



Dudley H.A. Wright II, Chair  
Kent Appelhans, Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

## TRAUMA COMMITTEE

**Committee Meeting Date and Location:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (10:00 a.m.) at the ODPS Shipley Building, 1970 W. Broad St, Columbus, OH 43223 via Microsoft Teams®

**Committee Members Present:** Diane Simon - Chair, Sara Brokaw, Joyce Burt, Herb de la Porte, Kathy Haley, Dr. Ryan Harrison, Dr. Kent Harshbarger, Patty Hightower, Laurie Johnson, Fran Lauriha, Mr. Joseph Natko, Dr. Travis Perry, Dr. James Sauto, Dr. Michael Shannon, Rachel Velasquez and Tammy Wilkes

**Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Marco Bonta, Dr. Jeffrey Claridge, Dr. Erik Evans, Angela Schetter, Dr. Avraham Schlager and Dr. Howard Werman

**DPS and EMS Staff Members Present:** Interim Executive Director Rob Wagoner, State Medical Director, Dr. Carol Cunningham, Natalie Haslage, Valerie Koker, Eric Mays, and Sue Morris

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. Diane Simon welcomed everyone. Quorum was attained.

Introductions were made. A new committee member, Mr. Joseph Natko, was asked to provide additional information to the group regarding his background.

Ms. Simon reported that Dr. Schlager has resigned as of July 31, 2020. Nomination letters have been sent to the organizations.

Mr. Wagoner welcomed everyone back since the last meeting on January 8, 2020. The ability to meet face to face is still unknown. He thanked everyone for their patience. Mr. Wagoner recognized Eric Mays, Mike Wise, and Joe Kirk for their support with Microsoft Teams®.

Mr. Wagoner reported that Dr. Werman survived COVID-19 and was one of the first to donate convalescent plasma to treat other victims of COVID-19.

Mr. Wagoner recognized Dr. Cunningham for the collaboration in writing directives and guidance to Ohio EMS, first responders, and the Ohio Department of Health through this pandemic while she was rehabilitating from knee surgery. Dr. Cunningham stated that she wrote an article for the JEMS magazine regarding her experiences during this pandemic. Dr. Cunningham gave accolades to the DEMS staff during her rehabilitation.

## Agenda Items

### Education – No Report due to COVID-19, suspended until further notice.

Typically, the Trauma Committee begins with an education piece; however, the face to face is a vital component to the education reports. As such, this agenda item will be suspended until further notice.

## Approvals and Items Requiring Action

### **Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Simon requested a motion to approve the January 8, 2020 meeting minutes that were previously distributed via email. The minutes were accepted as written.

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***ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 8, 2020.*** Ms. Velasquez – First; Dr. Haley – Second. None opposed. None abstained. **Motion approved.**

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### **Statewide Ohio Hospital Burn Surge Plan Education Module for EMS**

Dr. Cunningham requested approval for the Statewide Ohio Hospital Burn Surge Plan education module for EMS that was previously emailed to the members. Dr. Cunningham paired with members of the Ohio Department of Health's burn surge plan workgroup that was tasked to create this education module. Dr. Cunningham explained that this is specifically directed to support the hospital burn surge plan, which would be enacted if a catastrophic event involving large numbers of significant burns were to occur. The Education Committee has approved the education module and once the Trauma Committee has approved it will go to the EMFTS Board for approval.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding the addition of severe or significant burns and high voltage electric burns to the module. Dr. Cunningham explained that the education module was based on the Statewide Ohio Hospital Burn Surge Plan, the source document, for delivery to EMS and for a mass casualty event.

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***ACTION: Motion to approve the Burn Surge Plan Education Module for EMS with a notation on slide #9 in the script regarding high voltage electrical burns. The change will be brought to the Education Committee and if approved will be presented for approval to the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services meeting in August.*** Dr. Sauto – First; Dr. Michel Shannon – Second. None opposed. None abstained. **Motion approved.**

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Dr. George suggested that if anyone has any additions to the Statewide Ohio Hospital Burn Surge Plan to bring them to the attention of the Burn Surge workgroup for when they revise the plan in the future.

## **System Update**

### **System Status**

#### **Trauma Administration at the Ohio Department of Public Safety**

Mr. Wagoner reported that the Trauma section at EMS is fully staffed. There is a statewide hiring freeze that affects the six vacant positions that EMS had before COVID-19. State of Ohio exempt employees are on a cost savings day program where they will have 80 hours of unpaid leave during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. On average there are 11 employees in the office on any given day and the others are tele-working from home.

