

## **ACT Meeting Minutes February 14, 2007**

**Attending:** Dr. Stephen Smith, Darlene Whitlock, Debra Pile, Roger John, Robert Waller, Kris Hill, Melissa Hungerford, Dennis Allin, Dr. Paul Harrison, Dick Morrissey, Eric Cook-Wiens, Rosanne Rutkowski, Kendra Tinsley.

**Absent:** Dr. Craig Concannon, Dr. Scott Sellers, Cathy Heikes, Robert Prewitt, Kerry McCue, Dennis Mauk, Pamela Kemp, Chris Way, Kimberla Nutting, Patricia Dowlin, Senator Susan Wagle, Senator David Haley

**Also attending:** Lois Towster, Liz Carlton, Dan Leong, Chip Wheelen

Dr. Harrison called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as written. [Click here for a link to the minutes from November 15, 2006.](#)

### **Program Update**

Rosanne began the program update with a brief note on changes in the agenda due to the absence of Bob Prewitt, who was not able to attend due to weather, and Dr. Howard Rodenberg, who was out sick.

Rosanne also spoke about the passing of ACT and NE RTC founding committee member, Elaine Becker, who died suddenly from a brain aneurism. A sympathy card was available for those in attendance to sign for her family.

In addition, Leanne Irsik resigned her position on the council. Leanne is moving to Kansas City and KHA has sent three nominations to the Governor's office. Rosanne will ask the NEKRTC to provide three nominations for Elaine's replacement. In the legislature, Nancy Kirk and James Morrison are no longer in the position of ranking minority member and chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Geraldine Flaharty, Ranking Minority Member, and Brenda Landwehr, Chairperson, now fill those positions and have agreed to serve on the committee. Dr. Harrison and Rosanne are sending a joint letter welcoming them to the committee.

Included in the meeting packet is the most up-to-date member list. There are six positions coming up this term. Rosanne noted those members will need to contact their organizations and let them know if they wish to continue on the committee. These positions officially expire June 30<sup>th</sup> or until the Governor makes appointments.

In legislative news, at the time of the last meeting, the Trauma program was invited to participate in an interim hearing with the Judiciary committee. After the hearing the committee came out with their recommendations in a report. Included in the report were the recommendations that programs not affiliated with the judicial system be removed from receiving docket fee funds. At the recommendation of the Judiciary committee, SB 17 was introduced soon after the start of the 2007 legislative session.

Rosanne thanked all those who contacted their legislators regarding this bill. Dr. Harrison provided testimony on behalf of the ACT. Many on the committee contacted their legislator regarding this issue. Rosanne reported that the Judiciary Committee did work the bill earlier in the week. The committee recommended a balloon amendment to SB 17 which was included in the meeting material. The amendment requires programs funded through docket fee funds to comply with three requirements each year. Those requirements are: 1) provide a detailed explanation of how such moneys in the fund are being expended in the current fiscal year, 2) provide a detailed explanation of how such moneys will be expended in the next fiscal year; 3) provide justification for funding in order to continue to receive funding. The trauma program currently submits their budget to the legislature as part of the larger KDHE budget.

To Dr. Allin's inquiry about whether this was going to be a yearly budget battle, Rosanne indicated the percentage would remain the same in the bill. Rosanne also clarified that the trauma program funding is received come two sources, \$1 from city courts for moving violations and a percentage from all docket fees, not strictly moving violations. The funding from municipal courts is the smaller of the yearly budget (approx. \$280,000) with the docket fee funds providing approximately \$320,000.

Dr. Allin did speak with the chair of the Judiciary committee who stated he felt the trauma fund was a separate operation from the Department of Health, and should have very specific and separate accountability. Rosanne continued that it was reported that fee funded programs are not scrutinized as much as other funds and have previously received the money whether they were doing good or not. Rosanne reported that Senator Haley had asked if programs need to provide an annual report. Despite not doing so in the past, Rosanne felt we should consider doing so in the future. Dr. Harrison concluded by commending the effort of all of those on the committee who emailed, wrote letters and called their senators that went a long way in resurrecting the funding.

Dr. Allin advised the committee on Senate Bill 299. The bill came out of a meeting attended by Dr. Allin, Dr. Harrison and the insurance commissioner in reference to ground and air services not being compensated for their services. The insurance companies also met with the insurance commissioner. Dr. Allin chose Senator Emler to assist in the proposal of this bill due to his history with EMS and position on the Board of EMS. The bill requires "reimbursement for such services irrespective of whether the patient was transported to the closest medical care facility ... as long as the transportation was made pursuant to the written destination protocol." Robert Waller added that the decision is no longer proximity but medical protocol, and he believes the insurance companies will be agreeable to that.

