

**STATE OF OHIO  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD**

**TRAUMA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FINAL**

**Chaired by:** John Crow, MD

**Date & Location:** September 9, 2009 at ODPS, Room 134 (Motorcycle Room), 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	X		Richard Ziegler, DDS	X	
David Degnan		X			
Gary Englehart, FACHE	X				
Mark Gebhart, MD		X			
Todd Glass, MD	X		Carol Cunningham, MD*	X	
Vickie Graymire, RN	X		F. Barry Knotts, MD*		X
Kathy Haley, RN		X	Forrest Smith*	X	
Brian Kuntz, EMT-P	X		Amy Wermert*	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, EMT-P †	X	
David Pohlman, EMT-P	X		Millie Pontious †	X	
Kevin Pugh, MD	X				
Jonathan Saxe, MD	X		* = Non-Voting Committee member † = Non-Voting ODPS/EMS Staff		
Michael Shannon, MD	X				

**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 10:03 am. A quorum is present at the meeting. Members introduced themselves.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Approve the July 2009 meeting minutes. Moved and second.

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

**Liaison Reports**

**ODPS Legislative Update – HB 241** – Tim Erskine reported that the only current legislative action is the new MOLST legislation (“do not resuscitate” law). Ellen Owens of the Division of EMS has been updating T. Erskine regarding this bill which is moving very slowly. A technical change to the MOLST form in the EMS section of the law is to include that the forms can be signed by a physician, an advanced practice nurse, or a physician assistant. At present time, EMS can only follow the orders of a physician or a nurse operating under the direct orders of a physician. There is no other legislative activity related to EMS or trauma to report. Dr. Saxe arrived (10:05 a.m.).

**Ohio Department of Health** – Dr. Forrest Smith reported that ODH has continued holding monthly conference calls with Tim Erskine regarding the Provisional Trauma Center Process in order to ensure trauma centers’ compliance and ODH and ODPS enforcement steps. This process continues to run very effectively based on the information distributed and discussed during the last Trauma Committee meeting. Dr. Cunningham arrived (10:10 a.m.).

**Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership** – Amy Wermert, the newest liaison to the Trauma Committee, introduced herself and advised the committee that she is the injury prevention coordinator at Grant Medical Center Trauma Program. Ms. Wermert is also the Chairperson of the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP). Ms. Wermert also introduced Dara Bakes who is the Co-Chair of OIPP. Ms. Wermert distributed a one page document titled The Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership which explains the Mission and Vision of this statewide group. The OIPP was formed about two years ago and is coordinated by Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the funds are derived from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Partnership will advise and assist ODH and ODH's Violence and Injury Prevention Program in "establishing priorities and future directions regarding injury and violence prevention initiatives in Ohio." This group focused on children's and adults' falls during 2008; and through 2009 will be focusing on unintentional prescription drug poisoning. T. Erskine feels that having Ms. Wermert as a representative of the OIPP attending and contributing at future Trauma Committee meetings will be of great benefit. Mr. Erskine also mentioned that there will be more integration between the OIPP and the Trauma System Plan with Ms. Wermert's participation and that both groups will benefit from each other's resources.

Dr. Miller arrived (10:17 a.m.).

**EMS Medical Director Report** – Dr. Cunningham mentioned that the trauma triage decision tree has been modified to include drowning as a traumatic injury. This has been posted on the EMS website.

Dr. Crow asked Dr. Cunningham about the attendance and input of the RPAB members at RPAB regional meetings. Dr. Cunningham explained that it is always difficult to have all the members at all the meetings although if the Chairperson is not present, he/she is usually electronically connected. Dr. Cunningham is hoping that the all members meeting coming up in November will be well attended since this is when a yearly update is given. There are no physicians in Region 6 RPAB at the moment.

**EMS Board** – Vickie Graymire – Ms. Graymire reported that there wasn't much to report from the EMS Board. She did mention that there was some media coverage regarding the Department of Corrections using individuals with EMS training as part of its execution team. ODPS Legal Counsel, Heather Reed-Frient, researched this issue and indicated that the EMS Board did not have jurisdiction over these individuals since they are not working as an EMT when they are serving as a member of an execution team.

