

TRAUMA MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TMRC)

MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2019

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Classrooms 5 & 6, Dormitory Building
98 Smokey Bear Boulevard
Concord, NH 03301

Members Present:

Eric Martin (Chair), Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, Peter Hedberg, Ryan Hickey, Tony Maggio, Neil Moore, Lisa Patterson, Stacey Savage, Scott Schuler and Tom Trimarco **(10)**

Members Absent:

Alan Flanigan, Ryan Ridley, Mark Shapiro, Jonathan Snow and Jennifer Weymouth **(5)**

Bureau Staff:

Director Deborah Pendergast, Bureau Chief Justin Romanello, Vicki Blanchard and Hayley O'Brien **(4)**

Guests:

Leslie Burke, Katie Hartford, Alia Hayes, Kyle Madigan, Matthew Petrin, Adam Rembisz, Gary Ringling, Jennifer Roach, Debra Samaha, Anna Sessa, Sherie Weber, Gina Wuertzer and Jess Wyman **(13)**

NOTE: "Action items" are in bold red.

I. Call to Order

Item 1: Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:35AM by Chair Martin and introductions were done.

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

Item 3: Approval of minutes

A motion was made (Maggio/Moore) – to approve the minutes as written from the October 16, 2019 meeting, passed unanimously.

Item 4: Membership

All members are aware of their expiration dates.

II. Bureau Report

Item 1: Division Items of Interest (Director Pendergast and Chief Romanello)

➤ **Budget;**

The State Medical Director position will be part time within the Division. Waiting on one final step with Human Resources to approve this. Same job description with limited hours. The Division is looking forward to this coming together and will pass along more information as it is received.

➤ **Legislation;**

- Two pieces of Legislation coming forward for the Seatbelt Coalition. Looking amend the current legislation and pass this as a secondary legislation. Meaning an individual over 18 is required to wear a seatbelt, but they will not be stopped initially for not wearing a seatbelt. They can only be stopped for not wearing a seatbelt as a secondary reason. Anytime after January 8th the session will open to testify this legislation. If anybody is interested in testifying, the Division will pass along the hearing dates once we are made aware of them. This could be short notice, but the Division would appreciate support from the Board with this legislation. In the meantime;

A motion was made (Maggio/Hickey) – to have a letter written by Chair Martin submitted to the Governor’s Office on behalf of the TMRC Board supporting this new legislation; passed unanimously.

➤ **EMS Rules;**

- Unit licenses expire December 31st. The Division is still shorthanded for licensing being down a couple people. Please be patient with licensing while the Division is working through this.

➤ **EMS Training Section;**

- In late winter, the Division will be doing a First Responder Certification Program that will be held at the North Country Training Facility in Bethlehem.
- Moving forward with repurposing one of the Divisions vacant positions to become an EMS Education Coordinator.
- LRCC has reached out to the Bureau in regards to a vacant position for an EMS Instructor Coordinator for all of their EMT programs, if interested contact Director Pendergast for more information.
- Surveys have been completed with Rural Health.

➤ **New Hires;**

- Received approval and the job posting is internal for State employees for the Trauma Coordinator Position until December 23rd. If no candidates are selected, the job posting will go external.
- Moving forward with repurposing one of the Divisions vacant positions to become an EMS Education Coordinator.
- In the process of interviewing for the part time Data Management Position.
- Hired a full time Records Management Coordinator on December 6th.

Item 2: TEMSIS Data report (Chair Martin reporting)

- Trauma Program managers and registrars have been meeting with the data summit that Gerry had established in the past. This has been very helpful and hopeful that this process can continue to move forward.

- Thoughts aroused about having a registry workgroup and meetings to occur more regular instead of annually to ensure the trauma registry data is valid, consistent, and reproducible.

Captain Blanchard will put out a poll to all the Program Managers to pick a date in February for this meeting to occur relatively close to the TMRC meeting.

III. Sub-committee and Topic Reports

Item 1: Process Improvement Sub-Committee (Chair Martin reporting)

Sub-Committee has not been meeting due to the difficulty of meeting in person and the limited data that has been received. This has been put on hold.

Item 2: Education Sub-Committee

Meetings are held after the TMRC meetings.

Nothing to report, having a discussion about what the next steps will be.

Item 3: Pre-Hospital sub-committee (Ryan Hickey reporting)

- Meeting was not held before the TMRC meeting. The next meeting will be in February, before the TMRC meeting.
- Going forward, the project looking ahead is using the data that is available to them and looking at how good of a job EMS providers are doing as far as accurately triaging and taking the appropriate transportation destination for trauma patients. Also, looking at air transport, is there an over triage issue, under triage issue, is everything fine? Following data and reviewing it. Identifying any educational opportunities and the best way to educate.
- AEMT usage data that was being gathered from July to January is still being worked on with hopes of this data being available for the February meeting.