In Rosanne's conversations with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, they indicated they will reimburse for transportation up to 500 miles but it needs to be by the least expensive medically necessary means. Dr. Allin stated if the requirement is for the cheapest, reimbursement might be difficult, as many service providers are not tiered in Kansas. This will particularly play a role if they are the first on the scene and have an all-paramedic service. Dr. Harrison clarified that the big issue is ground verses air transportation.

Additionally, Driving Force is responsible for getting a couple of bills introduced and Darlene Whitlock has time on the agenda for that discussion. One other bill, House Bill 2418, which KHA worked on, would amend the definition of "general hospital" and differentiate a

community hospital from a special hospital, ambulatory surgical center or recuperation center. The last piece of legislation Rosanne pointed to was the federal House Resolution 727. Senator Pat Roberts has introduced a companion bill on the senate side. As it stands, the language of the bill is good and it will just be a matter of getting the funding. Rosanne also pointed out a lot of the language is coming from the ACS green book. Dr. Harrison said the funding is targeting states starting a trauma system and those that are heavily rural. The last time our program received funds of \$40,000 and had to match them. Dr. Smith offered that the entire amount for the whole country in the last bill was between \$3-6million and they hope to have the same amount. Dr. Harrison stated the committee should write a letter to Senator Roberts, thanking him for his efforts and to encourage and support the bill. Rosanne advised we would be able to put that together for the committee to sign.

Also, Rosanne let the committee know Kendra has been working with the regional trauma councils to update the regional trauma plans and a lot of progress has been made on them thus far. Rosanne played the final version of the video produced by GIZMO Productions. There were extra copies of the DVD available for distribution and committee members are free to make copies of the video. Rosanne informed the committee they may utilize the video however they would like and to let us know how we can help.

### **ACS Consultation Project**

Dan Leong referred to the handout he made available at the meeting of the ACS Consultation Project Flow Chart in his presentation about the progress of that project. January 1<sup>st</sup> an email letter of invitation was sent to all Kansas hospitals and as of February 5<sup>th</sup> there were ten hospitals who signed a letter of intent. Those hospitals are: Edwards County Hospital, Coffey County Hospital, St. Francis Health Center, Labette County Medical Center, Hays Medical Center, Mt Carmel Regional Medical Center, Northeast Kansas Center for Health and Wellness, Hutchinson Hospital, Coffeyville Regional Medical Center, and Cloud County Health Center. There is currently \$80,000 encumbered for the consultation visits and the intent is to use the full amount, even if we don't end up with the full number of hospitals participating. The next step is for hospitals to fill out a pre-review questionnaire, application and letter of agreement. KDHE will review the applications and then KHA will return a signed letter of agreement to hospitals.

Melissa Hungerford advised the committee there are some who may back out of the process during the next steps, but this process can get them to see where they can improve trauma care. Dr. Harrison added that those hospitals that lack resources for Level III need to be advised of the future possibilities of Level IV verification and that there is a place for them. Dr. Smith concurred that at least half of those signed up have a very good chance of receiving verification and it is very encouraging. Melissa concluded it is never a waste of funds if we are improving care.

Rosanne noted that one possibility for any remaining funds would be to participate in the ACS State consultation project for which the costs are approximately \$40-45,000. Darlene Whitlock was very excited about the idea of the state consultation. Dr. Smith added it is a great program to bring doctors, EMS and administrative agencies together and evaluate the whole state. Dr. Harrison said the visit may be helpful in getting some of the things done we've been trying to get done legislatively.

## **Registry Update**

Eric Cook-Wiens updated the committee on the registry first by giving the latest third quarter submission percentages. He stated all of the regions have done a great job getting hospitals on board and only 3 hospitals have yet to report for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2006.. Four out of six regions are at 100% reporting, meeting their regional goals. Of the 123 trauma registry hospitals in Kansas, 54 hospitals report through the web. The reporting deadline for fourth quarter is March 1.

There has been a delay in the roll-out of the new version of Collector, CV4. The data entry screens, or “front end” have been finalized—with help from several facilities participating in a beta test. Digital Innovation recently discovered a problem with the “back end” of the database which causes the database to run too slowly on some computers. Trainings will be rescheduled when a timeline for fixing the problem is formalized. The Salina training will still take place as those currently signed up for it are all web based users.

The data reports for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2006 have been distributed. Eric has had several conversations with facilities that have begun to use the report. In many instances they discover data entry errors or misunderstandings which can be easily rectified. Overall, the response has been positive.