Mr. Wagoner reported that face-to-face meetings are suspended until further notice. Microsoft Teams® is very labor intensive for staff to conduct meetings virtually.

Mr. Wagoner initially staffed the Emergency Operations Center with Mr. Fiffick; however, shortly thereafter Mr. Fiffick represented EMS at the EOC so that Mr. Wagoner could oversee the Division of EMS (DEMS). Currently the DEMS remains engaged with all briefs and participates in ESF-8 Touchpoint calls twice a week, Zone calls three times a week, and focused hot spot calls as needed. Mr. Wagoner thanked Mr. Fiffick for his dedication.

#### **Trauma Center Status**

Ms. Simon reported that all of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification site visits have ceased since March. Each trauma center will have a one year extension. A 3-year verification process is now a 4-year verification process. The verification visits will begin in March 2021.

#### **Data Submission Status**

Sue Morris reported that there was a moratorium on the 2020 data; however, all data for 2019 was reviewed. There are nine trauma center records that have not yet been received. There were multiple regional registries and a trauma center that is not part of a regional registry. The EMS Trauma staff will be reaching out to these centers. There will be a more complete report at the next Trauma Committee meeting.

#### **Member Status**

Mr. Wagoner advised that Dr. Schlager who holds seat #7, designated as a pediatric trauma surgeon, has resigned effective July 31<sup>st</sup>. Letters for nominations have been sent to the two organizations; Ohio Osteopathic Association and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The other open seats are Seat #6, a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, and Seat #22, a second representative of a non-trauma center hospital. The DEMS staff will continue to seek nominations for all open seats.

## Liaison Reports

### Legislative Updates

Mr. Wagoner advised that the Ohio House of Representatives is not expected to return until September. The vast majority of activities focused on COVID-19 issues. Now is a good time for stakeholders to discuss their support. Mel House's parting comment was "the power to affect change lies in the stakeholders not in state agencies". Mr. Wagoner requested committee members to work with their stakeholder groups on legislative needs. Representative Baldrige introduced House Bill 711 to hopefully address the DNR issue with the conflict of EMS law and other regulations within the Ohio Department of Health. House Bill 253 is a fireworks law which deals with licensing and fees paid to the state fire marshal to help assist with firefighter training. Since EMS will be responding to these incidents, there is hope that they would also direct funding to EMS. He reported that House Bill (HB) 441 had a second hearing in the House on June 9, 2020. It was introduced with a focus on training first responders on how to deal with those with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and the like, considering the increased prevalence of these types of illnesses. Senate Bill 302 includes EMS and Stroke Patient protocols that furthers the work of the stroke bill passed a year ago that became law to extend stroke care. It had its first hearing on May 13, 2020.

The Trauma Committee legislative needs include the need to increase the representation on the Trauma Committee. Currently the law only allows representation from no more than one member from any given healthcare organization. The recommendation would be no more than two from any given healthcare organizations. It is on the radar and a need of the trauma committee.

### State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board)

Mr. Wagoner reported that the Board has had three Microsoft Teams® virtual meetings in April, May and June. Only the two statutory committees have met, and this includes the Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee and Subcommittee and Trauma Committee. Virtual meetings are very labor intensive for the staff; therefore, other committees have not met.

The EMFTS Board approved \$425,000 of Board Priority funding to be dedicated to fund personal protective equipment purchased from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The maximum amount per agency is \$1500; therefore over 200 agencies will receive help.

### State Medical Director

Dr. Cunningham reported that the Regional Physicians Advisory Board (RPAB) meeting was held in May virtually. The next meeting will be the second Wednesday in September.

### Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Luke Werhan reported that on the website; [www.coronavirus.com](http://www.coronavirus.com), all the data is updated daily at 2:00 PM each day. There is currently a study of Ohioans who have antibodies. Ohio Public Health Advisory system has been created and announced by Governor DeWine. There are seven counties on level 3 and several counties approaching level 3. He announced a public

health order that masks need to be worn in those seven counties. The map will be updated weekly.

Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership has continued to have meetings virtually. Those meetings will continue to be virtual through February 2021. The community paramedicine training has been postponed to March 2021.

