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MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

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TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2026 Notes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom with an in-person option offered at

Champlain Conference Room, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Members Present: Bryan Morse (MH-MMC), Wil O'Neal (MEMS), Tom Judge (LFOM), Jonnathan Busko (St. Joseph), Chris Costello (SMHC-Biddeford), Julie Ontengco (MH-MMC), and Gary Ringling (NL-EMMC)

Guests: Bill Cyr (Lifeflight), Tim Counihan (CMMC)

Staff Present: Ashley Moody (Trauma Systems Manager), Jason Oko (MEMS), Ryan Hall (MEMS)

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Morse at 12:33 – No Quorum Met

Ashley Moody read a roll call for TAC member attendance.

Dr. Bryan Morse 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.

Trauma Center Check-Ins

● **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

MMC – ATLS will be offered in October, continuing with EMS Webinars. ACS re-verification will be on February 2027.

EMMC – Trauma RN Coordination resigned. New surgeon just hired. TNCC is being offered on 3/24 and 3/25. ACS re-validation is scheduled for June 2026.

Other Hospital Check-Ins

CMMC – Dr. Counihan provided an update that Prime took over about 5 weeks ago. There have been leadership changes, and the plan is to switch over to Epic this Friday. Have recently hired another orthopedic surgeon who should be starting at the end of the summer.

Legislative Items -

LD 2196 – An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care

Discussed details of the proposed bill – Tom Judge provided the amendment has not been agreed to the 200% cap of Medicare was withdrawn but the CPI cap remains within the bill, currently.

LD2132 - An Act to Amend the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 to Require Compliance with the Statewide Trauma-incidence Registry and Make Certain Technical and Other Changes

Amendment of the bill was provided during the meeting. Highlighting that the TAC and the office of Maine EMS is being charged with providing recommendations on potential rulemaking, proposed legislation and funding considerations all of which are due by July 31st, 2027.

Recommendation that a subcommittee be developed – Bryan, Julie and Gary all offered to participate. Goal would be to meet 2 times monthly to develop a scope/work plan. Continued discussion needed. Tom will follow up with Mike Choate as a potential contributor to the subcommittee. ? DHHS epidemiologist participation.

LD 2228 – Enact to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions

TAC was listed as an inactive board due to the annual report request being sent to an inactive email. Annual report has been submitted, and the TAC is now in compliance.

Rib Fx Protocol

Dr. Morse provided a draft and was discussed as a group.

Items needing some clarification: Minimum age? Does it apply to pregnant or possibly pregnancy patients? Regarding pulmonary contusion is there a standard for minor versus major and should that be clarified? Marc Minkler will reach out to Dr. Williams to get her guidance regarding peds. Consider wording in the purpose to not limit providers from reaching out to trauma centers if there are concerns.

Trauma Plan

Tom Judge will be sending out prior to the next meeting.

COT Update

Leadership has changed recently and currently is undergoing restructuring. Chris Turner taking over as vice-chair.

Case Discussion

Dr. Morse would like to start having these again. Proposal of rotating centers/presenters while in executive session to ensure protection for hospitals, presenters and non-discoverable.

FOAA

A FOAA Self-Study program will be sent out as all TAC Members, and it needs to be completed prior to the next meeting.

Trauma Conference

Tom inquired if people would be interested in trauma education.

Next regular meeting: May 26, 2026 (virtual)

Notes submitted by ANM