which is available on the national EMS Pediatric Readiness site, and score at least an 88/100.

It was noted that the University of Kentucky Children Hospital has a new Pediatric Coordinator, Elisa Richey, who will be starting in the near future.

- **Outreach/Advocacy:** Mr. Bartlett reported that there was recently a Kentucky Legislative Research Commission (LRC) Interim Joint Health and Welfare Committee (IJHWC) meeting. Leaders from the Appalachian Regional Health (ARH) system were present to discuss with the committee the need to consider regulatory changes on the use of healthcare Advanced Practice Providers (APP), like a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician Assistant (PA), in rural facilities. APPs can diagnose, treat, order tests, prescribe medications, and manage care, often working alongside physicians, when available in-person or by telehealth, to expand access and provide comprehensive patient care – especially in rural areas that are experiencing physician shortages. Mr. Bartlett also noted that he shared with the IJHWC one of KHA's legislative priorities for the 2026 Session which is asking for funds to support the KY Trauma Care System. It was created by statute in 2008 without any dedicated funding. The request will include funds to support core trauma system activities, along with assistance for the KY Board of EMS' efforts to develop additional Training and Educational Institutions (TEI) in rural parts of the state that were proposed to address growing shortages of trained EMS personnel, but not funded in HB 484 from the 2025 Session.

Mr. Bartlett also said that there is some indication that State Senator Meredith may again consider trying for passage of a trauma and rural hospital development "Super Speeder" bill in the 2026 Session.

- **Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Working Group Updates:** Chris Lokits, Chair of the Working Group, was not in attendance. Mr. Bartlett said that feedback is showing the Louisville and Lexington area programs are doing well, and are having a significantly positive impact on patient outcomes. During recent verification site visits, especially where it is clear the facility has a good stock of blood products and excellent working relationships with local EMS providers, the subject was raised about developing future Pre-hospital Whole Blood Programs. While there was interest, one of the barriers mentioned several times was the cost of the portable refrigeration units needed to store/transport the blood products – typically on supervisory response vehicle. There was some general discussion that perhaps if we are successful securing some funding in the 2026 Session, this might be an area that needs to be considered.
- **Verification Committee:** Mr. Bartlett reported for Kim Howard who was not able to attend. He noted that they have recently received an application from **Ephraim McDowell Regional Hospital** in Danville for renewal of their Level-III designation. They have recently received confirmation from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) that their Verification Review Committee

(VRC) has given them confirmation of their verification being extended to September 10, 2026. If Trauma Program Managers/Coordinators and Trauma Medical Directors are interested in joining our Level-IV Verification Team they are encouraged to reach out to Kim Howard at [kim.howard@uoflhealth.org](mailto:kim.howard@uoflhealth.org).

- KyTAC Chair, Dr. Cales, noted that during some of his recent verification site visits with existing Level-IV trauma centers he has been extremely impressed with the quality of the trauma programs that have developed. He said that it is a tribute to the hard work of dedicated teams who are focused on providing quality trauma care.

- **Level-IV Verification Site Visits**, the following recommendations are being brought forth:

- **Morgan County ARH Hospital** – Reverify for full three year period
- **Ephraim McDowell James B. Haggin Hospital** - Reverify for full three year period
- **Ephraim McDowell James B. Haggin Hospital** - Reverify for full three year period
- **TJ Samson Community Hospital, Glasgow** – Initial provisional verification for one-year\*
- **TJ Health Hospital, Columbia** – Initial provisional verification for one-year\*
- **Baptist Health Corbin** - Initial provisional verification for one-year\*
- \*It is noted that in *each* of the new facilities going for initial verification and given a year-year recommendation, the Trauma Program Coordinators/Managers were relatively new to their roles – both coming in the April/May 2025 period. While there was some trauma data available for time periods prior to their taking the positions, there had either not been any reviews of that data, or there had not been a full year's analysis and PI performed yet. In some cases, the transition to the new Image Trend platform was involved, and given the fact that the facilities appeared well organized and supported, the survey teams felt it would not be completely fair to consider not giving them a Provisional Designation Status at this time. There were recommendations that they continue to review and process their data, and take some additional registry-related education to strengthen their analysis. They were asked to be prepared to present to the verification surveyor team in about 10 months updated reports and information for review, and assuming all was good at that time they could potentially be given recommendations for the balance of their three-year designation status. There were no objections expressed from KyTAC members present about forwarding these recommendations at this time.

