



**KY Trauma Advisory Committee
General Membership Meeting
Minutes from July 21, 2026**

- **Call to order** - Dr. Andrew Bernard, Acting Chair
 - **Minutes from May 19, 2026** were approved as distributed on a motion by Julia Costich, seconded by Dr. Shouse. ([Available to view on the Ky Trauma Care System website.](#))
 - **Lawrence Bequest Fund:** Report on status/balance of available funds held by KHREF for KyTAC
 - **\$437,074.05** - Community Trust Bank Investment
[This includes the initial \$250,000 gifted in 2017, plus earned interest.]
 - Request from UK HealthCare Trauma for reimbursement related to 31 student manuals for a June 11 RTTDC course at Wayne Co. Hospital - **\$1,302.00**. Mr. Bartlett moved for approval; seconded by Dr. Fallat; and it was unanimously approved.
 - **Trauma Custodial Funds** from Dr. Richard Cales - **\$3,436.48**
[These are donated funds used to purchase the KyTAC Name Tags.]
 - **Kentucky Trauma Care System Fund** (Created by KRS 211.496; Handled by CHFS/KY DPH)
 - **KY Trauma Registry Funding** is currently provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through the Kentucky Department of Transportation's Highway Safety office. These are federal grant-related funds, and there is no long-term guarantee, but it fortunately has been a reliable source to date.
 - **Committee Reports:**
 - **Data/Registry/Quality** - Julia Costich reported that KIPRC is currently finalizing the related trauma data following system migration to the ImageTrend platform, and they are almost ready to do the Annual Trauma Registry Report. It will hopefully be released in August, 2026.
 - **Education** - An update on [2026 Trauma & Emergency Medicine Symposium](#) was provided by Molly Banta who said that the agenda is [posted on-line](#), and that registration is currently open. There have been 20 registered so far for the Pre-hospital Blood Academy, and registration is still available for those interested. The Trauma Registrar's meeting will be from 10 AM – Noon (ET) on October 20th, followed by a networking lunch. The Trauma Manager's meeting will run from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. The Kentucky Trauma Advisory Committee's in-person meeting (no on-line available) will run from 4-6 PM.
- Molly Banta indicated that there have been discussions on some additional RTTDC programs in eastern and possibly western Kentucky in the fall or spring of 2027. If there is interest she invited feedback at molly.banta@uky.edu
- **EMS-C Program** - Morgan Scaggs was not able to attend, but it was noted that the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment window is open again for those who want to use it in preparation for a future site visit. It was recommended that the facility use the PDF download option to prepare for your NPRA survey.
 - **Pre-hospital Whole Blood Working Group** - Chris Lokits, Chair, was not able to attend the meeting. It was again noted that those interested in learning more may want to consider signing up for the Pre-Hospital Blood Academy offered on October 20th.

- **Verification Committee** - Dick Bartlett reported for Kim Howard [On vacation]
 - ARH Barbourville – Satisfactory initial Level-IV verification. Recommended three-year designation, and KY DOT was asked to post their Trauma Center signage.
 - ARH Middlesboro – Level-IV re-verification visit scheduled for July 29
 - Medical Center Bowling Green – Initial Level-III ACS VRC visit – Waiting on ACS VRC scheduling.
 - Frankfort Regional Hospital – Redesignation application being completed as of this date; Final ACS VRC report pending some follow-up questions.
 - Ephraim McDowell Regional Hospital – ACS VRC scheduled for August 25.
 - Owensboro Regional Medical Center – ACS VRC scheduled for November 10
- Other committee/group reports?
- **Old Business:**
 - **Rural Health Transformation** federal grant – “Crisis to Care” program working group is discussing support for expanded EMS educational programs in rural areas to potentially expand Paramedic and EMT training. Looking at encouraging more Community Paramedicine programs, protocols to help with “Treat and Not Transport” (T-N-T) or “Treat and Alternate Destination” (T-A-D) to take the pressure off Emergency Departments, and Regional Medical Operation Coordination Centers (RMOCC) development with *Pulsara* software deployment statewide. Mr. Bartlett noted that there is Town Hall being discussed to brief hospitals and EMS providers on the *Pulsara* system and its potential use in the state.
- **New Business:**
 - **Trauma System Future Planning and Funding** - Dr. Bernard lead a discussion reviewing the current fiscal and future operational status of the Kentucky Trauma Care System. The Kentucky Department for Public Health ended financial support as of July 1st for Mr. Bartlett’s work as the Kentucky Trauma Director, though the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) has offered to continue supporting him in this role through the end of 2026 when he plans to step away. KyTAC leaders have heard that there may be some financial assistance in a last-minute bill from the 2026 General Assembly, but that would not likely be available until July 1, 2027, at best. They have also talked with Dr. Steven Stack, the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), who indicated that he will look for some potential funds to help bridge the early 2027 gap.

