

TRAUMA MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TMRC)

MEETING MINUTES – (APPROVED)

December 16, 2020

Via Teleconference

Quorum: 9 members required (currently 17 positions on the TMRC)

Members Present:

Eric Martin (Chair), Jonathan Snow (Vice Chair), Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, James Beaudoin, Kaveer Chatoorgoon (late), Alan Flanigan, Mark Kromer, Peter Hedberg, Ryan Hickey, Tony Maggio, Neil Moore, Lisa Patterson, Stacey Savage, Scott Schuler, Thomas Trimarco and Jennifer Weymouth (16)

Members Absent:

Brett Sweeney (1)

Bureau Staff:

Director Deborah Pendergast, Bureau Chief Justin Romanello, EMS Medical Director – Joey Scollan, Captain Vicki Blanchard, Walter Trachim and Hayley O’Brien (5)

Public Members were in attendance.

NOTE: Changes in the order of the agenda are addressed in bold red.

I. Call to Order

Item 1: Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:35AM by Chair Martin.

Chair Martin read the “Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-To-Know Law during the State of Emergency” and then Hayley did a rollcall attendance to determine attendance.

Item 2: Approval of NON-PUBLIC minutes - not needed at this meeting

Item 3: Approval of minutes

A motion was made (Maggio/Bizarro-Thunberg) – to approve the minutes as written from the October 21, 2020 meeting, passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Bizarro-Thunberg	Yes
Beaudoin	Yes
Chatoorgoon	Yes
Flanigan	Yes
Kromer	Yes
Hedberg	Yes
Hickey	Yes

Maggio	Yes
Martin	Yes
Moore	Yes
Patterson	Yes
Savage	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Snow	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Weymouth	Yes

Item 4: Membership

Tony Maggio has been reappointed, Stacey Savage has submitted her nomination letter, Ryan Hickey is not requesting reappointment, a new representative from PFFNH is in the works and Chair Martin will be sending Hayley a reappointment letter.

II. Bureau Report

Item 1: Division Items of Interest - Reported by Director Pendergast & Chief Romanello

- Chief Nick Mercuri will be retiring from the Division on December 24th.
- Currently in a bid process for a new aerial truck for the Division. 2 bids have been received, but they did not meet the specs of what was put out.
- The boiler project in the dormitory building is almost complete.
- Wrapping up fall semester programs, 14 firefighter recruits were graduated.
- In the Division’s 5th week of the FROST program, have tested over 200 people so far. The Division now has the ability to test first responders weekly, instead of monthly. 100 agencies are participating in this program.
- We are still the host site for the Governor’s press conferences. Some full time and part time staff are still teleworking.
- Continuing to assess the daily count of Covid numbers.
- Distribution of the second order of electrostatic sprayers is in process. Agencies will need to purchase tablets to make the solution for the sprayers once the tablets given have been exhausted.
- Vaccination allocation discussion today to determine what role first responders will play in the vaccinator process.
- Complacency is still a heavy issue. A reminder that as of July, an emergency protocol is in place for a minimum level of PPE must be worn for all EMS calls. The Bureau is reviewing all cases that have come in from a compliance perspective. The Division is encouraging the local entities to deal with complacency issues at a local level as well.
- November 1st, the 8.0 Protocols were mandated.
- The old databases have been shut off and we are migrating all the data and information to the new user management system. Processing licenses and certifications slower than normal due to this limited access. The new system will be used internally only at first.

Item 2: TEMSIS Data report - Reported by Walter Trachim

- Data working group met yesterday.

- Continuing to match up the data dictionary with the National Trauma Data Standards as close as possible. Walter will send out the updated data dictionary for review once more updates have been completed.
- More updates to come for the February TMRC meeting.

III. Work Group and Topic Reports

Item 8: Medical Examiner Report - Reported by Jon Snow

- Still looking for a 3rd pathologist.
- Heavy case load currently. Covid being a natural death is not reportable to the Medical Examiner's Office, but a lot of people are still reporting them since they think they need too.
- Participating in a surveillance program where all decedents, not over 72 hours that happen where they have jurisdiction over are being swabbed for Covid. This number is very low for a positivity rate. Only accepting a case if it appears natural in their jurisdiction if documentation of flu like symptoms.
- Mental health issues are up right now. No statistics at this time for total number of suicide rates pre-covid and during covid, but once 2020 is closed out, Jon will try to gather those numbers for the 2019 and 2020 years as soon as the data is available. Jon is unsure if the information will be shareable, since suicide is only documented if it was mentioned.
- Chair Martin asked if there was a trend in trauma deaths such as motor vehicle accidents or ATV deaths the past couple of years. Jon said as soon as 2020 is closed out, he can gather the information for this. Information will be sent out by Hayley if the data is given prior to the February TMRC meeting.
- Jon had a discussion with a law enforcement agency that was in contact with the division of vital records, they are tracking what individuals did for a job and looking at trends between suicide and their career. Trying to see if a trend can be seen with this.
- Funerals were waiting on guidance about precautions and embalming remains, once guidance was out, it was too late to track, but evidence did show that the transmission from a decedent is extremely low.

