

**STATE OF OHIO  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD**

**TRAUMA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FINAL**

**Chaired by:** John Crow, MD

**Date & Location:** March 11, 2009 at Ohio Department of Transportation, Columbus, Ohio

Name	Attendance		Name	Attendance	
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Nancie Bechtel, RN,	X		Diane Simon, RN	X	
John Crow, MD	X		Howard Werman, MD		X
William Crum			Richard Ziegler, DDS	X	
David Degnan	X				
Gary Englehart, FACHE	X				
Mark Gebhart, MD		X	Christy Beeghly*		X
Todd Glass, MD	X		Carol Cunningham, MD*	X	
Vickie Graymire, RN	X		Jon Groner, MD*	X	
Kathy Haley, RN	X		F. Barry Knotts, MD*	X	
Brian Kuntz, EMT-P		X	Forrest Smith*	X	
Cliff Mason, EMT-P	X				
Debra Myers, RN	X				
Edward Michelson, MD	X				
Sidney Miller, MD		X	Tim Erskine, EMT-P †	X	
Greg Nemunaitis, MD	X		Heather Frient†		
Jennifer Piccione, RN		X	Sue Morris †	X	
David Pohlman, EMT-P	X		Millie Pontious †	X	
Kevin Pugh, MD	X				
Jonathan Saxe, MD	X		* = Non-Voting Committee member		
Michael Shannon, MD	X		† = Non-Voting ODPS/EMS Staff		

**Others in Attendance:**

An audience sign-in sheet is on file in the Division of EMS office.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Welcome and Introductions** – Dr. Crow called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. A quorum is present at the meeting. Members introduced themselves. David Degnan and Debra Myers were recognized as two new committee members. Dr. Forrest Smith, in attendance, will be the new representative from the Department of Health.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Review and approval of the November 2008 meeting minutes. Moved by Shannon, second by Michelson.

**VOTE:** All in favor, none against, no abstentions. **Motion approved.**

**Liaison Reports**

**ODPS Legislative Update** – Tim Erskine updated the Committee members regarding **HB 2**, the transportation budget bill. This bill includes a primary seat belt law. The bill just passed the House by a wide margin; however, it is facing steep opposition in the Senate. Also included in HB 2 is a provision for stable funding for the Division of EMS.

**SB 65** – It creates additional fines for failure to yield or failure to assure clear distance when those infractions cause an injury. The additional money will go to highway safety education.

**SB 66** – It provides for health insurance benefits for the dependents of volunteer firefighters who are killed in the line of duty. This would be administered by the Ohio Police and Firefighters Pension Funds. This Bill has been referred to the Commerce and Insurance Committee in the Senate.

**EMS Medical Director Report** – Dr. Cunningham updated the committee regarding the last RPAB meeting where rules related to the qualifications of EMS medical directors were finalized. Dr. Cunningham also made note of the CDC Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients which was made available in January 2009.

**Ohio Department of Health** – Dr. Crow welcomed Dr. Smith and informed him that this would be the time for him to let the Committee know what is going on at the ODH at future Trauma Committee meetings. Dr. Smith thanked Dr. Crow.

**Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership** – Mr. Erskine informed those present that this group had met last week. The Injury Prevention Partnership is a CDC funded activity bringing together all the state's injury prevention stakeholders in one room. Work is beginning to solidify as far as breaking down into specific sections: Poisoning Prevention work group; the Data work group; and Falls, Pediatric and Geriatric work groups. The partnership members will be getting together to figure out what they can do as a consortium to improve injury prevention throughout the state.

**EMS Board** – Ms. Graymire reported the appointment of several new Board members. These new EMS Board members have also been assigned to Committees and Sub-committees. Another point discussed at the EMS Board meeting was the Geriatric Trauma Triage Rules (OAC 4765-14) which have been in effect since December, 2008 and therefore, it will require changes to several education presentations. Ms. Graymire reminded everyone that EMS Grant applications are available on-line and are due April 1, 2009. Also, the Grants Committee became part of the Research Committee. This new Committee will ensure that the grant funds are being spent to improve evidence based care. Ms. Graymire asked Mr. Erskine to update those present about the use of probabilistic linkage to link our EMS and Trauma data. 2,700 records of trauma patients transferred from a non-trauma hospital to a trauma center were linked to the matching trauma center record with a 97% (or better) certainty that those two records were a match. This is a huge step for what it will be able to do for our ability to analyze our data. Dr. Crow asked if we would still need a Unique Identifier? The cost issue for the Unique Identifier (arm bands) is still price prohibitive. Mr. Erskine suggested that maybe using a pilot study in order to establish which one of these two methods (procedure ?) is more accurate. The Division of EMS has been working very diligently establishing the Lectora program to be able to do on-line education. Once this program is finalized this where the Trauma Triage education program will be placed.

