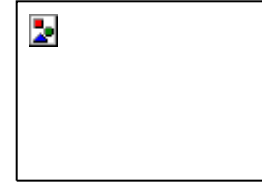


JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

**TRAUMA ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
January 25, 2022
Meeting conducted via Zoom
MINUTES**

J. SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

Members Present: Rick Petrie (Chair), Thomas Judge, Dr. Matthew Sholl, Tammy Lachance, Pret Bjorn, Dr. Julie Ontengco, Dr. Richard King, Dr. Pete Tilney, Chris Pare, Ben Zetterman, Joanne LeBrun, Chris Costello, Tom Judge, Anna Moses, Tiffany Tscherne, Dr. Guy Nuki, Dr. Amy Fenwick, Dr. Cynthia Richards, Leslie Anderson

Guests: Dr. Norm Dinerman, Dr. Mark Grant, Dr. Bryan Morse, Dr. Bruce Chung

Staff Present: Dr. Kate Zimmerman (Trauma Systems Manager), Marc Minkler, Ashley Moody

NOTE: Although not part of the meeting, we have added information that may be helpful to the reader as there are a variety of abbreviations used in these minutes that may be unfamiliar – these abbreviations include:
RTC – Regional Trauma Center, currently defined at Maine Medical Center, Northern Light-Eastern Maine Medical Center and Central Maine Medical Center

TSH – Trauma System Hospital – All hospitals in Maine with a 24/7 Emergency Department, that are not a RTC and support the transfer of patients needed trauma services

IFT – Interfacility Transport, typically from a smaller hospital to a larger hospital for more advanced care
MEMS – Maine EMS

ACS – American College of Surgeons, which verifies trauma centers at various levels, with level 1 being the most comprehensive. Currently Maine Medical Center is a Level 1, while Northern Light-Eastern Maine Medical Center and Central Maine Medical Center are both Level 2.

LFOM – LifeFlight of Maine

The current Maine EMS Trauma System Operations Manual (Trauma Plan) can be found on the Maine EMS website under the Trauma Advisory Committee Resources page: <https://www.maine.gov/ems/boards-committees/trauma-advisory/resources>

This meeting was conducted virtually on Zoom.
Meeting called to order by Mr. Petrie at 12:30 pm

Mr. Petrie reads the mission of Maine EMS statement and TAC Confidentiality Statement. All those present agree.

Roll call is conducted

Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2021 meeting minutes presented

Motion to accept as written by Bjorn, 2nd by Moses, all in favor

October 26, 2021 TAC did not have a quorum, so should be considered Notes as no official action

December 28, 2021 Emergency Meeting minutes presented

Motion to accept as written by Dr. Ontengco, 2nd by Dr. Zetterman, all in favor

Interview Committee formed for open TAC member positions of: At-large, system user, and a surgeon
Dr. Ontengco, Dr. Scholl, LaChance, Bjorn, Zetterman, Petrie, Dr. Zimmerman volunteer to be the members

CMMC Update by LaChance

Continuing with monthly trauma education days (4th Friday of every month), this Friday is abdominal surgical issues with COVID, will email link to join to all. Conducting via Zoom has resulted in larger attendance than ever before.

EMMC Update by Bjorn

At capacity for providers, some new surgical team members, COVID does not seem to be affecting trauma numbers, still very busy

MMC Update by Dr. Ontengco

Very busy, ATLS March 8 & 9, couple open spots. Hope to do an instructor course in the future

Ashley Moody is introduced by Dr. Zimmerman as the new Maine EMS Systems of Care Coordinator, and working with TAC, MSA and Cardiovascular consortium. Ashley provides a brief bio.

Dr. Sholl & Dr. Dinerman present on project of a draft letter entitled Maine EMS TAC “Trauma Transfer Guidance” Document to clarify interfacility transfers and become a portion of trauma plan. They were tasked by the TAC with use of Interfacility Transports (IFT) and balancing patient needs with the resources and aspects of Maine Trauma System. This was to look at options of Level 3 trauma hospitals in both instability and stability as well as those with a hospital work up vs non-hospital work up. Need for guidance and used draft language from Bjorn and built upon it to create a robust document in a straightforward manner. Goal was to capture the principles and guidance while being direct.

Dr Nuki asks about adding facility names to this document, Petrie expressed concerns about changes in facility status and keeping document current. Dr. Richards asks about including CMMC as a likely Level 3. Hurley states that ACS is meeting to discuss CMMC status within the next week or so. Judge also expresses concern with hospital names being included, and instead focusing on trauma in Maine and that includes everyone. Costello states names should be on website for access and public info.

