



## MINUTES

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & TRAUMA SYSTEM (EMSTS)

#### TRAUMA SYSTEM ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

MARCH 12, 2013 - 3:00 P.M.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Erin Breen, UNLV, Chairman	Senator Shirley Breeden
Dennis Nolan, Centennial Hills Hospital, Vice Chair	Melinda Case, RN, Sunrise Hospital
Gregg Fusto, RN, UMC	Gail Yedinak, UMC
Elizabeth Snavely, UMC	Carl Nelson, Public
Mary Ellen Britt, RN, Regional Trauma Coordinator	

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Kim Dokken, RN, St. Rose Siena	Kyle Kubovchik, Atkins Global
Blake Bradley, Outdoor Promotions	

#### SNHD STAFF PRESENT

Michelle Nath, Recording Secretary

#### CALL TO ORDER – NOTICE OF POSTING

The Trauma System Advocacy Committee convened in Conference Room 2-2A at SNHD, 330 S. Valley View Boulevard, on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. Erin Breen called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. and the Affidavit of Posting was noted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

#### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public are allowed to speak on action items after the Committee's discussion and prior to their vote. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes to address the Committee on the pending topic. No person may yield his or her time to another person. In those situations where large groups of people desire to address the Committee on the same matter, the Chair may request that those groups select only one or two speakers from the group to address the Committee on behalf of the group. Once the action item is closed, no additional public comment will be accepted. Seeing no one the Chair closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

#### **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Breen stated the Consent Agenda consisted of matters to be considered by the Trauma System Advocacy Committee (TSAC) that can be enacted by one motion. Any item may be discussed separately per Committee member request. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

Approve Minutes/Trauma System Advocacy Committee: 1/8/13

Chair Breen asked for approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting. *A motion was made by Carl Nelson to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Melinda Case, and carried unanimously by the Committee.*

### **III. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

#### **A. Discussion of Senate Bill No. 205 to Support the Trauma System**

Chair Breen explained that the bill draft request in support of the trauma system which was introduced by Senator Joyce Woodhouse was assigned Senate Bill No. 205. There was discussion regarding potential changes to the bill. However, it was noted that there's not sufficient time to send it back in draft form and have it re-introduced; therefore, any changes will be made as an amendment when the Senate Committee hears the original bill. Chair Breen asked Senator Breeden to address the amendments made to the proposed bill.

Senator Breeden noted that the Committee's comments were forwarded to Senator Woodhouse for feedback. She read through the list for the Committee as follows:

Section 2.1: Verbiage reads, ". . . the State Board of Health may adopt regulations as is necessary to carry out the provisions. . ." Senator Breeden noted that the word "may" is permissive language and should be replaced with "shall." In addition, she suggested they attach a specific timeframe for the Health Division to prepare their reports. Ms. Yedinak noted that the interfacility transfer bills include the language, "shall prepare an annual report."

Section 2.2: Replace "may" with "shall."

Section 2.2(a): Senator Breeden suggested they choose a name for the fund, such as "Trauma Registry Fund." Ms. Breen pointed out that Section 3.1 refers to "The Fund for the State Trauma Registry" as the fund created by the State Treasury; however, it doesn't state where the money is going to come from.

The dollar amount being requested to support the trauma registry is estimated at \$260,000. Ms. Yedinak commented that there may be push back regarding the Committee's recommendation to use money from the IAF (Indigent Accident Fund). Ms. Breen noted that the Governor mentioned in his State of the State speech that he would no longer sweep remaining IAF at the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Snively asked about the manpower needed to run the trauma registry. Ms. Britt replied it would consist of one full-time and two part-time positions. She has been advised the responsibility for the trauma registry is being shifted over to Pat Irwin at the State EMS Office. At present, he lacks the funding and personnel to manage the EMS database that is already his responsibility. Conceptually he is in support of assuming the responsibility for the trauma registry also, but he needs the appropriate resources in place. Ms. Britt stressed the importance of having strong support from the trauma centers, Medical Advisory Board, and other community partners at the SB205 Senate hearing. Ms. Breen recommended that they obtain letters of support. Ms. Snively suggested they bring documentation from the ACS' last system review related to the lack of a state trauma registry. Mr. Nelson suggested they obtain signatures on a letter from the Fire Chief's Committee and perhaps designate one of them to show support at the hearing. Ms. Britt offered to send out letters containing talking points to those in support, and ask that they prepare a personalized letter. Ms. Yedinak noted the letters should be addressed to Senator Justin Jones, and copied to Senator Woodhouse. Senator Breeden stated that Joyce and the LCB legal team will determine how best to include the language in draft SB205. Ms. Britt asked whether there is a chance the Nevada Hospital Association would oppose their efforts since the IAF is allocated for the hospitals. Ms. Yedinak stated she would try to find out if they have their support.

