

KY Trauma Advisory Committee
GENERAL Committee MEETING
April 16, 2024 (Virtual)
3 PM – Virtual



Minutes

The meeting was opened by Dr. Richard Cales, Chair. There was attendance taken, and guests participating in the call were identified.

Minutes from the last Full Meeting on February 20th, and the March 19th Steering Committee meeting had been distributed by email with the meeting announcement for review/comment. There were no changes noted, so the minutes will stand approved as distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach/Public Education: Nothing reported, other than work with potential sponsors on trauma legislation.

Potential 2024 Legislation: Mr. Bartlett referenced the bills listed in the March 19th minutes to provide an update on legislation.

- **SB 177 & HB 484** – “Super Speeder” Bill, which was sponsored by Senator Steve Meredith, never made it out of the Senate committee it had been assigned to. HB 484, called the “EMS Education Grant Program” but with language to help set-up additional EMS Training and Education Institutions (TEI), and provide assistance for both the ambulance services and student to attend Paramedic training, made it through the House, but without any funding. When it got to the Senate side it was assigned to the Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection Committee, where Senator Meredith added the Super Speeder and other provisions of SB 177 on through a Senate Committee Substitute (SCS-1). The modified bill passed the Senate, but the House did not concur; so it was returned to the Senate where SCS-1 was deleted **allowing the original bill to pass**. Once signed by the Governor the bill will create for the KY Board of EMS to build on as they can identify potential funding from other sources, or future legislation.
- **HB 57** – **Passed** both chambers and was signed by the Governor on April 5th. It will remove the classification of ambulance services from existing law and move the process to KBEMS regulations. The bill also facilitates EMS personnel reciprocity with other states. It has reportedly triggered an internal process to review EMS regulations going forward. There was some discussion about the potential impact on hospitals with ambulances to help facilitate interfacility transfers, and this may be one of the areas reviewed. In the meantime, Morgan Scaggs offered that the current staffing regulation for ground ambulances can be found in Kentucky Administrative Regulation: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/202/007/560/>
- **SB 280** – Is a bill that **passed** establishes a partnership between Level II Trauma Centers (Primarily Pikeville Medical Center) and university residency teaching programs. It will facilitate reimbursements from certain payors to help support these teaching programs.
- **SB 2** (School Guardian Program), which would have expanded persons who could serve as school resource officers and require related preparedness and safety program planning, **passed into law without the Governor's signature**.

Related bills that did not pass include:

- **HB 85** (Mine EMT Requirements), **HB 185** (Coal County Paramedic Scholarships), **HB 192** (Work Zone Safety), **HB 416** (EMS Professions Foundation).

There was discussion about potentially working with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) about developing line-items in their regular budget in the future to support the trauma program, which technically belongs to the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) under the provisions of KY Revised Statute 211.494.

The other subject discussed briefly was the potential formation of a Legislative Sub-committee to look at future legislative needs, and to build a support network to help us going forward. KyTAC Officers, and Dr. Bernard were mentioned. Any other KyTAC members who would like to participate should let Chairman Cales know.

Potential Regulation Updates: Mr. Bartlett reported to the Committee that he has reached out to Deputy Public Health Commissioner Trish Okeson for an update on potential changes to the KyTAC Regulations. This process had to be paused while the General Assembly was in Session since regulations are run past a working interim committee for review and comment on their way to adoption. We are anticipating that work on preparing the changes for submission and review will now resume since the Session ended on Monday, April 15th.

As noted previously, the most significant change to the regulations will be the addition of the new National Pediatric Emergency Readiness standards that have been adopted by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma for Level I to III trauma centers, and was endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) in their “*Joint Policy Statement—Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department*” in 2009, the “*Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department*” joint statement in [Pediatrics published 2018](#), and a new joint policy statement titled “*Access to Optimal Emergency Care for Children*,” published in the May 2021 issue of [Pediatrics](#).

There were some other minor changes related to internet URL link references that had change or were no longer valid, trauma registry inclusion criteria/recommendations based on ICD-10, and substitution of a revised “Field Triage” document which is in the current Kentucky Trauma Hospital Resource Manual. That will likely be renamed when the regulation changes come out.

Data/Quality/PI & Registrar Updates: Julia Costich noted that there have been some discussions and meetings about the status of the software used for the Kentucky Trauma Data Bank (KTDB). This followed some struggles KIPRC had getting data finalized for the **Kentucky Trauma Data Bank 2022 Annual Report** before its final release in December. [To download a copy from the KIPRC website [click here](#).] There may be some recommendations coming in the future about how to proceed given that the cost of the associated software may exceed the available grant funding which supports it. Whatever is done will continue to be National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB) compliant.

