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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
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MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK  
COMMISSIONER

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DIRECTOR

TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 23, 2024

Meeting conducted via Zoom

Members Present: Christopher Whytock (Rockland Fire), Bryan Morse (MMC), Peter Tilney (CMMC), Guy Nuki (Bluewater), Matthew Sholl (MEMS), Tonya Brown (St. Joseph), Joanne Lebrun (Tri-County), Chris Pare (Kennebunk EMS), Julie Ontengco (MH-MMC), Tammy Lachance (CMMC), Sarah Robinson (NL-EMMC)

Guests: Richard King (Mercy), Lindsey Bradley (NL-EMMC), Mary Powell (CDC), Erica Dyer (CDC), Casey Woods (EMMC), Jeanne Clark (EMMC), Sean Barnett (EMMC), Tim Jurick (Mercy)

Staff Present: Ashley Moody (Trauma Systems Manager), Marc Minkler (MEMS).

This meeting was conducted virtually on Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Petrie at 12:37

Tammy Lachance read a roll call for TAC member attendance.

Ms. Lachance read the Maine EMS mission statement and the Confidentiality statement.

The mission of Maine EMS is to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective Emergency Medical Services system to ensure optimum patient care with standards for all providers. All members of this board/committee should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this Board/Committee, we commit to serve the respective providers, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.

The Trauma Advisory Committee meeting you are attending today is intended to promote trauma-related education and quality improvement among health care providers and other TAC members and to use these discussions to plan trauma system improvement. By signing this document [or participating in this meeting virtually without verbalizing disagreement of this statement to the Chair], you agree that you shall regard as confidential any information provided in this program which may serve to identify individuals, institutions, or health professionals. You further agree that you will not disclose such information without the written consent of 1.) the individual or the authorized agent of the individual, 2.) the institution (s), and 3.) the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services.

- **Excellence**
- **Support**
- **Collaboration**
- **Integrity**
- 

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With offices located at the Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330

**Motion # 1** by Joanne Lebrun to approve January 24, 2023, Trauma Advisory Committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Bryan Morse.

Motion Passed with two abstentions.

**Membership Update:** A vacancy remains for a critical care nurse, small hospital administrator (need a recommendation from MHA), surgeon, and trauma system user. EMMC still needs to update who will take over as the trauma program manager.

**TACTAT Visits** – Will start reaching out to a few hospitals that are interested.

Trauma Center Check-Ins

**CMMC** – Dr. King will be leaving CMMC in April, and Dr. David Lewis (from NH) will be joining in May, performing both general and trauma surgery. Continuing to work on the Pedi ready assessment survey and hope to have that ready to submit in the next two months.

**EMMC** – Still looking for a new trauma manager.

**MMC** – ACS Verification was completed in February 2024, and have received their final report with no deficiencies, even with the new Gray Book! ATLS classes are on the horizon and available for those who need it.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

**Trauma Plan Rural Committee** – Working on getting the attention of the Maine Hospitals Association for them to develop a statewide rural trauma coordinator position.

**Data** – Doodle poll was sent out with only one person responding. Will attempt to send out another in attempt to get a majority of the group who expressed interest in participating.

**TACTAT** – Midcoast Hospital is looking to participate. Need to obtain guidance from Trauma Centers on how to move forward.

**Titer-Reduced whole-blood discussion** – Dr. Morse questioned what other centers do around whole-blood infusion. Dr. Tilney said that Life Flight is currently looking at this, but there is much to consider. Current potential barriers are cost and shelf life of whole blood. Dr. Sholl said that there is some great technology on the horizon, specifically Veliko.

**Autopsies** – Dr. Morse wanted to discuss this as the American College of Surgeons requires trauma centers to have a high-fidelity process for having autopsies performed on all deceased victims of trauma. The expectation is a 100% rate, which is mandated, but centers only receive body surveys. The ask is for TAC to encourage the State to increase the number of people in the ME's who can perform autopsies along with an increased number of pathologists and surgeons to allow for the backlog to decrease and enable the centers to obtain autopsies as required by the verification. CMMC is currently using its pathologist to perform a quality improvement assessment at no cost to the patient when the ME's office refuses to complete an autopsy. Maine Med does have the ability to utilize its pathologist, but this does not provide the same value in the eyes of the ACS.

**Subgroup for Autopsies: Julie Ontengco, Bryan Morse, Tammy Lachance, Sarah Robinson, Pete Tilney, and Wil O'Neal.**

**MDPB Update** – Will provide an update once the authors of the trauma portion of the statewide protocols are established.

**Trauma Education Day** – Dr. Morse inquired about a Trauma Education Day, previously called Committee on Trauma which had been held at the Atlantic Partners EMS Mid Coast Conference. Atlantic Partners has a new director, Rob McGraw, and the recommendation was to connect with Atlantic Partners to determine if the conference is occurring in the Fall.

Meeting adjourned at 1346 --- Next regular meeting: July 23, 2024

Minutes submitted by ANM

Minutes approved 02.25.2025