Several data slides have been prepared using Kansas Trauma Registry data to support testimony regarding HB 2163 which calls for a standard seatbelt law. The discussion included the rural/urban disparity in mortality and hospital discharge rates as well as data from the Kansas Department of Transportation indicating that road type is an important determinant of observed seatbelt usage. Data from the trauma registry show that Motor Vehicle Traffic is the largest external cause of severe injuries (ISS  $\geq$  16) and accounts for more hospital days and more days spent in the ICU than any other cause of injury. In the registry there is an association between belt use and age. Young drivers (15-24 years old) have the lowest seatbelt rate among seriously injured trauma patients and account for more of those injuries than any other age group.

Dr Allin revisited the topic of quarterly data reports by inquiring whether a region-based report has been developed. Eric indicated that he is interested in producing such report although it has not been developed yet. One option is to modify the current report slightly so that only regional and state data is included. Eric has interest in identifying new ways to look at regional data and indicated he would appreciate input from regional councils in developing a regional report that would be useful for monitoring regional performance. Melissa Hungerford added that a scorecard format to be shared with the committee and the regions would be a good option. Eric will continue to think about the best format and will begin developing a regional report.

## **Driving Force Recommendations**

Darlene Whitlock provided the committee with information regarding the Driving Force recommendations and the bills introduced in response to those recommendations. Darlene referred to the meeting packet materials and began by reminding people that the reason we were here was to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities; and with Driving Force, specifically motor vehicle crash fatalities. Multiple groups came together to make recommendations and the first two issues the group decided to handle are the primary seat belt law and graduated drivers licensing. Darlene encouraged committee members to have their representative groups become

supporters and to let Driving Force know if there were any recommendations that could not be supported.

The hearing before the House transportation committee was scheduled for 1:30 p.m. to discuss the primary seat belt bill and the hope is to get the bill in front of the full House. Darlene pointed to the document outlining the differences in the current graduated driver's licensing and the proposed legislation. Darlene corrected the reference to the bill as the primary seatbelt law, instead it is termed the standard seatbelt law, and it would increase the fine for failure to wear a seatbelt. Dr. Harrison pointed out that the federal government has withheld approximately \$11million in funding due to the state's lack of a standard seatbelt law. Darlene added that there was some perception on the Driving Force group that mentioning this withholding would be a negative thing; i.e. the federal government telling us what to do, but they have since changed their thinking on this. Darlene traveled throughout the state with Jim Hanni, from AAA, to meet with newspaper editors and raise awareness of the legislation prior to its introduction. For the most part, Darlene noted, they received a very receptive response.

Dr. Smith asked Darlene about the year two recommendation requiring health care professionals to report drivers impaired by alcohol or drug use to local law enforcement. He stated, while philosophically endorsing the idea, there may be some difficulties such as HIPPA violations, arbitrariness of profiling, elimination of opportunity for education about alcohol abuse and it may be counterproductive to patient care. Darlene advised she would take the information back to the committee.

### **Board of EMS report**

Robert Waller provided a brief report on the Board of EMS activities. KEMIS (Kansas Emergency Medical Information System) has submitted a high level plan to KITO (Kansas Information Technology Office). KITO sent the plan back with functional comments. The Board has never done this before and with an agency this size it has taken a little longer to fill out the report. Once that plan is approved by KITO, the Board will begin the process for hiring a project manager, selecting a vendor for data collection, and so on. NHTSA was previously scheduled to complete their comprehensive assessment on July 22-28, but the date has been updated to July 15-21. This is the assessment they usually do every ten years but the last one was completed in 1994 in Kansas. Robert would like them to look at EMS and what type of systems they need, which takes into account road condition, populations and many other factors. NHTSA puts all of these factors together and recommends the system needed.

Dr. Allin added the other issue would be to look at the previous NSTSA report and evaluate how far we've come. He indicated inter-service communication is one issue that has yet to be solved. Dick Morrissey conveyed that there has been a change in capacity in the state communications plan that will clearly enable links of communication that haven't been there before.

### **Regional Reports**

Rosanne indicated the reports from the regions were included in the meeting packet. [Click here to move to the Regional Reports](#). Kris Hill updated the committee on the trauma bracelet project and advised the process is going very slow. The SCKRTC were to meet on Thursday, February 15, 2007, to further discuss it.

## **Other Business**

Dr. Smith made an announcement about the Region 7 ACS Committee on Trauma is sponsoring a Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness course to be held December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The course size is limited to 40 and he encouraged everyone on the committee to sign up. Dr. Smith advised the course is not limited to physicians and that administrators would benefit in the discussions on planning a response to large-scale disasters.

Darlene Whitlock advised the committee the NE region is working on the performance improvement issue involving multiple CT scans. Outreach facilities think they need to do a CT prior to transferring a patient and often times the receiving facility can't access the films when the patient arrives and ends up repeating the procedure. Dr. Allin recommended the region involve radiology in their discussions. Insurance companies are also refusing to pay for multiple tests.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42.