Dr. Bernard review some potential planning considerations, including an outline of the program needs, and the various functions done by the Trauma Director and related key committees.

Potential creation of Trauma Non-profit - Dr. Costich, who is also a lawyer, reviewed key points from the previous KyTAC meeting related to the non-profit organizations which the Pennsylvania and Mississippi trauma system developed, and how those organizations are supported by fees charged to the trauma centers to participate. The Pennsylvania system is voluntary, so fees only apply to participating hospitals; but the Mississippi system has mandatory fees on all facilities. She is going to work on drafting documents to potentially create a non-profit organization for the Kentucky Trauma Care System.

Dr. Bernard estimated that the future cost of a trauma program director, with fringes and benefits, would likely be around \$100,000. When you add travel, office overhead, operational and meeting expenses, that would potentially add another \$20,000; so the net cost could be in the \$120,000 range. If the decision was made to create a model that charges participating trauma centers, he used this hypothetical scenario:

- Level-I @\$10,000 x 4 facilities
- Level-II @\$7,500 x 1 facility
- Level-III @ \$5,000 x 5 facilities
- Level-IV @ \$2,000 x 18 facilities
- Total estimated revenue: \$108,500

Mr. Bartlett suggested that Dr. Bernard, Dr. Costich, and the related planning group continue to develop their models and related materials, for a presentation during the in-person KyTAC general meeting which will occur at the 2026 Trauma Symposium on October 20th at 4 PM.

- **KyTAC Appointees** – Mr. Bartlett noted that there are several people appointed to the Kentucky Trauma Advisory Committee whose terms are going to expire on October 28, 2026. If the individual represents an organization, it is recommended that they consider talking with their sponsor about either a request for re-appointment, or recommending a replacement. Mr. Bartlett will follow-up as appropriate.
- **Adjournment** – There being no other business, Dr. Bernard adjourned the meeting.



Richard Bartlett, KyTAC Secretary
 KY State Trauma Program Director
 InfraGard Healthcare and Public Health Sector Chief
RBartlett@kyha.com

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

(11) KyTAC Appointed Members in attendance on July 21, 2026

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Mr.	Richard	Bartlett (3)	MEd	KY Hospital Association	KY Hospital Association
Dr.	Andrew	Bernard (1)	MD	UK Chandler Hospital	Level-I Adult Trauma Cntr
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 Licensure.
Dr.	Brian	Harbrecht	MD	UofL Dept. of Surgery	Level-I Adult Trauma Cntr
Mr.	Scott	Helle		UK Office of Rural Health	At-Large
Ms.	Shannon	Hogan	RN	Norton Children's Hospital	Level-I Pediatric Trauma Cntr
Mr.	Dale	Morton	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	KY Emerg. Nurses Assoc.
Ms.	Amber	Powell	APRN	Deaconess Union Co. Hospital	KY Board of Nursing
Dr.	Bryan	Shouse	MD	Frankfort Reg. Medical Center	Level-III Trauma Center
Ms.	Sandy	Tackett	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	Level-II Trauma Center

Note: (1)=Acting KyTAC Chair; (2)=KyTAC Vice Chair; (3)=KyTAC Secretary

(7) KyTAC Appointed Members absent on July 21, 2026

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Dr.	Tony	Decker	MD	Owensboro Health Reg. Hospital	ACS, KY Chapter COT
Ms.	Fayette	Gauze	RN	Tug Valley ARH Hospital	Level-IV Trauma Centers
Ms.	Kim	Howard	RN	University of Louisville Trauma	At-Large
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.	Karan	Shah	MD	Physician Care Coord. Consult.	ACEP, KY Chapter
Dr.	Ryan	Stanton	MD	Central Emergency Physicians	KY Medical Association

Others identified appearing on the meeting call:

Rebekah Aker
Shelly Alvey
Debbie Baker, RN, CHI St. Joseph, London
Samantha Baker, UofL Trauma Program
Molly Banta, UK HealthCare Trauma
Austin Barnett
Rebecca Beams
Lori Caloia, KY DPH
Denise Carpenter
Jennifer Collins, Pikeville Med. Center
Trish Cooper, UK HealthCare Trauma Registrar
Aubren Espinosa, UK HealthCare
Sandra Huton
Misty Lewis
Tiffany Loy, Frankfort Regional Medical Center
Kim Maxey, Ephraim McDowell Reg. Med. Center
Keith Miller, UofL Health
Candice Reynolds, RN, UK HealthCare Trauma
Alissa Richey
Ashley Ritter, TJ Regional Health
Gary Thomas, RN, Deaconess Henderson
Stefanie Upton, UofL
Tom Walton, KY Rural Health Transformation Program
Debbie Walters

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