### **Sub-Committee & Work Group Reports**

**Trauma Registry Advisory Subcommittee** – Dr. Knotts did not have anything to report.

**Over/Under Triage** – Mr. Englehart reported that this group has met and are still in the process of defining Over/Under Triage.

**Quarterly System Reports** – Dr. Crow reported that he had just received the 2007 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2006, Quarterly State Trauma System Reports. This Sub-Committee group will meet briefly immediately after this meeting with follow-up communications through e-mail. Mr. Erskine will provide the 2008 Report and then this Sub-committee can possibly make a report two meetings from now.

**Distracted Driving** – Mr. Erskine reported that this group has not met since this issue was first discussed. There is plenty of literature regarding distracted driving available. This might be the time for this Committee to make a recommendation to the Board to take some sort of a stand position advocating for distractive driving laws. Let's keep working on this issue.

**Trauma System Plan** – Ms. Haley reported that the work group had met about a month ago. The group studied six strategic trauma systems from Arizona, Kansas, Tennessee, Florida, Washington and California. Florida's system plan format and the maturity of their plan (they are on their second five-year planning) was the most attractive. This group's work will be long, including a meeting right after today's meeting, and Ms. Haley encouraged those present to participate in today's meeting. This group is working very hard and will be able to update everyone on some of the issues that have been finalized at the next Trauma Committee meeting.

### **Old Business**

**Geriatric Trauma Triage Rules (OAC 4765-14)** – As mentioned before by Ms. Graymire, these Rules passed on December 2008.

**Trauma Triage Education Requirements** – Mr. Erskine informed the Committee members that through the EMS Education staff, the revised Trauma Triage education requirements are being updated and implemented statewide by EMS educators.

Dr. Crow initiated a discussion regarding secondary triage, developing guidelines for non-trauma hospitals to use when deciding whether to transport a patient to a trauma facility. Mr. Erskine mentioned that they will continue to work with the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) in developing these guidelines. Also being considered was an idea for the Trauma Committee to propose to the EMS Board to create a policy statement emphasizing that the Trauma Triage Criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) were created for EMS personnel operating outside the hospital and were not designed for physicians to use in a hospital setting. Between these two approaches it should help and reduce the amount of over triage that goes on.

### **New Business**

**Provisional Level 3 Trauma Centers** – Three medical centers have declared or are about to declare Provisional Level 3 Trauma Center status. They are Fisher-Titus Medical Center (declared), Firelands in Sandusky (about to declare) and Marietta Memorial (about to declare).

**CDC Trauma Triage Guidelines** – Copies of the CDC Trauma Triage Guidelines were distributed. The Committee members asked Mr. Erskine to review this document and compare it to the State of Ohio's Trauma Triage Guidelines. Tim Erskine offered to draft a simple document with a side-by-side comparison showing what Ohio has and what exists in one but not the other.

An abstract of a study was published in the journal *Prehospital Emergency Care* (Prehospital Emergency Care; 13: 117-118) that compared the Ohio and American College of Surgeons guidelines for geriatric trauma triage. The study concluded that neither the Ohio nor the ACS guidelines had sufficient sensitivity or specificity and both should be redeveloped. A significant discussion was held regarding the flawed methodology of this study. The Committee concluded that a letter of rebuttal should be sent by Dr. Cunningham to the editors of PEC.

**MOTION:** This Committee directs Dr. Cunningham to write a letter of rebuttal to the editors of Prehospital Emergency Care against the published abstract entitled "A Comparison of the Ohio and American College of Surgeons Guidelines in Identifying Trauma Center Need for Older Adults." Moved by Michelson, second by Shannon.

**VOTE:** All in favor, none against, no abstentions. **Motion approved.**

Vickie Graymire asked Tim Erskine if copies of the Trauma Triage Plan were available. Mr. Erskine informed the group that a PowerPoint presentation for instructors to use is available on-line at [ems.ohio.gov](http://ems.ohio.gov), Trauma System section, under Trauma Triage Education.

The Trauma System Planning group will be meeting immediately after this meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be on May 13, 2009, 10am, ODPS, Conference Room G-A.