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

**Trauma Registry Advisory Subcommittee** – Tim Erskine - No report.

**Over/Under Triage** – Gary Englehart – No report.

**Trauma Registry Reports** – Dr. Crow - No report.

**Trauma System Plan** – Lynn Schweer updated the Committee regarding the progress of the work group. The group has worked through Goal 1-4 of the 8 totaled Goals and have made a decision on how to organize it to make it easy for everyone to read and understand. There will be another work session immediately after the Trauma Committee meeting today and will continue to work on the 4 Goals left to expand on. Ms. Graymire again, informed the committee members that the work group will be asking some of them for assistance and their participation as they tackle the final goals. The work group is hoping to finalize all the Goals by the end of October. Then, the Trauma Committee will be able to review the full document at our next scheduled meeting, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Committee members should plan to spend some additional time at the November meeting. This Plan should be completed by the January 2010 Trauma Committee meeting.

### **Old Business**

**PEC Article on Geriatric Triage** – Tim Erskine has not seen the last issue; therefore, he does not know if Dr. Cunningham's letter has been published.

**Regional Trauma Triage variant, RPAB Region 4** – Tim Erskine just received the regional trauma triage variant from Region 4. Mr. Erskine asked for two or three volunteers to review this document and make

sure that the variant meets State's criteria before it is submitted to the EMS Board for final approval. Dr. Crow, Ms. Graymire and Mr. Kuntz offered to participate in the review; Mr. Erskine will forward the documents electronically to them this afternoon. Nancie Bechtel arrived (10:45 a.m.)

**Regional Trauma Registry Non-Compliance** –Tim Erskine expressed how happy he was to be able to report to the Trauma Committee members that very early this morning he had received an e-mail from Kathy Cookman, from KJ Trauma Consulting LLC, which stated that 99% of the missing data from the two regional registries had been uploaded to the trauma registry. Thanks to Kathy Cookman. In order to avoid situations like this in the future, the Office of Research and Analysis will be monitoring the data submitted. The ORA will also make sure it is in compliance with the procedures outlined in a draft document titled *Procedure for OTR Compliance Determination* that Mr. Erskine had distributed earlier. Several changes have been made to this document, starting with the deletion of **1.a.iii**, which stated that ORA would contact the hospital to say that the regional registry had not sent us their data. Ms. Bechtel suggested changing the language on **1.c.** to read, "If the outstanding data is not received . . . assistance in facilitating the outstanding data." Revise **1.a.ii.** to read " A deadline negotiated between ORA and the regional registry but not less than two weeks".

Add No. **3.c.iv** to state, "no public declaration of non-compliance will be made until all other avenues have been exhausted."

Mr. Erskine will revise the document to include all the suggestions given today. The document will be e-mailed to all members.

### **New Business**

**Timely Verification of Trauma Centers** – Tim Erskine informed the Committee that at the moment there are two Level II trauma centers on provisional status. Both of them have waited to have their focus review at last minute. One waited to have their focus review 30 days prior to their expiration; the other center waited until 21 days before expiration. Mr. Erskine had to work very hard with both of these centers trying to make them aware of the consequences if their provisional designation expired. Mr. Erskine distributed a few documents regarding this matter. T. Erskine created a draft document titled *Policy for Communications with Hospitals about Provisional Trauma Center Status (Administrative Safety Net Clause)*; a form letter which will be mailed to trauma centers before their trauma center verification expires; and a document titled *Procedures to Follow After Loss of Trauma Center Status*. Mr. Erskine hopes that these documents will help trauma centers to understand the steps to follow during their provisional status and prior to verification and hopefully resulting in a more efficient process. This process will also establish on-going communication with the centers throughout the verification procedure.

Discussion regarding provisional designation expiration followed. Several members of the Trauma Committee suggested sending the verification expiration letter out 90 days in advanced with a note included regarding that the College has a long turn-around time on review documents. Ms. Graymire also suggested sending it to OSTNL as well as Ohio COT. Mr. Erskine assured Committee members that everyone would receive copies of the revised documents.

A suggestion by Dr. Ziegler to re-visit the Distracted Driving issue which had been tabled since several suburbs in Ohio and other states are prohibiting the use of cell phones, GPS, etc., while driving. The Committee will discuss this issue at next meeting. S.B. 160 has been introduced. This bill prohibits driving a vehicle while using a hand-held or manually operated mobile communication device.

The Committee members thanked Chief Mason for all his years of service on the Trauma Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

**Next meeting will be on November 4, 2009, ODPS, Room 134 (The Motorcycle Room).**