Dr. Amy Acton resigned on June 11<sup>th</sup> from the Ohio Department of Health. The ODH medical director retired on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Currently the Interim Director for the Ohio Department of Health is Lance Himes and the acting medical director for the Ohio Department of Health is Dr. Mary Kate Francis.

The Violence and Injury section are applying for grants. One was submitted for a Suicide Prevention grant from the CDC which is a 5 year grant to include state and local prevention strategies to begin September 1, 2020. Also, they are in the process of applying for an adverse childhood experiences prevention and surveillance grant.

**EMS Workgroup** (on hiatus)

**Performance Improvement (PI) Workgroup**

It was reported that the workgroup did not meet.

**Trauma Registry Advisory Workgroup (TRAW, formerly known as TRAS)**

It was reported that the workgroup did not meet.

**Rehabilitation Subcommittee** (on hiatus)

**Epidemiology Intelligence Service (EIS) Evaluation Workgroup** (on hiatus)

**Human Resources (HR) Ad Hoc Committee (EMFTS Board)**

It was reported that the committee has not met.

**Scope of Practice (SOP) Ad Hoc Committee (EMFTS Board)**

It was reported that the committee has not met.

**Trauma Committee Strategic Plan Focus**

**Resource Assessment/Competent Workforce – Update**

Ms. Simon reported that they contacted Innovative Emergency Management<sup>®</sup>, (IEM). It is a grant to study the work place competency of our physicians, nurses, and EMS assistants. The report was received in the fall of 2019. They presented those reports to the Trauma Committee. Updated reports have been received regarding the requests made by the members. These will be sent within the next few weeks. Ms. Simon requested that the members review the reports once they are received.

## **System Oversight**

### **Ohio Regional Trauma Organizations Coalition (ORTOC)**

The members of the ORTOC was asked to look at the previous review of the state system and discussed the ACS review. It may be time for another review of the state system. It was decided that the Trauma Committee is not in the position yet to have a review. They are continuing the regional validation projects.

## **Old Business**

### **Rules – Update**

Mr. Wagoner reported that there is nothing specific to trauma. The next rules to be reviewed under the five year review includes Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) chapters 4765-8 (Certificate to Teach or Practice; Continuing Education) and 4765-9 (Ethical Standards of Conduct).

### **EMS Incident Reporting System (EMSIRS) – Update**

Eric Mays reported that they have successfully transferred from Digital Innovations® and closed out on June 30th. More agencies are reporting to us now through the new system that was designed and built in-house. The system is completely up and running and the data section has completed the data validation. Everything went as planned and the DEMS are very happy with the transition. A trauma member asked if there were any cost savings. Mr. Mays reported that there will be a much better return on our investment because we will see a much shorter response time to complete reports. A trauma member asked if naloxone data could be included into EMSIRS. Mr. Mays explained that the data received is not in real time. The agencies have 15 days after the end of the month to report. In Michigan their reports are submitted within 24 hours of the incident. They have fines if they do not comply. In Ohio agencies do not have repercussions in comparison. The grand plan includes dashboards; however, please keep in mind the data transfer was just finished.

### **New Strategic Plan**

The old strategic plan expired December 2019 and competency evaluations have been carried over. In time a small group could be convened and create the strategic plan.

Mr. Wagoner stated that when he sends out the reports from IEM, he requested the committee members read through them with the acknowledgement that the reports are focused on the trauma workforce and education and then broken down by regions then by levels of care, physicians, nurses, and EMS providers. When he read through the reports, he noted that there is a lack of statewide knowledge of the rural trauma team development program. This could present an opportunity for some improvement in care, especially in rural communities and rural trauma care patients. One of the recommendations examined were other communities and states that tried to improve care especially in the rural areas. One item identified from the state of Minnesota was the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support Education (CALS Education). If Ohio is trying to improve on trauma care, one may see some areas to target a program to help develop pre and post analysis of trauma care improvement of patients. The tools are there and the DEMS has the data. He respectfully requested that the committee look at that information when received.

### **Rescue Task Force (RTF) Conference**

Mr. Wagoner stated that the conference was postponed. There is a commitment from the main presenter to continue with the support of the conference. The Education Committee and James Burke are coordinating the conference. It will probably occur more than likely next year.

