

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*

August 8, 2023  
11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Kim Askew, MD  
Jim Albright  
Andrew Baird  
Todd Baker  
Robert Bednar  
Barry Britt  
John Grindstaff  
Viola Harris  
Kimberly McDonald, MD

R. Darrell Nelson, MD  
Brian Pearce  
Robert Poe  
Sarah Rivenbark  
Gail Shue  
Kevin Staley  
Jefferson Williams, MD

Members Absent

William Atkinson, PhD  
Jim Gusler  
Roberto Portela, MD  
Douglas Swanson, MD  
Pascal Udekwu, MD  
Matt Womble

Staff Members Present

Tom Mitchell  
Susan Rogers  
David Ezzell  
Wally Ainsworth  
Todd Messer  
McKenzie Beamer  
James Caldwell  
Chuck Lewis  
Mick Stewart

Doug Calhoun  
Tonja Mikel-Pool  
Dale Sutphin  
Melynda Swindells  
Anthony Davis  
Randy Likens  
Toshiba Oates  
Paige Stevens

Others Present

Bradley Beck  
Michael Bright  
Adam Culbertson  
Mark Davidson  
Mallory DeLuca  
Bryan Edwards  
Shelby Ferry  
Elizabeth Freeman  
Gabby Gostigian  
Laura Hanson  
Anneka Hanson  
Dale Hill  
Josh Holloman  
Jackie Holmes  
Anjini Joiner  
Chasidy Kearns

Regina Kinsey  
James Larsen  
Carl McKnight  
Robert Mitchell  
Chris Montera  
Christopher Peterson  
Paul Seamann  
Brian Simonson  
Haven Stiles  
Christopher Warr  
Scott Wilson  
Joe Wincklhofer

(1) Purpose of the Meeting: The North Carolina EMS Advisory Council met virtually to hear reports/updates from Injury Committee, 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 11:02 a.m.

a) Motion was made by Mr. Albright, seconded by Dr. Williams, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The EMS Advisory Council minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting be approved.

b) Motion was made by Ms. Harris, seconded by Dr. Williams and approved, with three abstentions, Gail Shue, Dr. Askew and Dr. Nelson, that:

RESOLVED: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Level I trauma center designation be renewed through December 31, 2025

Explanation: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center was reviewed on November 1 and 2 in a joint review with the ACS. Many notable strengths were found and there were no deficiencies.

c) Motion was made by Ms. Shue, seconded by Ms. Rivenbark and approved, with one abstention, Todd Baker, that:

RESOLVED: Duke University Hospital Level I trauma center designation be renewed through December 31, 2023

Explanation: Duke University Hospital was reviewed on November 2 and 3, 2022 in a joint review with the ACS. Many notable strengths were found; however, one deficiency was found.

- d) Motion was made by Dr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Pearce and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Womack Army Medical Center Level III trauma center designation be renewed through May 31, 2024

Explanation: Womack Army Medical Center was reviewed on January 26 & 27, 2023 in a joint review with the ACS. Many strengths were found; however, two deficiencies were found

(3) Other Actions of the Council:

- (a) Mr. Tom Mitchell reported on behalf of Ms. Heather Majernik the following Injury Committee update:

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

- Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center was visited on November 1 & 2, by an ACS survey team and NCOEMS staff for the consideration of a Level I re-verification and a NCOEMS Level I re-designation.
- As noted in your report there were several notable strengths. No deficiencies were found.
- OEMS staff recommendations are that Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center receive re-designation as a North Carolina Level I Trauma Center for a period of three years through December 31, 2025.

Duke University Hospital

- Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC was visited on November 2 & 3, 2022 by an ACS survey team and NCOEMS staff for consideration of Level I re-verification and a NCOEMS Level I re-designation.
- As noted in your report there were several notable strengths. One deficiency was identified – that all patients who have screened positive for alcohol use performed have not received an intervention by an appropriately trained staff and is not documented.
- OEMS staff recommendations are that Duke University Hospital receive re-designation as a North Carolina Level I Trauma Center for a period of one year through December 31, 2023, with the ability to extend designation for a period of 2 years through December 2025, following the submission of documentation demonstrating the correction of the remaining deficiency no later than, November 1, 2023.

