



MINUTES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & TRAUMA SYSTEM (EMSTS)

TRAUMA SYSTEM ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 8, 2013 - 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Erin Breen, UNLV, Chairman
Dennis Nolan, Centennial Hills Hospital, Vice Chair
Mary Ellen Britt, RN, Regional Trauma Coordinator

Blake Bradley, Outdoor Promotions
Carl Nelson, Public
Elizabeth Snavelly, UMC

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Shirley Breeden
Melinda Case, RN, Sunrise Hospital
Kyle Kubovchik, Atkins Global

Gail Yedinak, UMC
Kim Dokken, RN, St. Rose Siena

SNHD STAFF PRESENT

Michelle Nath, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER – NOTICE OF POSTING

The Trauma System Advocacy Committee convened in the Human Resources Conference Room II at SNHD Human Resources Annex on Tuesday, January 8, 2013. Erin Breen called the meeting to order at 3:17 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: 12/11/12

Chair Breen asked for approval of the minutes from the December 11, 2012 meeting. *A motion was made by Carl Nelson to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Blake Bradley, and carried unanimously by the Committee.*

III. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Discussion of Language for Bill Draft Request to Support the Trauma System for 2013 Legislative Session

The Trauma System Advocacy Committee (TSAC) reviewed an excerpt from the 2009 and 2011 Nevada Legislative Appropriations Reports pertaining to the Indigent Supplemental Account (ISA) and the Indigent Accident Fund (IAF). Through the passage of Assembly Bill 529, the 2011 Legislature approved the Governor's recommendation to redirect revenues from the ISA to the State General Fund as a budget reduction measure for the 2011-13 biennium. The projected revenue amounts to \$19.1 million in 2012 and \$19.2 million in 2013. The primary purpose of the ISA is identified in both reports and states: "The primary purpose of the Indigent Supplemental Account is to provide reimbursement to Nevada counties for unpaid hospital charges for medical treatment of indigent persons, and to provide reimbursement to hospitals for care provided to indigent persons who have been injured in motor vehicle accidents in Nevada. The claims are funded through property tax revenues equivalent to 1 cent per \$100 assessed value and a property tax levy of 1.5 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation." Chair Breen recommended pursuing efforts to obtain revenues in support of the trauma system from both of these funds with Legislature approval. Dennis Nolan concurred and remarked approaching the legislators with the enabling language to be added to the bill is a proper course of action, and with their support it can be moved through the appropriate Legislative committee.

Chair Breen reported Senator Joyce Woodhouse submitted a bill draft request (BDR) in support of the trauma system to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) in December 2011. The LCB will assign a number to the BDR and it was commented that this process could take a few weeks. Dennis Nolan remarked the BDR will be assigned a five digit number which refers to a section of the pertinent statute. If there are multiple bills being introduced relating to one section of a statute then a three digit number is assigned referring to the NRS, which is followed by the BDR numbers for the multiple bills below it.

Discussion ensued regarding which of the Legislative committees would present the bill. Initially there was a place holder submitted for the bill by Senator Shirley Breeden in the Transportation Committee; however Chair Breen commented the bill is not related to transportation therefore it would be a stretch for the bill to arise from this committee. Mr. Nolan added another alternative is to steer the bill from Transportation to another committee, and it could be accomplished by incorporating a preamble denoting the change. Chair Breen opined if Senator Woodhouse initiated a separate bill in Health and Human Services, and the bill was also moved forward through Transportation, there would be two opportunities for the bill to pass.

The committee agreed funding the bill through the Indigent Accident Fund is most appropriate because the fund was originally established for health care purposes. The amount being requested to support the trauma registry is a minimal amount estimated at \$260,000 and utilizing the IAF to support trauma services is more aligned with the fund's intent rather than the State's use of the revenues to fill budget gaps. Mary Ellen Britt reported while it would cost approximately \$180,000 to handle the trauma registry functions locally; the SNHD Chief Health Officer's preference is for the State to fulfill its obligations in operating the trauma registry. Obtaining funding through the IAF would serve as an initial revenue source which could potentially lead to other avenues for securing additional resources to support trauma system needs going forward.

There was discussion regarding the ramifications to the State for its inability to operationalize the trauma registry, and the committee agreed there weren't any detrimental consequences. Ms. Britt noted that the trauma registry had been defunded in 2009 but was able to operate with funding from the State's Public Health Preparedness section. There is concern that the funding source will no

longer be available which could result in the potential removal of the language from the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) pertaining to the submission of data. This change to the NAC would negatively impact the trauma system. Ms. Britt referenced the American College of Surgeons (ACS) system consultation visit in July 2011 and reported the ACS strongly recommended the State implement a functioning trauma registry. Following this recommendation the State has made attempts to move the trauma registry forward but a lack of resources and personnel have stalled progress. Identifying a revenue source to revive the trauma registry is significant and would be supported by the personnel assigned to this undertaking. She noted there would be support from local EMS agencies as discussed at the January 2013 Medical Advisory Board meeting. There is also a resolution that was created by the Nevada Medical Association in April 2012 at their state wide annual meeting "To support staffing and funding for the Nevada trauma registry." Support from the Medical Association, fire departments and other community partners is beneficial in proceeding with the bill draft request.

B. Discussion of Committee Goals and Objectives

Chair Breen tabled this agenda item to the next meeting.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION ONLY

The Committee agreed to tentatively meet again on January 29, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. if the Bill Draft Request has been assigned a number. The location of the meeting will be determined at a later date, and there is a possibility it will be held in Human Resources Conference Room II again.

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 3:48 p.m.