We also shared with the group that one of our large hospital systems is looking at developing their own registry program, which will be available to their facilities both inside and outside the state, at some point in the future. Their registry may be able to handle not only trauma, but other registry-like programs including things like stroke and STEMI, and there is a chance they may make it available to states at some point in the future.

AIS-2015: It was mentioned that as a pre-course offering October 15 & 16, before the *2024 KY Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium* which will be at the Galt House in Louisville, there will be an [Abbreviated Injury Scale \(AIS©\) 2015 Coding Course](#) due to the upcoming transition to the AIS 2015 standard of Injury Severity Scoring (ISS). The KHREF Educational Funds will support reduced course costs (*\$250 versus the normal \$750*) **if we can get enough students registered to hold the program!** This was highlighted because there is a minimum number of students required, and as of this meeting we are still a little shy of that goal. The AIS training is required for Level-I, II and III facilities that are verified by the American College of Surgeons, and it is a recommended option for Level-IV facilities since it will help them making decisions about “what” and “how” to put data into their registry and Process Improvement (PI) programs. Beginning with admissions as of January 1, 2025, all AIS coding will be done using the 2015 version of the coding book. This course will cover how to code, and the changes that this version brings. So, facilities that have new personnel working in this area, potentially including new Trauma Program Managers and Trauma Registrars/Data Analysts, are encouraged to consider sending staff who might benefit from the training. For more information on the upcoming AIS 2015 course, including how to register, reach out to Tracie Burchette, Trauma Outreach and Education Coordinator at the University of Louisville Trauma Institute [tracie.burchett@uoflhealth.org]. There was additional information emailed to the trauma center contacts.

Education Committee: KyTAC’s Educational Fund is providing \$2,246 to help with an upcoming Rural Trauma Team Development (RTTDC) course at ARH Hazard in the Eastern KY HCC region on April 22nd. The course is coordinated by Pikeville Medical Center, and questions can be address to Angie Reed at Pikeville Medical Center [Angie.Reed@pikevillehospital.org].

As noted above, the Education Fund is also subsidizing the AIS15 course to make the educational opportunity more affordable for trauma centers.

With regards to the **2024 Kentucky Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium in October** Stephanie Upton (UofL Trauma Institute) mentioned that they are interested in having potential projects, posters or programs that facilities would like to share during the Symposium. To discuss this, reach out to her at stefanup@ulh.org.

EMS for Children Programs: Morgan Scaggs reported that the **8th Annual KY Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition (KPECC) Meeting** on March 6th was very well attended. There is some consideration being given to an expansion of the event to include some pre-conference educational offerings before the 9th KPECC program next year. She also noted that they are preparing for two additional Pediatric Ready site evaluations at Baptist Hardin and Bluegrass Community hospitals. There are eleven (11) facilities that have been evaluated to date.

Morgan spoke about the National **Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP)**, which is an initiative to improve prehospital care for acutely ill and injured children across the United States. The PPRP is led by the federal Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program with support from more than [30 national organizations and experts](#). The PPRP empowers EMS and fire-rescue agencies to become “pediatric ready,” or prepared to provide high-quality care for children in accordance with [national recommendations](#). This program has recently completed initial field testing, and the official assessment will [launch on Wednesday, May 1](#). There is a checklist and Toolkit to help EMS services identify and

address gaps, and more information about the program on the EMSC Improvement Center website [<https://emscimprovement.center/domains/prehospital-care/prehospital-pediatric-readiness/>]. The assessment surveys will eventually be scored, like hospitals were, for their pediatric readiness. If there are questions about this program please contact Morgan Scaggs, the KY EMSC Administrator at morgan.scaggs@ky.gov. [Note that there will be a [PPRP briefing webinar](#) for EMS programs on April 23rd at 1 PM EDT.]

Verification Committee: Mr. Bartlett reported on behalf of Committee Chair Kim Denzik that a Level-IV verification site visit had been conducted at **Owensboro Twin Lakes Regional Medical Center** on March 12th. This was considered as an “initial” verification site visit since they were a Level-IV trauma center at one time but lost it during COVID. So, the facility, with a number of new staff in key roles, was essentially starting over. The only deficiency noted was the educational credential for one of the contracted/assigned Emergency Department physicians. The individual was scheduled for an ATLS course in mid-April, but as of this time that is an open subject. So in the meantime, it was the recommendation that Owensboro Twin Lakes Regional Medical Center be granted a Provisional Designation as a Level-IV Trauma Center for no more than one-year, with a further recommendation that if this matter is resolved sooner (either by submitting a copy of the ATLS certification or removal of the physician from the active roster) then OTLRMC be granted a full three-year designation status. **There were no objections voiced to this recommendation.**

