

MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

*Virtual Meeting*

May 10, 2022  
11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Dr. Kim Askew  
Mr. John Grindstaff  
Dr. Jeff Williams  
Dr. Douglas Swanson  
Mr. Jim Albright  
Dr. L. Lee Isley  
Mr. Robert Poe  
Ms. Gail Shue  
Dr. Roberto Portela  
Mr. Robert Bednar

Mr. Barry Britt  
Mr. Kevin Staley  
Mr. Todd Baker  
Ms. Sarah Rivenbark  
Mr. Andrew Baird  
Ms. Viola Harris  
Mr. David Garrison

Members Absent

Dr. Pascal Udekwu  
Dr. Bill Atkinson  
Dr. R. Darrell Nelson  
Dr. Kimberly McDonald  
Mr. Jim Gusler  
Mr. Chuck Elledge  
Dr. Jay Wyatt

Staff Members Present

Mr. Tom Mitchell  
Ms. Susan Rogers  
Dr. James "Tripp" Winslow  
Ms. Melynda Swindells  
Ms. Heather Majernik  
Mr. James Caldwell  
Mr. Doug Calhoun  
Mr. Allen Johnson

Mr. James Hood  
Mr. Wally Ainsworth  
Mr. Todd Messer  
Ms. McKenzie Beamer  
Ms. Tonja Pool  
Dr. Michael Thomason  
Mr. Robbie Amerson

Others Present

Anjini Joiner  
Joel Faircloth  
Joyce Winstead  
Todd Doster  
Paul Seamann  
J. Schoenfeld  
Paul Seaman  
Troy Stauter  
Jessie Harris  
Feris Ammons  
R. Bahner, MD  
West Barefoot  
Joe Bowman  
R.C. Boyd  
Jennifer Burleson  
Stormy Butts  
Mike Dutton  
Mark Eidson  
Chad Eason  
Shelby Ferry  
Paula Fox  
Anthony Green  
Jackie Holmes  
Kate Javes  
Chasidy Kearns  
Michael Keller  
Susan Macklin  
Julius McAdams

Anthony McCourry  
Rose McPherson  
Nathan Miller  
Robby Milton  
Chris Montera  
Mekenzie Newkirk  
Charlie Palocy  
John Popella  
K. Richards  
Terrie Smith  
Garrett Snyder  
Eric Southern  
Brian Stevens  
Scott Suggs  
Michelle White  
Any Wilcox  
Danny Willner  
Stacey Wright  
Dale Hill  
Nathan Murray  
R.E. Merrill  
V. Lyman  
Jason Reavis  
James Larsen  
Kellie Rhoton  
Scott Wilson  
E. Hunsucker

(1) Purpose of the Meeting: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and for the health and safety of all involved, the North Carolina EMS Advisory Council met virtually to hear reports/updates on Trauma Center Designations, Compliance and Education, HealthCare Preparedness Program, Medical Director update and agency activity report.

(2) Actions of the Council:

Dr. Kim Askew, Co-Chairman of the Council, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

a) Motion was made, seconded by Robert Poe, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The EMS Advisory Council minutes from the February 8, 2022 meeting be approved as submitted

b) Motion was made to approve, seconded by Kevin Staley and was unanimously approved, with one abstention, John Grindstaff, that:

RESOLVED: HCA Mission Hospital Level II Trauma Center designation be renewed.

Explanation: HCA Mission Hospital was reviewed in a joint visit with the State and ACS on October 14-15, 2021. Many strengths were noted. There was one deficiency regarding Nurse-to-patient ratio in the ICU which has already been corrected. OEMS Staff recommendations are that HCA Mission receive their Level II Trauma Center re-designation for a period of four years through October 31, 2025.

c) Motion was made by Dr. Roberto Portela, and seconded, and was unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Cape Fear Valley Medical Center Level III designation be renewed for a one-year period.

Explanation: Cape Fear Valley Medical Center was reviewed by the State on February 4, 2022. Many strengths were found; however, there were several deficiencies which needed to be addressed. A six-month extension was granted to allow time to correct the deficiencies and report to be completed by and reviewed; this is to be completed no later than August 31, 2022. Cape Fear Valley Medical Center re-designation was extended until August 2023, pending a Focus Review.

d) Motion was made by Dr. Douglas Swanson, seconded by Robert Poe, and was unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Naval Medical Camp Lejeune Level III designation be renewed

Explanation: Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune was visited on December 9-10, 2021, by ACS survey team and NCOEMS staff for the consideration of state re-designation as a Level III Trauma center and re-verification by the ACS as an Adult Level III Trauma Center. Many strengths were found and there were no deficiencies.

e) Motion was made by Robert Poe, and seconded, and was unanimously approved, with one abstention, Dr. Jeff Williams, that:

RESOLVED: WakeMed Cary Hospital Level III designation be renewed

Explanation: WakedMed Cary Hospital was reviewed by the State on March 17, 2022. Many strengths were found and there were no deficiencies.