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-Committee - Reported by Walter Trachim

- Trying to finish it up to send it up for review. Updating changes with ACS, but ran into a data dumping issue. This is ongoing.

Item 2: Education Sub-Committee - Reported by Alia Hayes

- An RTTDC course was assigned to run at Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital/Whitefield Conference Center January 5th, but with an up rise in covid cases, it may potentially be postponed as these courses cannot be done remotely.
- An additional hospital affiliated with DHMC expressed interest as well and was directed to make contact with Chair Martin. This provider did make contact with Dr. Martin.
- Cottage Hospital's level 4 review is upcoming and their CEO is leaving in the New Year.
- Fall of 2021 conference planning in person is still unknown at this time.

Item 3: Pre-Hospital sub-committee - Reported by Ryan Hickey

- This group did not meet prior to the TMRC meeting.
- Working on a data collection project looking at field triage and transport decisions with prehospital providers.
- Ryan will not be seeking reappointment after February, PFFNH is seeking a new representative.
- A meeting before the February TMRC meeting is scheduled to take place to appoint a new Chair and co-chair.

Item 4: Coordinating Board report – Reported by Scott Schuler

The meeting was held telephonically on November 19, 2020 at 1:00PM.

- Recommendations came forth from the Medical Control Board to assist in managing the rules. The recommendations will be acted upon at the next meeting in January.
- Discussion of the current covid situation.
- Here is the link for the minutes:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/coordinating/cbminutes.html>

Item 5: Medical Control Board report - Reported by Tom Trimarco

The meeting was held telephonically on November 19, 2020 at 9:00AM.

- Normal reports out.
- Discussion about the FROST program, electrostatic sprayers, maximum quantities of control substances change and Ketamine pain dose in a transcutaneous patient.
- Motions were made and approved regarding the recommendations in the rules. These recommendations were presented to the Coordinating Board.
- Here is the link for the minutes:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

Item 6: Injury Prevention Report – Reported by Deb Samaha

- Deb is retiring (Congratulations and thank you for all your efforts!) James Esdon will be the representative moving forward.
- See attached detailed report.
- Injury remains the leading cause of death for NH youth. Number 1 was opioid poisoning, motor vehicle, and off highway recreational vehicles.
- NH Fish & Game presented concerns about ice this winter due to individuals not being able to do much else. Anticipating an increase in rescues and injuries.
- Annual suicide data report came out in November on the NAMI website. Patrick Roberts at NAMI can answer questions about trends. They reported not seeing the anticipated rise as they thought.

Item 7: Rehabilitation Report – Reported by Matthew Petrin

- Trend with tele rehab visits for PT and OT was set to sunset December 31st, but has been extended through 2021. Some hospitals have embraced it, some haven't started.
- Speech therapy has shown success through tele rehab. Standard PPE usage is tricky with this. Aerosolizing procedures and advanced PPE to be used.

- CMS payment cuts have come through, a house bill is supposed to put a stay of execution on this. Therapy is included within these cuts. About a 9% cut overall for therapy reimbursement from Medicare. Potential adverse effect on access to rehabilitation.

IV. Old Business

Nothing on the agenda to discuss.

V. New Business

Nothing on the agenda to discuss.

VI. Hospital Designation Sub-Committee – Reported by Chair Martin

- Discussed looking towards 2021 and reviews that were missed in 2020.
- Create a rough draft who can participate in those reviews. 6 reviews for the upcoming year.
- Challenges with obtaining new reviewers. Lots of work, but working in this direction.
- Any interested volunteers, please reach out to Walter Trachim.
- These meetings are open to everybody.

Item 1. Public Report – None

Item 2. Non-Public Session – None

VII. Public Comment

- Adam Rembisz expressed concerns that the Board strays from the main topics that need to be discussed here involving trauma. Covid is surging in the State and beds are full everywhere. He appreciated the Bureau report, but questioned the relevance about the Divisions update regarding the ladder truck funding. He further reiterated the Board should be discussing how to better the trauma system.
- Chair Martin responded the above statement was fair and as his understanding, certain rules need to be followed for the Board, reports are helpful and important and the Board falls under the Division. Chair Martin was in agreeance about the TMRC's mission and it is important we maintain following it at each meeting. It is important to look back at the end of the year and see what direction we are moving towards.
Chair Martin read the rules on the Division's website and also the law pertaining to the Board being overseen by the Division.

VIII. Topics ad Libitum and Adjournment

- Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg commented on the strategic plan discussion about how to engage the hospitals more. This is still in the works, covid has presented many challenges and the timing is exactly right, but we are working through the challenges and it has improved immensely since the start.

- With the covid surge since Thanksgiving. A major increase in hospitalizations has been recognized. Over 280 covid positive hospitalized patients in almost all the hospitals. Several weeks ago, a daily huddle has occurred to discuss status such as hospitals needing help, transferring patients or anything they need as a clinical perspective. 4 regions are involved in this discussion. Looking at additional ways to assist them.

A motion was made (Martin/Maggio) – to adjourn the TMRC meeting at 10:30AM; passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Reminder – Februariu 17, 2021 | 9:30 – 11:00AM

(Notes prepared by Hayley O'Brien, Administrative Assistant I)