**Northeast Kansas Regional Trauma Council  
Advisory Committee on Trauma Update  
February 14, 2007**

- **A PHTLS course was held at Coffey County EMS on November 16 and 17, 2006. Twelve participants attended the course.**
- **The committee is in the planning stages for a combined PHTLS Instructor and provider course. The NE surveyed all RTCs regarding interest in the instructor course and found several regions with instructor candidates willing to take the course.**
- **The acute care/rehabilitation sub-committee has been working on a survey of rehabilitation facilities in the region.**
- **An emergency medical dispatch survey was completed in follow up to training that has occurred over the past two years. Information will be included in the trauma plan update.**
- **An education/prevention survey was disseminated by the education/prevention sub-committee. The data will be used in the trauma plan update.**
- **The council has been working on their regional trauma plan update. The annual meeting has been scheduled on April 30, 2007 at St. Francis in Topeka.**

**North Central Kansas Regional Trauma Council  
Advisory Committee on Trauma Update  
February 14, 2007**

- **The RTC sponsored a PHTLS class on December 16 and 17, 2006 in Smith County (RTC funds).**
- **The committee has been working on the 2007 regional trauma plan update. (May 23, 2007 is the annual meeting).**
- **An emergency medical dispatch survey was completed in follow up to training that has occurred over the past two years. Information will be included in the trauma plan update.**

**Northwest Kansas Regional Trauma Council  
Advisory Committee on Trauma Update  
February 14, 2007**

- **Cheyenne County Hospital hosted a Rural Trauma Team Development Course on November 9, 2006. Twenty-six people from the hospital and surrounding hospitals attended.**
- **The Emergency Medical Dispatch survey was disseminated. Information will be used in the trauma plan update.**
- **The committee has been working on regional trauma system plan review and update. The annual meeting has been scheduled on May 8, 2007 at Hays Medical Center.**

**South Central Kansas Trauma Region  
Advisory Committee on Trauma Update  
February 14, 2007**

- **The Southern Regions will sponsor courses in Labette County (February 19-21, 2007), Woodson County (February 28, March 1 & 2, 2007), Hutchinson (March 8-10, 2007). A course was held in Wichita January 18-20, 2007.**
- **An EMD survey was mailed to all centers and information from the survey will be included in the trauma plan update. The survey is in follow up to the training that has occurred over the past two years.**
- **The education/prevention sub-committee completed a booster seat project. Booster seats were provided to all health departments in the region for distribution and education.**
- **The committee has been working on the regional trauma system plan update. The annual meeting has been scheduled on April 12, 2007.**

- The executive committee continues to work on a pilot project to track a patient through the trauma system. The committee has been considering use of triage tags currently in use in the region.

**Southeast Kansas Trauma Region  
Advisory Committee on Trauma Update  
February 14, 2007**

- **The Southern Regions will sponsor courses in Labette County (February 19-21, 2007), Woodson County (February 28, March 1 & 2, 2007), Hutchinson (March 8-10, 2007). A course was held in Wichita January 18-20, 2007.**
- **An EMD survey was mailed to all centers and information from the survey will be included in the trauma plan update. The survey is in follow up to the training that has occurred over the past two years.**
- **The committee has been working on the regional trauma system plan update. The annual meeting date will be announced.**

**Southwest Kansas Regional Trauma Council  
Advisory Committee on Trauma Update  
February 14, 2007**

- **The Southern Regions will sponsor courses in Labette County (February 19-21, 2007), Woodson County (February 28, March 1 & 2, 2007), Hutchinson (March 8-10, 2007). A course was held in Wichita January 18-20, 2007.**
- **An EMD survey was mailed to all centers and information from the survey will be included in the trauma plan update. The survey is in follow up to the training that has occurred over the past two years.**
- **The committee has been working on the regional trauma system plan update. The annual meeting will be held at Finney County EMS on June 6, 2007.**
- One hundred fifty booster seats were distributed through Finney County Sheriff and the Kansas Highway Patrol.
- The RTC donated 11 PHTLS books and 11 PALS books to the Finney County Community College EMT program. Students from throughout the region will benefit from the donation.
- Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital held an RTTDC course in January.
- Kearny County Hospital will hold a TNCC course on February 20 and 21, 2007. Several hospitals are expected to attend with over 20 people attending the course.
- The RTC purchased textbooks and assisted with instructor expenses for three PEPP (Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals) courses that started on Oct. 28-29, 2006 and were repeated on Nov. 11-12 and Dec. 2-3. Grant County EMS led the project. Thirty-one BLS and ten ALS providers were trained from eleven different agencies.