Mr. Nolan reported that Jeff Fontaine, Executive Director of the Nevada Association of Counties, agreed to look at the bill. He related that Mr. Fontaine said the bill also fell on LCB research division last week and he will see if he can provide information to them upon the request of a legislator. He noted it was not Joyce Woodhouse. Mr. Fontaine can share information with the

legislator about a number of programs that counties are subject to and/or losing Federal funding or grant funds as a result of non-compliance. The good news is that Mr. Fontaine has not been approached with any issues related to opposition to the bill. Ms. Snavelly agreed to contact Snow Morrison to see if she can share the important issues with the various counties in Northern Nevada.

The Committee discussed the need for a backup plan to obtain the funding in case there is resistance. Ms. Case stated this is a national issue for trauma systems. The goal is for Level III and IV trauma centers to be able to utilize the TQIP data within the next couple of years. But they can't do it without funding. Ms. Britt asked whether the Clark County trauma centers were able to upload their data to the state trauma registry. Both Ms. Snavelly and Ms. Case stated that although they are both using the same software from Digital Innovations, they are not able to upload the data.

Ms. Yedinak made a suggestion for Plan B to utilize Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) adjustment payments to cover their costs. States receive an annual DSH allotment to cover the costs of DSH hospitals that provide care to low-income patients that are not paid by other payers, such as Medicare and Medicaid, or other health insurance. The DSH funding goes through a federalization process whereby which Clark County and Washoe put up a certain amount of money and then the State uses that money and draws down federal funds. There's a net benefit to the state, and sometimes it's as high as 18% of the total that all comes back. They could ask that they set aside funds from their net benefit from the DSH funding formula to put towards support of a trauma registry. The Committee was in support of Ms. Yedinak's suggestion. Ms. Britt asked that she attend the Senate hearing regarding this issue.

The Committee discussed the tentative dates of when the hearings will take place, and the people that need to be approached prior to that time. They also discussed the importance of including the ACS report related to the State needing to adhere to the statute that's already in place to provide for a state trauma registry. Ms. Britt said she will create a draft of discussion points and send it around for comment. Mr. Nolan suggested they provide Senator Woodhouse with an introductory paragraph, after which she can turn the floor over to a presenter who has more in-depth knowledge of the issue to give the trauma registry history and to field questions. Ms. Yedinak asked Ms. Britt if she could provide them with a one-page outline on the history of the trauma system. Ms. Case stated that Dr. Fildes can also provide them with both a historical and a national perspective.

Ms. Britt agreed to contact Pat Irwin regarding the rural communities outside of Clark County. She will also work with Clark County Fire Department, Boulder City Fire Department, and Mesquite Fire & Rescue to address the rural communities within Clark County. She reiterated that she will create an introductory paragraph describing their purpose, and why a trauma registry is necessary. Those who are so inclined can pull out the discussion points that speak to their individual needs and use them as a basis for writing their own letters of support. The same can also be sent out to all the fire departments, EMS agencies, hospitals, specialists, and trauma surgeons. Senator Breeden suggested Ms. Britt include a deadline for the individual agencies to respond with their letter of support.

The Committee discussed the historical problems with getting the trauma registry up and running, and the problems related to software. Ms. Yedinak recommended those who testify should provide a brief explanation regarding the software issues that haven't been resolved to date.

B. Discussion of Committee Goals and Objectives - Tabled

**III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION ONLY**

The Committee agreed to tentatively meet prior to the Senate Committee Hearing.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment is a period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussions of those comments, about matters relevant to the Committee's jurisdiction will be held. No action may be taken

upon a matter raised under this item of this Agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which may be taken pursuant to NRS 241.020. All comments are limited to five (5) minutes. Chair Breen asked if anyone wished to address the Committee. Seeing no one, she closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business on the agenda, Chair Breen called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 4:26 p.m.