With regards to **ARH Middlesboro Hospital**, a Level-IV Trauma Center which is on a one-year provisional designation as the result of some Process Improvement program findings, Sandy Tackett was a member of the original verification site visit team. She was asked to follow-up with a focused review of the specific targeted areas with the Trauma Program Manager and members of the facility’s trauma team. Sandy reported that she reviewed their new Process Improvement document, and it was much improved. This included documentation on their “Loop Closure” process. She also reviewed the available transfer agreements which had been updated, and some converted to “system” and auto-renewing status. This review was accomplished on March 7, 2024, and her recommendation is that they be granted the remainder of their three-year Level-IV Trauma Center Designation status. **There were no objections voiced to this recommendation.**

Mr. Bartlett noted that we have received a Letter of Intent from **St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead** that they are starting the process towards a Level-IV Trauma Center, with the goal of eventually becoming a Level-III Trauma Center. They are working to get a trauma registry set-up now, so it is anticipated that we may be looking for a request for Site Verification in early 2025.

Old Business: There were no Old Business items brought to the floor.

New Business:

1) Ideas for Trauma Center Outreach and Public Education programs:

- a. April includes:
 - i. April 14-20 is **National Telecommunicator Week**
 - ii. April 21-27 is National **Playground Safety Week**
- b. May includes:
 - i. National **Trauma Awareness Month** (ATS)
 - ii. National **Stop the Bleed** Month (May 23rd is National **Stop the Bleed** day)
 - iii. National **EMS Week**, May 19-25; and National **Police Week**, May 12-18
 - iv. National **Bike Safety** Month
 - v. National **Safe Boating** Month
- c. June includes:
 - i. **National Safety Month**
 - ii. **Safe Kids** Week and Child Safety Week, June 3-9
- d. July is National **Fireworks Safety** Month

2) There was no other New Business to bring before the group.

Future meetings:

- a. Steering Committee – May 21 @ 3 PM ET (Virtual)
- b. General Meeting – June 18 @ 3 PM ET (Virtual)

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



Richard Bartlett, Secretary
KY Trauma Advisory Committee

KyTAC Appointed Members in attendance on April 16, 2024 for KyTAC Meeting:

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Mr.	Richard	Bartlett (3)	MEd	KY Hospital Association	KY Hospital Association
Dr.	Richard	Cales (1)	MD	Emergency Physician	At-Large
Dr.	Julia	Costich (2)	JD, PhD	KIPRC	Injury Prevention Programs
Mr.	Chase	Deaton		KY Trans Cab. Incident Mgmt.	KY Transportation Cab.
Dr.	Jacob	Higgins	RN	University of Kentucky	KY Board of Nursing
Mr.	Christopher	Lokits	EMT-P	Louisville Metro EMS	KY Board of EMS
Ms.	Morgan	Scaggs	EMT-P	KY EMS for Children Program	Pediatric trauma
Dr.	Steven	Vallance	MD	Frankfort Reg. Med. Center	Level-III Trauma Centers
Ms.	Ellen	Williams	RN	KY Children's/UK Healthcare	Level-I Pediatric Trauma Ctr

(1)=Chair; (2)=Vice Chair; (3)=Secretary

KyTAC Appointed Members absent on April 16, 2024:

Title	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Organization	Representative for
Dr.	William	Barnes	MD	Livingston Hospital	KY Medical Association
Dr.	Andrew	Bernard	MD	UK Healthcare	UK Level-I Trauma Center
Dr.	Tony	Decker	MD	Owensboro Health Hospital	ACS, KY COT
Dr.	Mary	Fallat	MD	Norton Children's/LY EMS-C	KY Bd of Medical Licensure
Dr.	David	Foley	MD	Norton Children's Hospital	Level-I Ped. Trauma Center
Ms.	Fayette	Gauze	RN	Tug Valley ARH Hospital	Level-IV Trauma Centers
Ms.	Amber	Hamlin	RN	Nurse	At-Large
Dr.	Brian	Harbrecht	MD	UofL Hospital Dept surgery	UofL Level-I Trauma Center
Ms.	Patty	Howard	RN	UK HealthCare	Emergency Nurses Assoc.
Dr.	Karan	Shah	MD	Baptist Health	ACEP, KY Chapter
Mrs.	Sandy	Tackett	RN	Pikeville Medical Center	Level-II Trauma Center

Others on the call for the briefing:

Samantha Baker, UofL Hospital
 Kim Denzik, UofL Hospital
 Shay Hall, Highlands
 Scott Helle, UK Center for Rural Health
 Ben Hughes, RN, UK
 John Luttrell, RN, UofL Trauma Institute
 Renee McClure, RN, Rockcastle
 Mike Mixson, RN, Owensboro Health
 Candice Reynolds, RN, UK
 Melissa Roberts, Mercy Health
 Stephanie Upton, UofL