### **Trauma Training for Continuing Education (CE) Sites**

The committee is looking for a resource person to help assist the small rural area that may have an ED physician as a medical director. The trauma training needs to have approval from a trauma surgeon. There were suggestions previously; however, nothing has moved forward. The group was asked what the Trauma Committee could do to help the CE sites. It was suggested to identify and ask what these CE sites need. The IEM reports should give us some direction.

### **Ohio Trauma Triage Training Module**

Mr. Wagoner reported that the Ohio Trauma Triage Training Module relied on obsolete flash technology which is no longer effective. The Ohio Department of Public Safety Training Campus requested that we review this information. We quickly removed the program and built a system to continue delivery of the Trauma Triage Training. The Public Safety Training Campus is working on making it active again. It will not include the burn surge information. Updates are being identified and will move forward with approved technology of ODPS within the Public Safety Training Campus.

### **Run Report Requirements for Ohio – Patient Handoff (Update)**

Mr. Wagoner stated that at the last meeting the committee wanted to track the hits on the run report from the EMS website. Mr. Mays stated that ODPS can give us general traffic data that is limited to the EMS webpage and to the item. However, although it may not be 100 percent accurate it would give us a general idea.

**ACTION ITEM:** The DEMS staff will continue to investigate whether there is a way to track the number of times visitors click on the run report links. Preliminary data to be reported on at the September meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **Updated PI Plans**

Ms. Simon explained that the PI plan for the state is based upon what the regions submitted as their PI plans. It has been a couple of years since the regions submitted PI plans. A memo was sent to the regions requesting those plans. Ms. Simon stated she has not received any PI plans. She requested the regions to send the updated PI plans.

### **Hospital Participation in Regions**

Ms. Simon advised that hospitals that are involved in regions are more easily linked to education, PI and other beneficial information. When they are not, it can create gaps in these same areas. There have been efforts in the past to encourage participation in regions across the state. Ms. Simon has heard from various regions and stated they have added members to their region. A committee member inquired as to if there was any insight as to why the hospitals are not involved with their region. Ms. Simon stated that the general consensus is the hospitals would like the regional data but they do not want to share their data with the region.

### **New Business**

Ms. Wilkes stated that there was a request from a smaller rural department in the southern area of Ohio to be able to get information back about trauma patients. They would like to know the good and the bad so that they can improve upon education. Some regions are investigating how they may be able to get information on the patient. Ms. Simon said that in her region they have added fields in their database so that they can do some comparisons. A discussion ensued with many suggestions. The committee decided that Ms. Wilkes would refer the hospitals to OAEMS and they would then contact Dr. Sauto for assistance.

**ACTION ITEM: Refer the rural departments through OAEMS to contact Dr. Sauto for assistance in obtaining information on a former patients.**

Chief Natko reported that he has been working with local hospitals with a health information system that includes the capability of an electronic exchange of information. He inquired if the State of Ohio has a similar system. Mr. Wagoner reported that there has been some discussion about a health information system and a plan with EMSIRS as the next step to facilitate the continuum of care, linkage of the records from the out of hospital encounter and treatment to the in-hospital care and post-hospital disposition including rehabilitation. A date for fulfillment of this plan cannot be given; however, it is in the plan for EMSIRS. Mr. Mays stated that the first step has been completed. A plan on connecting the records are being discussed.

### **Open Forum**

Ms. Velasquez reported that the EMAC teams deployed to New York City and have been working with COVID-19 patients. They currently won an award for Ohio. Two members have tested positive. She requested that everyone keep them in your thoughts.

Dr. Ryan Harrison informed the group that he has taken a position in Indiana and this was his last meeting. He stated that he has sent a resignation letter to Mr. Wagoner.

### **Recap of Action Items**

- Mr. Wagoner to distribute the Statewide Ohio Hospital Burn Surge Plan to the Trauma Committee members.

- Mr. Wagoner to distribute the IEM Reports to the Trauma Committee members.
- The DEMS staff will continue to investigate whether there is a way to track the number of times visitors click on the run report links. Preliminary data to be reported on at the September meeting.
- Refer the rural departments through OAEMS to contact Dr. Sauto for assistance in obtaining information on a former patients.
- Letter of nominations to be sent out to the nominating organizations for Dr. Harrison's seat.

There was no further business.

Dr. Shannon moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Sauto seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

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***ACTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting.*** Dr. Shannon – First; Dr. Sauto – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

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**Next meeting:**

The next Trauma Committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2020.