(3) Other Actions of the Council:

(a) Ms. Heather Majernik reported the following trauma update:

HCA Mission Hospital

- HCA Mission in Asheville was visited on October 14-15, 2021. This was a combined state/ACS consultative visit for Level I which met requirements for a Level II re-designation. Many Strengths were noted including:
  - ✓ A very strong leadership team including Dr Shillinglaw, Jaclyn Gosnell, and Jen Burleson
  - ✓ A robust Prehospital PI process and a highly integrated EMS system

- ✓ Strong orthopaedic trauma support and in house Radiologists 24 hours a day
- ✓ Strong Injury prevention program
- The only deficiency was regarding Nurse-to-patient ratio in the ICU which has already been corrected
- OEMS Staff recommendations are that HCA Mission receive their Level II Trauma Center re-designation for a period of four years through October 31, 2025

#### Cape Fear Valley Medical Center

- Cape Fear Valley Medical Center – was visited on February 4, 2022, by NCOEMS survey team and NCOEMS staff for the consideration of state re-designation as a Level III trauma center. Strengths included:
  - ✓ The Medical center is an outstanding regional resource with an engaged and visionary leadership including Dr Nelson and Robin Autry
  - ✓ Presence of growing post graduate training program
  - ✓ Impressive Hospital capacity
  - ✓ Engaged EMS with strong integration
- Several deficiencies were identified including OPPE, improving attendance at multi-disciplinary peer review, timely completion of registry charts and improving PI process.
- Cape Fear Valley Medical Center was granted a six-month extension of their Level III designation, expiring on August 31, 2022 to allow the site visit report to be received, reviewed and a report to be completed and presented to Advisory Council. It is the recommendation of NCOEMS staff that Cape Fear Valley Medical Center be granted a one-year redesignation, expiring on August 31, 2023. This designation will be extended for two and half additional years (so that the total designation period does not exceed 4 years) after a focused site review visit is performed no later than June 15, 2023, and it is adequately shown that the center has corrected the seven deficiencies.

#### Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune

- Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune was visited on December 9-10, 2021, by ACS survey team and NCOEMS staff for the consideration of state re-designation as a Level III Trauma center and re-verification by the ACS as an Adult Level III Trauma Center. Many strengths were noted including
  - ✓ A strong and dedicated leadership team including Dr Pokorny and Sheila Hardy.
  - ✓ Two staff members (a trauma surgeon and an ED physician) serve as EMS medical directors withing the region.
  - ✓ The hospital/ base has its own interfacility critical care transport program and local EMS agency.
  - ✓ Mandatory attending-to-attending conversation for all transfers from and to.
  - ✓ High rate of nursing education for ED and ICU nurses
- No deficiencies were identified. OEMS Staff recommendations are consistent with those of the ACS Verification and Review Committee that Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune be granted re-designation as a Level III Trauma Center for a period of 3 years, expiring on December 31, 2024.

#### WakeMed Cary Hospital

- Wake Med Cary Hospital was visited on March 17, 2022, by NCOEMS survey team and NCOEMS staff for the consideration of state re-designation as a Level III Trauma Center. Several strengths were noted:
  - ✓ Extremely capable leadership team of Dr Abrams and Kristi Blankenship

- ✓ Well-developed partnership with WakeMed Raleigh results in elevated functionality
- ✓ Well-developed trauma transfer criteria
- ✓ Highly experienced nursing teams and trauma panel
- No deficiencies were identified. It is the recommendation of OEMS staff that WakeMed Cary be granted re-designation as a Level III Trauma Center for a period of four years, expiring on March 31,2026.
- Upcoming – Moses Cone is scheduled to have a site visit this summer and Wake Forrest Baptist and Duke are both scheduled to have a site visit this fall.
- Trauma System plan update – The OEMS Trauma leadership team has been meeting biweekly since February to create a framework for the New Trauma System taskforce to use in developing the NC Trauma system plan. We are excited to announce that Dr Wayne Meredith has agreed to lead the Trauma System Taskforce
- Moses Cone is scheduled to have a site visit this summer and Wake Forrest Baptist and Duke are both scheduled to have a site visit this fall.
- The OEMS Trauma leadership team has been meeting biweekly since February to create a framework for the New Trauma System taskforce to use in developing the NC Trauma system plan. We are excited to announce that Dr Wayne Meredith has agreed to lead the Trauma System Taskforce.