Womack Army Medical Center

- Womack Army Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC was visited on January 26 & 27, 2023 by an ACS survey team and NCOEMS staff for consideration of Level III re-verification and a NCOEMS Level III re-designation.
- As noted in your report there were several notable strengths. Two deficiencies were identified –

- ✓ The trauma program does not use clinical practice guidelines, protocols, and algorithms derived from evidenced-based validated resources (CD 16-4). Type II / L1-3
- ✓ When an opportunity for improvement is identified, appropriate corrective actions to mitigate or prevent similar future adverse events are not developed, implemented, or clearly documented by the trauma PIPS program. (CD 16-18) Type II / L1-3
- OEMS recommendations agree with that of the ACS VRC that Womack Army Medical center should receive re-designation as a North Carolina Level III Trauma Center for a period of one year through May 31, 2024, with the ability to extend designation for a period of 2 years following the successful completion of a virtual Focused site review prior to January 26, 2024.

Novant Health Presbyterian Hospital

- Novant Health Presbyterian Hospital has submitted documentation showing the correction of their deficiencies from the August 2023 site visit. Per the previous report to this council, their designation as a Level III trauma center has been extended to the full designation time period ending on August 31, 2026

Upcoming site visits

- Staff is currently on site, yesterday and today, with the ACS at Novant Presbyterian Medical Center in consideration of a Level II trauma center initial designation. Atrium Cleveland and Atrium Cabarrus are scheduled to have site visits this August 2023

Brief Trauma System Plant Update

Trauma System Plan, led by Dr. Wayne Meredith, is underway. Subcommittees are meeting attempting to garner what is needed in the plan. There are a couple of surveys currently. The Pre-hospital Subcommittee has sent a survey to EMS agencies to obtain input on how trauma care is handled in their region. To date, there has been a little over one hundred responses to the survey. Information received will be consolidated into a report that will be considered by the Pre-hospital Subcommittee for their portion of the plan. The other subcommittees are working on putting together their plans. It has been mentioned in previous Advisory Council meetings that this will be approximately a 12-18 month process.

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

Credentialing

- For timeframe of 5-1-23 7-31-23, the Credentialing unit issued 1903 credentials with the following:
  - ✓ 260 EMD
  - ✓ 82 EMR
  - ✓ 1135 EMT
  - ✓ 155 AEMT
  - ✓ 271 Paramedic

Turnaround Times

- 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.

#### Legal Recognition

- 18 days for those that require a federal fingerprint check
- Same day turnaround for those that don't require a federal check

#### Testing

- 18 days for those that require a federal fingerprint check
- Same day for those that don't require a federal check

#### Military

- Averaging same day turnaround time

#### SBI

- 3 days

Next Disciplinary Committee meetings are Thursday, August 10, 2023, (July's rescheduled meeting) and August's meeting is Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

- From May - June 2023, on average, 26% of all cases seen were due to violent offenses and 21% (DWI).
- 9 summary suspensions this time frame
- We have a new member of the Credentialing and Compliance team. Chyvyonne Fields started on Monday, June 19, 2023, and will be handling legal recognition.

(c) Mr. Todd Messer gave the following Education report:

Accreditation for Paramedic courses

- 37 Fully Accredited Institutions
- 22 Under Letter of Review
- Growing trend of EMS Agencies Seeking Accreditation

Non-accredited Institutions

- have been allowed to offer AEMT programs due to no current accreditation standards. CAAHEP will begin voluntary AEMT Accreditation on January 1, 2025
- Non accredited programs will have until 6/30/2025 to provide verification of application for AEMT accreditation

Measure Learning

- contract extension is in process of being approved. Once approved it will run through December 31, 2025
- NC State EMS Exams will remain at \$68 per attempt through December 31, 2025

Program Coordinator Workshops

- Annual Requirement for all Institution Program Coordinator's
- EMS @ OBX
  - ✓ Saturday, October 7th, 2023
  - ✓ Sunday, October 8th, 2023

After 6 offerings, a total of 209 individuals have attended

Current courses ending through 12/31

Level	Number
EMR	27
EMT	199
AEMT	31
Paramedic	42

New Hire, Mr. Mick Stewart, Regional Education Specialist, was introduced to the Council

(d) Mr. David Ezzell gave the following HPP update:  
General Updates

- There are over 250 coalition participants to date
- Final visit opportunity will be August 17 in Charlotte
- HPP will be reposting the Business Office Manager position
- SMRS Memorandum of Agreements (MOA)-previously SMAT III/AST/Bus. Working on execution of updated agreements. Healthcare Coalition funding support for these local partners is tied to an executed MOA
- Grant cycles are five years. New grant cycle 2024-2029
- HPP is revising their funding formula. Government is level funding each year and we want to maximize the funding we do get
- Working on a 5-year strategic plan in which mission, vision, goals and values have been updated
- Mission values and goals new logo:



#### Medical Reserve Corps

- Received a MRC STTRONG grant for 1.8 million over a two year period. Will be used for statewide projects and contractual agreements
- Primary focus will be on volunteer management plans and training
- Funds will also be used for two new positions: MRC Coordinator and SMRS Training & Exercise

