



MINUTES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & TRAUMA SYSTEM (OEMSTS)

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

TRAUMA SYSTEM ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2018 - 1:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Erin Breen, UNLV
Katie Ryan, Dignity Health
Kim Royer, RN, Sunrise Hospital
Billy Meyer, RN, Sunrise Hospital

Kelly Taylor, LVMPD EHWT
Kim Cerasoli, RN, UMC
Stacy Johnson, RN, MountainView Hospital
Georgi Collins, RN, HCA

SNHD STAFF PRESENT

John Hammond, EMSTS Manager
Heather Anderson-Fintak, Associate Attorney

Laura Palmer, EMSTS Supervisor
Rae Pettie, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER – NOTICE OF POSTING

The Trauma System Advocacy Committee convened in the Red Rock Trail Conference Room at the Southern Nevada Health District located at 280 S. Decatur Boulevard on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. Erin Breen called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m., and the Affidavit of Posting was noted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Ms. Breen noted that a quorum was present.

- I. PUBLIC COMMENT:** A period devoted to comments by the general public about those items appearing on the Agenda. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address, and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the Committee wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chairman or the Committee by majority vote.

Ms. Breen asked if anyone wished to address the Committee pertaining to items listed on the Agenda. Seeing no one, she closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

- II. CONSENT AGENDA:** Items for action to be considered by the Trauma System Advocacy Committee (TSAC) which may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be discussed separately per Committee member request before action. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

Approve Minutes/Trauma System Advocacy Committee: June 6, 2016

Ms. Breen asked for approval of the minutes from the June 6, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Taylor, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

III. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Nominations for Committee Members

1. One (1) representative from each trauma center program
2. One (1) administrator from a non-trauma center hospital
3. One (1) representative from Emergency Medical Services

4. One (1) representative from health education and prevention services
5. One (1) representative of the general public
6. One (1) representative of rehabilitation services
7. One (1) representative with knowledge of legislative issues and advocacy
8. One (1) representative with experience in public relations/media
9. One (1) representative with knowledge of finance/funding

Ms. Palmer reported there are nine positions needing to be filled on the TSAC Committee to work together in preparation for the next legislative session.

B. Discussion of Future Legislative Efforts related to EMS & Trauma System Development and Funding

Ms. Breen gave a brief history of the Committee's past legislative efforts to find a funding mechanism to support the Southern Nevada Trauma System. She stated the monies would also be utilized to fund outreach and equipment for EMS providers in the rural areas. They have attempted several different avenues including assessing a \$0.50 to \$1 fee to every home and vehicle insurance policy. Unfortunately, they have been unsuccessful in doing so for the past three legislative sessions. She shared that after the last session someone within the insurance industry told her they also tried to pass a fee increase to help with their own personnel and data, and they were also unsuccessful. She was told that if we could help them get their bill passed, they wouldn't object to assisting us.

Ms. Breen noted that in addition to legislative issues, the Committee also addresses advocacy. Advocacy not only for legislation, but for the trauma system as it relates to injury prevention and education. She added that there is strength in numbers, so it's important for everyone in the trauma industry to work together towards a common goal. The next legislative session starts in early 2019 so they have less than a year to find the appropriate sponsors and lobbyists. She stated she was shocked that a bill was introduced and subsequently passed, with no opposition, to charge a fee for every death certificate in the state of Nevada to fund grief services for children. She expressed that it was disheartening that they couldn't do the same. Ms. Ryan, Director of Communications & Public Policy for Dignity Health, stated she attended the last legislative session and listened to the testimony of children who had gone through similar grief services. She suggested that they also seek the testimony of individuals who survived because of the trauma care they received, and stress the need for a stronger system.

Ms. Breen noted that Joyce Woodhouse carried the bill at the last legislative session. She related that Ms. Woodhouse has been incredibly dedicated and passionate about injury prevention through the years. Ms. Breen expressed she would like to seek a co-sponsor for the upcoming session; someone with high visibility. Ms. Ryan indicated if they find a co-sponsor on the Republican side they may have bipartisan support for the bill.

The Committee discussed whether the horrific event at the October 1st Route 91 Harvest Festival would have an impact on the legislators. Ms. Breen commented that tragedy brings trauma to the forefront; however, who comes to testify is important but doesn't guarantee you anything. She has heard from mothers whose children have died, and other survivors of terrible trauma, and she hasn't found that the testimony has done much to sway the legislators. A lot relies on who your sponsor is and how passionate they are. Ms. Ryan suggested they meet with the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) as they may express support of the bill.

Ms. Breen stated that motor vehicle fatalities decreased in 2017; however, pedestrian fatalities increased. There were a lot of pedestrians who survived, which costs more than the ones who didn't. She related the details surrounding some of the pedestrian fatalities, and noted it was an unusual year for children. There were also two young people on bicycles who sustained life altering injuries. She informed the Committee that last year 45% of motor vehicle occupants were not wearing their seat belts when they died. They introduced a primary seat belt bill that didn't even make it out of the Nevada Senate Transportation Committee. Ms. Kelly asked about the road blocks they have

encountered. Ms. Breen stated the issue is distrust of law enforcement because of racial profiling. It gives law enforcement another reason to pull someone over. She stated that a law was passed requiring all officers to wear a body camera, which should help with the profiling.