Motion to accept document as written by Judge, 2nd by Pare, Motion carries 18 yes, 1 No (Dr. Ontengco), 0 abstentions

Dr. Zimmerman presents letter from Maine EMS TAC to all Maine acute care hospitals clarifying “Access to Neurosurgeons for Trauma Patients”

Motion to accept letter, with addition of a date, as written by Tscherne, 2nd by Bjorn, Motion carries 19 Yes, 0 No, 0 abstentions

Letter will be sent by TAC with assistance of Maine EMS

Discussion about TAC doing regular updates and review to improve communication with all trauma system hospitals.

Dr. King asks about recognizing CMMC as a Level 3 hospital to help with any potential confusion to the public. Judge states the plan for Level 3 is not finalized and although steps are on the way, and we need to assist with clarity for hospitals and EMS, previous meetings have addressed those concerns. Bjorn feels that CMMC needs to achieve ACS Level 3 verification for transparency and update trauma plans for any potential changes. Dr. Morse states that the trauma plan update is needed but doing this today for CMMC is not reflective of other hospitals possibly being recognized as well, without ACS verification at that level. Dr. King states CMMC is verified as Level 2 but has simply lost neurosurgical capabilities so are still effectively a Level 2.

Dr. King makes motion to recognize CMMC as a Level 3 Trauma Hospital pending review by ACS. 2nd by Judge.

Discussion: Dr. Ontengco asks if this is even in TAC purview to do this. Petrie states Maine EMS initially recognized hospitals as trauma centers but as hospitals became ACS verified, the TAC transitioned to using the ACS verification as the standard. Bjorn agrees, and reminds that there is no such thing as a Level 2 trauma hospital without neurosurgery. There is Level 2 or Level 3, and it is all or none. Dr. Sholl states Maine EMS is not the expert on establishing the standard and would be a stretch for Maine EMS to confirm Level 3 status. Bjorn believes we can assist CMMC to move the process forward for ACS to verify at Level 3. Costello also asks if we have the authority to do this based on ACS standards, inquires about time frame to have CMMC achieve this and if we take this step, will it potentially create further confusion around the trauma plan. Dr. King assures that CMMC is not trying to say they are a level 2 hospital, but they are indeed a trauma hospital and more than a typical hospital for trauma resources. Dr. Zimmerman recommends waiting until ACS verification occurs. Dr. Morse agrees. Judge feels that the TAC and Maine EMS has presented guidance and meets the current needs to prevent confusion. Petrie confirms Judge seconds the motion.

Motion to recognize CMMC as a Level 3 Trauma Hospital pending review by ACS. Motion fails: 13 No, 5 Yes (Dr. Fenwick, Dr. King, Dr. Tilney, Dr. Nuki, LaChance), 0 Abstentions

Dr. Zimmerman poses question on holding letter on “Trauma Transfer Guidance” letter until ACS verification of CMMC. Dr. Ontengco asks if this is presumptive if sent now, and would TAC need to reconvene based on the possible changes. Lebrun is not in favor of sending this out as a letter at all. Dr. Sholl supports waiting until ACS reviews CMMC before sending the letter out in case any alterations might be needed. Group feels best course is to wait on sending this letter until after CMMC ACS review.

Dr. Zimmerman states the letter on “Access to Neurosurgeons for Trauma Patients” will go out immediately.

Dr. Zimmerman provides an update on TACTAT visit to Northern Maine Medical Center in December virtually. Well received. Dr. Zimmerman is working on other hospitals and balancing in person and COVID system stress.

Trauma Plan document update and review based on work done prior to December 2021, Dr. Zimmerman encourages comments and feedback be sent to her and she will track and bring back to the group.

Dr. Zimmerman encourages TAC members to consider projects to undertake and possible outreach topics for the TAC to do for the overall trauma system and bring suggestions forward to her or to Chair Petrie. Discussion on possible topics. Proposal to form a subgroup to help develop topics and strategies.

Dr. Ontengco, Dr. King, Dr. Tilney, LaChance, Bjorn, Costello, Dr. Chung volunteer to meet prior to next TAC meeting to begin efforts. Petrie and Zimmerman will set up logistics and will Petrie will take lead.

Motion to adjourn by Judge, 2nd by Dr. Tilney

Meeting adjourned at 13:54

Next Full TAC Meeting – April 26, 2022 at 12:30

Minutes submitted by Mr. Minkler, approved on April 26, 2022

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