

TRAUMA MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

June 21, 2023

9:30 AM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy
Classroom 2

Members Present: Joel Coelho, Mark Kromer, Kyle Levesque, Tony Maggio, Eric Martin, Neil Moore, Lisa Patterson, Stacey Savage, Tom Trimarco

Members Absent: James Beaudoin, Caroline Lavoie, Jonathan Snow, Brett Sweeney

NH FST&EMS Staff: Justin Romanello, Vicki Blanchard, Walter Trachim, Mike Mulhern, Crystal Tuttle

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 9:32 AM by Chair Martin

1) Welcome/Membership

Item 1. Introductions

Item 2. Re-appointment letters needed from Mark Kromer, Kyle Levesque, and James Beaudoin. Open physician positions.

Item 3. Dr. Martin stated he sent out a letter earlier in the year outlining more structure for the TMRC meetings, such as raising hands for comments.

2) Approval of the minutes

Vote: A motion was made (Maggio/ Levesque) to approve the April 19, 2023 minutes, with amendments.

3) BUREAU REPORTS

Item 1. Division items

- a) NASEMSO conference was attended by Chief Romanello, Matt Robblee, and Maria Varanka. The focus was MIH programs at the conference, and MIH continues to grow at the Division as well. National funding for MIH is a struggle as it is in New Hampshire as well.
- b) 511 Providers did not renew this year. There is a 3-week backlog for background checks. Educational training rules will be submitted to JLCAR, and then to a 90-day comment period before approval. Discussion was held about provider numbers.
- c) Ambulance inspector PT position open at the Division. Initial program coordinator position open for EMR programs. PT investigator position open as well.
- d) BLSO project with Dartmouth pediatric program was a success, looking for additional funding to continue.
- e) 38 active investigations in compliance currently.

- f) SB 204- Requiring Trauma kits to be available in State owned buildings passed the House finance committee. SB 268 Allowing for prehospital treatment and transportation for operational canines, has passed both the Senate and House. This will be a prerequisite protocol. Working with veterinary professionals about waivers for treatment, and in NH this is a MAY treat operational canine situation not a SHALL treat canines unlike MA.
- g) HB 2 (the budget bill) was signed by the Governor. This will provide funding for more fire training instructors who can also help with EMS training. This also enables non-licensed providers to administer naloxone.
- h) Funding from ARPA to fully fund EMS education (including registration) for EMTs and AEMTs, with a stipend of \$1,000 after 6 months of affiliation. The Division would like to extend the wages to include 160 hours, currently it is 50% of wages lost up to four weeks. Volunteer departments are facing challenges for funding, despite the reimbursement.
- i) 264,000 activations last year for services. 99,000 did not generate a transport. However, the numbers will be skewed if more than one service is activated. 60,000 calls where aid was rendered, but no transport needed. Lift assists, diabetic care, and cardiac arrests are the major calls that may not need a transport. The State needs to focus on readiness for reimbursement.

4) SUBCOMMITTEE & TOPIC REPORTS

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim

- The data working group had met on June 14th. The data dictionary is complete and will be sent for review soon.
- Walter is gathering data for under/over triage in the State. Under triage is 5% and over triage is 80% using the Cribari grid. A discussion was had on getting cleaner data and adding other factors into the data collection.

Item 2. Education Subcommittee- Vacant

- Chief Romanello stated that the Division is working on a Statewide EMS Conference for 2024.

Item 3. Pre-Hospital Subcommittee- Joel Coelho

- Introduced Dr. Anton, a surgery resident at Dartmouth, who is doing work with trauma data. The committee is working on education on transport and efficacy of existing programs. Air medical is still being licensed throughout the state in an ongoing process.

Item 4. Coordinating Board Report- Justin Romanello

- Protocols were approved in May. The board discussed the need to make rules a top priority with Commissioners office.

Item 5. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco

- Reviewed protocols in May. Air medical transport, neurologic, cardiac arrest saw some changes. Crime scene protocol was reviewed, and changes were added, such as avoiding cutting clothing and not labeling wounds as entry or exit if applicable. Surgical cricothyrotomy requirements were moved from prerequisite to standard. Discussion about subcutaneous cricothyrotomy was had. Dr. Tim Fisher gave a presentation about emergency childbirth that was well received.

Item 6. Injury Prevention Report- Jim Esdon

- Nothing to report.

Item 7. Rehabilitation Report- Matthew Petrin

- Nothing to report.

Item 8. Medical Examiner Report- Jonathan Snow

- Nothing to report.

Item 9. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Eric Martin

- Meeting was held earlier in the morning. ACS for level 3 starts in 2026. Level 4 is seen as an entry to the system, but will have a different set of requirements for this level that is attainable for a smaller institution.
- Pediatric designations are separate in NH, institutions seem ok with removing special designation and keeping the trauma designation levels in place.
- Vote: A motion was made (Martin/Kromer) that the TMRC supports the removal of a separate pediatric designation in January 2026 with the onset of the American College of Surgeons taking over verifications. All in favor. None opposed.

5.) OLD BUSINESS

6.) NEW BUSINESS

7.) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Discussion of national standard for trauma triage. Destination wording should be less confusing for providers.
- **Vote: A motion was made (Martin/Kromer) to recommend the protocol subcommittee adjust the language for transportation destination to better reflect the equal trauma status for level 1 and level 2 hospitals. All in favor. None opposed.**
- Antibiotics for open fractures was discussed.
- **Vote: A motion was made (Coelho/Martin) that there is not enough data for the TMRC to make a recommendation. One against. One abstention. Motion Passed.**

8.) ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion made (Maggio/Patterson) to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed.**

Next meeting is August 16, 2023

Respectfully Submitted by Crystal Tuttle