(b) Ms. Melynda Swindells reported the following compliance update:

- For timeframe of 2-1-22 through 4-30-22, the Credentialing unit issued 1198 credentials with the following:
  - ✓ 306 EMD
  - ✓ 54 EMR
  - ✓ 580 EMT
  - ✓ 79 AEMT
  - ✓ 179 Paramedic
- Data shows wait time credentials (waiting on applicant to submit the fingerprint packet) accounts for the lag in issuing. Staff is processing paperwork the same day it is received and able to be processed. Possible causes: Law enforcement appointment availability for non-criminal applicant printing, USPS delivery delays and mail service center delays and limited delivery days
- Next Disciplinary Committee meeting is Tuesday, 5/31
  - ✓ Continue to be a valuable partner to NCOEMS and help drive our training priorities
  - ✓ From February – April 2022, on average, 29% of all cases seen were due to violent offenses with DWI in second place at 20%
  - ✓ From February - April 2022, approximately 6% of the cases reviewed on the Disciplinary Committee level were patient care related
  - ✓ Tim Jones, DHHS Drug Inspector, doing a presentation at the August administrator’s conference in Asheville on drug security, record keeping, 222 forms, what constitutes “substantial waste”, etc. in response to recent significant drug diversions cases we worked recently. Encourage all to attend

(c) Mr. Todd Messer reported the following education update:

- EMS Course alternative pathways extended through 12/31/22

- ✓ Institutions will be allowed to use alternative ways for EMT's to meet the required clinical/field time and required skills
- ✓ AEMT and Paramedics students to obtain a maximum of 50% of their skills and field time as the second person of an ambulance crew
- ✓ Modifications must be submitted to and approved by OEMS
- Program Coordinator Workshops (Annual Requirement for all Institution Program Coordinator's). Developed for OEMS Institution Program Coordinators or equivalents. OEMS encourages anyone overseeing aspects of an OEMS Education Institution, including admin to attend.
  - ✓ Roles/responsibilities are reviewed, information relevant to their position and the realistic expectations of being an EMS Program Coordinator
  - ✓ Current issues or needs in EMS Education are discussed and have groups apply best practice approaches to them
  - ✓ Understanding challenges OEMS addresses daily regarding EMS education in North Carolina
  - ✓ Held 6 courses over the physical year with 160 attending out of 190
  - ✓ Out of the 161 Institutions, 119 are in compliance with this rule. For the 42 Institutions not in compliance, they will have until December 31, 2022 to become compliant
- EMS Program Coordinator update to be held at the:
  - North Carolina Association of EMS Administrators Summer Symposium in Asheville:
    - ✓ Tuesday, August 9, 2022
    - ✓ Wednesday, August 10, 2022
  - North Carolina Association of Rescue and EMS
    - ✓ Thursday, September 8, 2022
 There will be one additional offering in September or October, details TBA
- STATS on courses that were held through June 20, 2022

Level	Number
EMR	13
EMT	114
AEMT	15
Paramedic	37

- (d) Mr. Tom Mitchell reported the following on behalf of the HPP Program:
- Notification was received that the funding for HPP for the fiscal year of 2023 will be level funding as it has been in the past couple of years. The funding amount is approximately \$6 million
  - HPP program currently has one vacant position, which is the Strategic Planner. Four applications were received but none qualified for the position. The position will be re-posted
  - NCEM (North Carolina Emergency Management) is preparing an RFQ for contract agencies to provide patient movement assets for emergencies/disasters. This should post soon for agencies that may be interested
  - Nex week there will be a Functional Exercise to be held in Carthage, NC for NCOEMS staff, along with Emergency Management and a number of other state agencies, to test updated plans and prepare for Hurricane season. The exercise will be held May 17-19
- (e) Dr. Tripp Winslow gave the following OEMS Medical Director Update:
- We are in the midst of updating protocols

- RSI is being looked at fairly closely due to some systems having a bit of slippage in their performance. Please be sure you are uploading your data and work closely with your Regional Specialist
- Please continue to encourage staff to be vaccinated against COVID
- The Medical Director update was recently held at Expo. Dr. Nelson spoke about the current state of the American College of Emergency Physician standardized protocols. New Hanover, Forsyth and Wake County talked about some innovative ways of preparing staffing models and other ways to help with the staffing shortage. Also, we talked about the medications therapy Bridge Program. There may be some grants coming to help Counties put the Bridge Program in place, Chief Mitchell should have more on that.