Item 4: Coordinating Board report (Scott Schuler reporting)

- The meeting was held on November 21, 2019 at 1:00PM.
- Most of the meeting was a presentation of the EMS Instructor Coordinator changes.
- A vote will be made at the next meeting on January 30, 2020 for the Chair position. Interested parties are; Chad Miller, Mike Newhall, Jeremy LaPlante and David Tauber. Please let Scott Schuler know of any thoughts or concerns with any of the interested candidates.
- Next meeting is January 30, 2020 to accommodate for the 60 day public comment period.
- See minutes:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/coordinating/cbminutes.html>

Item 5: Medical Control Board report (Tom Trimarco reporting)

- The meeting was held on November 21, 2019 at 9:00AM.
- Normal report outs.
- Last review of the protocols, a few changes were made and they were approved. There is a 60 day public comment with 2 public hearings scheduled after this TMRC meeting.
- The next MCB meeting is not in conjunction with the CB meeting due to the 60 day public comment period. The next MCB meeting will be on January 16, 2020.

- See minutes:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

Item 6: Injury Prevention Report (Debra Samaha reporting) **(See attachments)**

- June 3 – Dale Jr. Safe Kids 301 at NH Motor Speedway.
- Safe and active grant is open now. Hospitals can partner with their community Fire, EMS and Police to put together events.
- 218 trained child passenger safety technicians in the State of NH.
- Working with NH Fish & Game to amend the legislation about requiring children to be restrained on UTV's in car seats due to safety concerns. They are mandating an approved DOT helmet must be worn.
- Statewide teen seatbelt challenge on April 10, 2020. Asking to encourage high schools in your surrounding hospital areas to participate.
- New NH distracted driving taskforce that has come about and created a new partnership with insurance departments.
- New child fatalities review team that has been legislated. Every December a report will be issued, next year this report will be shared with the TMRC Board.

Item 7: Rehabilitation Report (Matthew Petrin reporting)

- To qualify for SNF there is a 3 day acute care requirement. Meaning the patient has to be there for 3 acute days for stay and a day of discharge and observation days do not count as a day. If patients do not have this qualifying 3 day stay, they are being billed for the entirety of the rehab stay completely.
- Between 2012 and 2017, observation/outpatient stays have gone up 19.7%. Outpatient cases within the hospitals has increased 43% and inpatient cases have decreased by 19%. Inpatient surgeries have decreased by 23%.
- The Medicare Chief, Seema Verma, has made statements that the way the skilled nursing rules are written right now, they are not very functional right now. She has made public statements that things need to change.
- Medicare pays 1/3 less for an outpatient/observation stay than they would an acute stay.
- A lawsuit was filed against the Federal Government back in 2011 and has come to trial now. Federal Government could potentially have to reimburse 1.3 million Medicare beneficiaries.
- Possible legislation that would remove the 3 day stay rule or allowing observation days to count toward the 3 day stay.
- National collected data, but Matthew Petrin will attempt to gather NH numbers to present.

A motion was made (Hedberg/Martin) – to have a letter written by Matthew Petrin on behalf of the TMRC Board and presented at the next TMRC meeting in February to then submit to the State Legislatures; passed unanimously.

Item 8: Medical Examiner Report (Jon Snow absent)

Nothing to report.

IV. Old Business – Strategic Plan (Chair Martin presenting) (See attachment)

- Chair Martin shared a presentation for the future strategic plan of the TMRC Board.
- Future direction;
 - ACS verification process for Level 3 hospitals
 - Create a Level 4 Trauma Ready Designation
 - Require all hospitals to submit data to the State Trauma Registry
- A discussion ensued about all 3 direction goals. Director Pendergast clarified the goal is to share this vision and gather feedback of whether or not this is a good move in the right direction. With limited resources of people to do the reviews, what can be done to fix this in the short-term to not make the system go away.
- Chief Romanello mentioned if the consensus from the TMRC is to move in this direction, the next step would be bringing this to the Coordinating Board and the Commissioner. Speaking with hospitals and getting the stakeholders involved would also occur.
- Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg mentioned that she will bring this to the hospitals, senior leaders and CEO's to see where they stand with this.

V. New Business

Item 1. 2020 TMRC Meeting Schedule

A motion was made (Schuler/Bizarro-Thunberg) – to approve the 2020 TMRC meeting schedule as written; passed unanimously.

Item 2. 2020 RSA 15-A Form

- Please submit your 2020 RSA 15-A form to the Secretary of State by the deadline of Friday, January 17, 2020. All members have been made aware of this process and the deadline by email on December 4, 2019. If members chose to submit on their own, please notify Hayley O'Brien that you have done this. If choosing to submit through Hayley, please send in your form prior to January 17, 2020 to ensure your form is included in the mailing. If this deadline is missed, it will be up to the members to submit this form on their own.

VI. Hospital Designation Sub-Committee

Item 1. Public Report – *Martin*

Nothing to report.

Item 2. Non-Public Session – (none)

VII. Public Comment – (none)

VIII. Next Meeting and Adjournment – February 19, 2020 | 9:30 – 11:30AM

A motion was made (Schuler/Hickey) – to adjourn the TMRC meeting at 11:29 AM, passed unanimously.

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