#### Medical Care Commission Funding

- Medical Care Commission has approved and funded purchases for two generators (250KW), transfer switch (800 AMP), DLX Shelter package and eight emergency department stretchers
- Estimated total cost is \$620,000

- (e) Mr. Tom Mitchell, in Dr. Tripp Winslow's absence, gave the following Medical Director update:
- Work with the NCMB on extending scope of practice continues. DHHS Administration, Dr. Betsy Tilson and Dr. Carrie Brown are working with OEMS on the process of adding anti-psychotics to the scope of practice as a classification. There has been a meeting with the NC Medical Board legal team to discuss adding anti-psychotics as a class, as well as other items, and they have given advice on how to proceed. The hope is to go before the Medical Board in September to expand the scope of practice.
  - There are multiple programs implementing MAT: Buncombe County EMS gave a report on their program at the Medical Director update in Asheville on August 4, 2023. They have enrolled 200 people on their MAT bridge program with a 60% success rate.
  - There is \$1.5 billion in National Opioid settlement available in NC for the next 18 years. This money is available through the NC Association of County Commissioners and is meant to fund programs such as the medication assisted bridge for opioid abuse disorder
  - EMS programs are encouraged to look at implementing more use of Pitocin for the delivery of babies in the field. This could hopefully help address the high maternal perinatal mortality in NC. EMS clinicians are also encouraged to be more aware of health complications that could affect new mothers within a year of delivery
  - More EMS systems are implementing use of blood in the field and are continuing to administer TXA. Systems were encouraged, at the Medical Director update, to maintain a high level of oversight and performance improvement over TXA and blood administration.
- (f) Mr. Tom Mitchell gave the following agency update:
- OEMS met with EMS System Administrators last week in Asheville. EMS Administrators across the state are encouraged to join the North Carolina Association of EMS Administrators as they promote advocacy, leadership and keep updated on activities in EMS.
  - The Federal Public Health Emergency expired in May 2023. NC General Statute changed to allow flexibilities without a SOE having to be in place.
  - A process is in place to continue utilizing the 131E-158 waiver. To date, there are approximately 30 agencies that have applied and received the waiver for a six month period. Agencies can reapply for approval of another 6-month period, with justification. Any questions, contact OEMS staff.
  - Just after 131E-158 waiver was released, House Bill 125 was introduced which contains various regulatory waivers. One of the waivers included in the House Bill was to allow the 131E-158 waiver for EMS agencies statewide for a twelve-month period that would end in May 2024. The bill did not have to make crossover because the crossover date had passed when the bill was introduced. A safe surrender bill, originally HB 125, was used changing the language, making it this waiver bill; therefore, it did not have to make crossover and is currently assigned to a Committee. We are currently following the General Assembly's actions closely to see

whether or not any action is taken or if the bill will be voted on, approved and sent to the Governor for signature.

- The proposed changes for the North Carolina administrative code will be sent to the Medical Care Commission on Friday, August 11. Changes should have minimal impact on agencies. A few of the changes are:
  - ✓ Deleting mobile intensive care nurse language currently in rule
  - ✓ Ground ambulance manufacturing standards (rule 224)-deleting mounted radio for the rear of an ambulance. Exempting 2-way radios for non-emergency ambulances if they do not back up 911. Radio requirement still must be met if they do back up 911
  - ✓ Adding remount standards, with a time frame to be in compliance meeting that of the CAAS and the NFPA 1917 requirements. This is to ensure more protection in the back of the ambulance for ambulances being remounted. Most agencies are presently meeting the standards; however, now it will be codified into rule language.
  - ✓ Added references to the annual review of the protocols. In administrative code, language is being added regarding Program Coordinators requirement for the OEMS Program Coordinator Workshop that requires Program Coordinators to notify OEMS within 10 business days of a change to the Program Coordinator or the Medical Advisor.
  - ✓ Changes to the denial/suspension, amending or revoking of credentials
- Work has begun on a few additional changes to rule. These changes may be presented to the Council at the November 2023 meeting, provided they are ready for approval.
- OEMS will be participating in the NC Association of Rescue and EMS at their annual meeting that will be held on September 7-9 at the Holiday Inn in Asheville. OEMS will be conducting the BLS competition for the Association. Currently, there are 16 teams competing.
- Injury and Compliance and Education Committee meetings will resume with the November 2023 Advisory Council meeting. These meetings will be virtual. The Council members will receive information via email on the meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 am.

Minutes submitted by Susan Rogers