- **Verifications upcoming:**

- ARH Whitesburg, Level-IV reverification, January 5, 2026
- ARH Highlands, Level-IV reverification, January 19, 2026
- Deaconess Union County, Level-IV reverification, January 28, 2026
- St. Joseph London, ACS COT VRC visit in January 29-30, 2026
- Harrison Memorial, Level-IV reverification

- **ACS COT VRC Reports** are pending tied to potential future redesignation actions on five other Level-I to III facilities.

- **There were no other committee reports offered.**

- **Old Business**

- **CMS Audit for Trauma Activations:** Mr. Bartlett pointed out to the group that in September the USDHHS Office of the Inspector General released a copy of an audit report indicating that some activations did not comply with federal requirements. One of the things that trauma centers were cautioned about was making sure that they had appropriate notification from their pre-hospital providers before the activation code was used. *[The report can be viewed using this link: <https://oig.hhs.gov/reports/all/2025/hospitals-charged-cms-for-trauma-team-activations-that-did-not-comply-with-federal-requirements/>]*

- **There was no other Old Business brought up.**

- **New Business**

- **Mike Mixson:** The membership was advised that Mike Mixon, formerly with Owensboro Regional Hospital, has taken a trauma-related position in Nashville. He has resigned from KyTAC, which leaves an "At-large" vacancy. If there is interest from members of the trauma community, they are asked to reach out to Mr. Bartlett.

- **There was no other New Business offered.**
- **Next Meetings:**
  - **Steering Committee meeting** (virtual): January 20 @ 3 PM ET
  - **Next Full KyTAC Meeting** (virtual): February 17, 3 PM ET
- **Adjournment**



Richard Bartlett  
 KyTAC Secretary  
 KY State Trauma Program Director  
 Ky Hospital Association/KHREF  
 InfraGard Healthcare and Public Health Sector Chief  
[RBartlett@kyha.com](mailto:RBartlett@kyha.com)

----- Committee Member Attendance -----

**KyTAC Appointed Members in attendance on December 16, 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
Mr.	Chase	Deaton		KY Trans Cab. Incident Mgmt.	KY Transportation Cab.
Dr.	Karan	Shah	MD	Physician Care Coord. Consult.	ACEP, KY Chapter
Dr.	Bryan	Shouse	MD	Frankfort Reg. Medical Center	Level-III Trauma Center

**KyTAC Appointed Members absent on December 16, 1015**

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Dr.	Julia	Costich	JD, PhD	KIPRC	Injury Prevention Programs
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.	David	Foley	MD	Norton Children's Hospital	Level-I Pediatric Trauma Ctr
Dr.	Brian	Harbrecht	MD	UofL Dept. of Surgery	UofL Level-I Trauma Center
Dr.	Jacob	Higgins	RN	University of Kentucky	KY Board of Nursing
Ms.	Fayetta	Gauze	RN	Tug Valley ARH Hospital	Level-IV Trauma Centers
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.	Jacob	Higgins	RN	University of Kentucky	KY Board of Nursing
Ms.	Fayetta	Gauze	RN	Tug Valley ARH Hospital	Level-IV Trauma Centers
Mr.	Dale	Morton	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	KY Emerg. Nurses Assoc.
Dr.	Ryan	#Stanton	MD	Central Emergency Physicians	KY Medical Association
Ms.	Sandy	Tackett	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	Level-II Trauma Center

*Others identified appearing on the meeting call:*

Shely Alvey, Deaconess Union Co. Hospital  
Samantha Baker, UofL Trauma Program  
Molly Banta, UK Healthcare  
Rebecca Beams, Ephraim McDowell Health  
Michelle Broers, UofL Burn Program Manager  
Traie Burchette, UofL Trauma Program  
Helen "Denise" Carpenter  
Trish Cooper, UK Healthcare, Trauma Registrar  
Aubren Espinosa, UK Healthcare  
Kari Hackney, ARH Our Lady of the Way Hospital  
Shay Hall, Highlands Reg. Medical Center  
Shannon Hogan, Norton Children's Hospital  
Sandra Hutton  
Eric Hagan, Med Center Health  
Amy Lambert, UK Healthcare  
Misty Lewis, Hazard ARH Hospital  
John Luttrell, UofL Trauma and Burn PI Coord.  
Brittany Maggard. McDowell ARH Hospital  
Kim Maxey, Ephraim McDowell Reg. Med. Center  
S. Mike  
R. Morton  
Ashley Ritter, TJ Regional Health  
Lydia Tims, Frankfort Reg. Med. Center  
Zachary Warriner, UK Healthcare

(There were also several others on the call only identified by log-in abbreviations.)