(f) Mr. Tom Mitchell gave the following Agency update:

- 2022 EMS Expo took place last week; there were 824 registered attendees, which is approximately 100 less than pre-COVID. Factors for the reduced number of attendees may be due to the conference not being held for two years. Also, the conference has been historically held in October but was changed to May in order to avoid the Hurricane Season. Agency staffing shortages may also have contributed to a lower number of attendees
- The preliminary Paramedic Competition was held at five Community Colleges across the state on March 11 with twenty-five teams representing eighteen counties participating for Regional Champion. Each Regional Champion earned the opportunity to compete on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Greensboro in the finals against the 2019 defending champion, Mecklenburg EMS (MEDIC). The Preliminary scenario was a bank robbery with multiple patients in need of treatment. The Regional Champions were:
  - ✓ Catawba Valley Community College – Surry County Emergency Service (Katlin Smith and Joshua LeCrone)
  - ✓ Surry Community College – Cabarrus County EMS (Nicole Shapiro and Kaleb Frady)
  - ✓ Fayetteville Tech Community College – Rowan County Emergency Services (Daniel Medina & Aaron Thurston)
  - ✓ Johnston Community College – First Health Chatham County (Nick Sylvain & Scott Kirk)
  - ✓ Cape Fear Community College – Cape Fear Valley LifeLink Air (Cody Chavis & Alex Watson)
- Scenario for the Finals of the Paramedic Competition was a farming accident, with the primary patient being a farmer having his arm entrapped in a hay baler. By the time the scenario ended, there were multiple patients that needed medical attention.
- This year's winners of the 2022 Paramedic Competition were the defending champions, Mecklenburg EMS (MEDIC) – Michael Dudkowski & John Stroup III
- The recipient of this year's Dr. George Johnson Award was Drexdal Pratt, presented posthumously. Drexdal's family was present to receive the award on his behalf. Thanks to Regina Godette-Crawford (previous OEMS Chief) for helping to present this award
- The two new awards added to the conference were the Graham Pervier Award and the Kent Spitler Award. The families were invited and aware that the Advisory Council intended to honor their loved one. Both families attended the banquet and assisted in presenting the awards. There were two recipients of the Graham Pervier Award and one recipient of the Kent Spitler Award.
- The recipients of the Graham Pervier Award were Dr. Stace Horine, Medical Director for multiple EMS agencies around HCA Mission Hospital and Mr. Robert Poe, who has been

a long time member of the NC EMS Advisory Council, in addition to his work with the NC Rescue Association and a member of Ashe County Rescue Squad for the past forty-four years.

- The recipient of the Kent Spitler Award was Tom Ferrell, former employee of OEMS and long time employee of Sandhills Community College
- Chief Mitchell took a moment to share with the Council that each year at the Expo banquet we try to recognize EMS personnel who had passed away since the last Expo. This year was extremely difficult due to COVID and having to cancel the previous two conferences. There were two hundred and forty-eight (248) EMS personnel who had passed since the last conference in October 2019 that we needed to recognize. It was a struggle on how to do this with the dignity and respect they deserved; therefore, we chose to create an EMS Memorial Room that was on display throughout the conference. This allowed the opportunity for people to look through the list of names of those who had passed. We also did a small recognition during the banquet. Chief Mitchell wanted to bring this to the attention of the Council because Graham Pervier's name was listed on behalf of the OEMS Advisory Council.
- EMS week starts on Sunday, May 15 through May 21. The theme this year is "EMS: Rising to the Challenge". The theme is particularly meaningful now, to remind people of the challenges that EMS faces every day, and yet they still rise above and continue to respond, provide care and transport the citizens and guests of North Carolina. Please remember to reach out to agencies on behalf of your organization and the Advisory Council to thank EMS personnel for what they do to protect our communities.
- EMS agencies were allocated \$2.8 million in the biennial budget to expand EMS medication-assisted treatment programs from two counties to ten counties. These funds were allocated to the Division of Mental Health and must be spent by June 2023. OEMS was originally asked to administer these funds; however, after conversations with Administration, it was decided that it was best to allow DMH administer the funds with OEMS being involved in the process. Agencies should be receiving information on how to apply for the funds soon. OEMS will work with DMH to help best use these funds for its intended purpose.
- OEMS is considering doing a survey to solicit feedback from the Advisory Council members on how to address future Council meetings and the format of the meetings. It has been discussed going back to in-person meetings with a virtual component for attendees, similar to the format pre-COVID.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Minutes submitted by Susan Rogers