Another bill that passed that affects injury prevention is the ignition interlock, which goes into effect October 1st. Ms. Breen stated it should have a definite impact on alcohol impaired driving. Also, drivers who travel more than 10 mph over or under the speed limit may be ticketed. Mopeds, scooters and bicycles will be required to travel in the right-hand lane until the last 200 feet prior to making a left-hand turn.

Ms. Palmer asked if there were suggestions of people who are approachable to carry their bills forward. Ms. Breen noted that many are running for another office or for re-election. She added that Joyce Woodhouse is facing a recall vote. Ms. Taylor suggested they be preemptive and talk to the players now to see where they stand. They may be able to educate them prior to that time. Ms. Breen agreed that would be a great approach. Ms. Palmer stated they need to decide on what tactics to pursue to prepare for the next legislative session. Ms. Breen agreed, and noted that a lot of their support will depend on who is elected governor.

Ms. Palmer stated that John Hammond has been researching other systems and found that traffic fines are being used to fund most trauma systems, which is a logical step. Unfortunately, Nevada is barred from doing so by constitution. The only thing they found was a 911 equalization surcharge per phone line for 911 service for both mobile and land lines. The state of Texas is doing this now and the funding is utilized for both EMS and trauma. Ms. Ryan stated she will contact the Century Link lobbyist to see if there is interest. Ms. Palmer believes Texas charges ten cents per line, which doesn't really hurt the payor, but the funding would be dramatic. She confirmed that it would be a monthly charge.

Ms. Collins noted that California utilizes property taxes to fund their trauma system. Ms. Breen commented that they were unsuccessful in past attempts in pursuing the indigent funding through property taxes. They did so because there was a surplus. Since the economic downturn it became part of the general fund and they were told there is no chance of touching that money. Speaking of the insurance industry, Ms. Taylor suggested an alternative motive: We support them and they'll support us. Ms. Breen stated she will contact Michael Geezer, AAA Nevada spokesman, and see if there is interest. She will ask if they would object to an EMS transport fee and report back.

Ms. Breen replied that other than the indigent fund they have tried to add fees twice. Ms. Palmer stated that if the Health District raised the fees for certification and licensure to match California's the fee increase alone could fund the trauma system. She added that it's a struggle whenever we raise fees, so that will probably never happen. You could potentially attach a fee to every transport, but then you're back with the insurance lobbyists again. Ms. Breen wondered if that would be subject to approval from the insurance lobbyists. Ms. Palmer stated they also looked at attaching a fee for activating the 911 system. She noted that our system is struggling, and not just on the trauma side. The Committee discussed whether they should include the 311 calls or just calls referred through fire and medical.

In response to a question of how the funding will be utilized, Ms. Palmer explained it would fund the rural volunteers, including equipment and education. There are many counties that have no medical coverage from EMS because they can't get enough volunteers. In looking at previous suggested budgets, outreach will probably be the biggest part of where the monies are allocated. They would like to share outreach with the neighboring rural counties outside of Clark County such as Lincoln, Nye, and Esmeralda. The monies would fund the office staff at the Health District and help to streamline data processing. She explained all the work the office does related to trauma is currently being paid for with property taxes which is not how the funds were initially allocated. She is supposed to supervise the EMS system, but half her job is supervising the trauma system because otherwise it won't get done. She added that to handle the EMS and trauma system appropriately she needs three additional full-time employees.

Ms. Breen asked how the trauma registry was funded. Ms. Palmer replied she didn't know. Ms. Breen expressed frustration at the lack of support from the state. Ms. Palmer noted that we offered to take over the trauma registry last year from the state but got very little buy-in.

Ms. Royer suggested attaching a sales tax to ammunition. Ms. Collins and Ms. Taylor both expressed that it is difficult to get ammunition in both Nevada and California.

The Committee continued its discussion of potential funding mechanisms. Ms. Breen stated that in the past, funds that are raised in each county stay in that county. However, Clark and Washoe mainly help with the rural counties. They would need to work out how the larger counties would support the rural counties. Ms. Ryan asked if anyone had reached out to Senator Pat Spearman, who has been working on mental health issues related to the survivors of the October 1st shooting. Ms. Breen stated she would do so and report back. She will also contact Assemblyman Ozzie Fumo and report back.

Ms. Taylor stated USAA is huge in the community and has a strong military presence. She stated she would reach out to either Mr. Roberts or Mr. Fletcher and report back.

C. Discuss Next Meeting and Agenda Items (5/15/18 @ 2:30 p.m.)

Ms. Palmer asked that the nomination forms be submitted no later than April since the next meeting is scheduled for May 15th. Ms. Taylor asked if they had to stick with the nine listed categories for membership. Ms. Palmer answered in the affirmative and stated that the Regional Trauma Advisory Board chose certain types of representatives as spelled out in the TSAC bylaws. However, any other interested stakeholders willing to be an active participant will always be welcomed.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION ONLY

Ms. Breen informed the Committee of the March 27th SafeKids event at the Boulevard Mall. The event is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: A period devoted to comments by the 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 action may be taken pursuant to NRS 241.020. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address, and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the Committee wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chairman or the Community by majority vote.

Ms. 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, Ms. Breen adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.