



Kent Appelhans, Chair  
Mark Marchetta, Sr., Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

## TRAUMA COMMITTEE

**Committee Meeting Date and Location:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022, virtually via Microsoft Teams®.

**Committee Members Present:** Diane Simon - Chair, Dr. Michael Beltran, Dr. Erik Evans, Dr. Kent Harshbarger, Dr. Laurie Johnson, Ms. Deanah Moore, Mr. Joseph Natko, Dr. Travis Perry, Mr. Darin Robinaugh, Dr. James Sauto, Angela Schetter, Dr. Michael Shannon, Ms. Rachel Velasquez, and Ms. Julie Warholic.

**Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Marco Bonta, Ms. Sara Brokaw, Dr. Jeff Claridge, Ms. Patricia Hightower, Ms. Fran Lauriha, and Dr. Rajan Takkar.

**DPS and EMS Staff Members Present:** Executive Director Rob Wagoner, Deputy Director Aaron Jennings, State Medical Director Dr. Carol Cunningham, Research & Analysis Section Chief Eric Mays, Sahithi Aurand, Robin Burmeister, Beverly Cooper, Heidi Piccininni, Julia Wiedemann, and Division of EMS legal counsel Michael Wise.

**Visitors in Attendance:** Ms. Jolene Defiore-Hyrmer (ODH), Ms. Sherri Kovach (COTS), Dr. Robert Parry, Ms. Lauren Phipps, Ms. Danielle Rossler, Ms. Alexandra Carpenter, Ms. Michelle Doll, Emma Fox, Ms. Kindra Hatridge, Ms. Monica Rozzell, Ms. Olivia Houck, Mr. Abram Roesner, Mr. Nathan Heinzerling, and Ms. Viola Webber.

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**Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am. On March 9, 2022. Chair Diane Simon welcomed everyone. Quorum was attained. Committee members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

**Education:** Typically, the Trauma Committee meeting begins with an education segment. This agenda item was suspended for this meeting. There will be a presentation at the May meeting.

### **Approvals and Items Requiring Action**

**Past Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Simon called for discussion of the November 10, 2021, meeting minutes. No discussion and Ms. Simon then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the Trauma Committee meeting minutes from November 10, 2021. Mr. Natko – First. Dr. Sauto – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

## Current status of Trauma Administration at the Ohio Department of Public Safety

Executive Director Wagoner reported that the Trauma and Data sections are fully staffed.

Discussion ensued in regards to conducting the Trauma Committee meeting virtually. As the Trauma Committee is a statutory committee, it must meet in-person. However, Governor DeWine recently signed HB51 which allows state committees, commissions, and boards to meet virtually through June 30, 2022. After that date, meetings must then be in-person.

Ms. Burmeister will send a poll to the committee members regarding meeting in-person or virtually for the May 11, 2022, meeting. The majority rule will determine the manner in which the meeting will be held.

## System Update

**Trauma Center Status:** Ms. Simon reported that some trauma centers are having their reverifications completed by the American College Surgeons (ACS). The ACS is meeting virtually with the centers. There are some delays with centers getting their written reports. Currently there are five provisional adult centers, all being Level III. There are now 44 trauma centers and eight pediatric trauma centers. Executive Director Wagoner informed the committee that MetroHealth Parma Medical Center has an extension until June 30, 2022, to complete its ACS virtual review so it can move forward to obtain its Level III status.

**Data Submission Status:** Mr. Mays indicated that there have been multiple extensions and that the current reporting extension for 2021 Q1-Q3 ended in February 2022 with 2021 Q4 data being due March 31, 2021. One of the larger regional systems has requested an extension. After discussion, a motion was made to extend the date to submit 2021 trauma data for all centers until April 30, 2022.

**ACTION: Motion to extend reporting of 2021 trauma data by trauma centers until April 30, 2022. A notice to the hospital's CEO will be sent if data is not received near the extension end date.** Dr. Sauto – First. Mr. Natko – Second. None opposed. None abstained. **Motion approved.**

As of this date, over 47,000 trauma registry records for 2021 have been received compared to over 79,000 in 2020 and 72,000 in 2019. Therefore, there appears to be a large amount of information not yet reported.

Based on a question posed, Mr. Mays clarified that trauma centers report data to the trauma registry while EMS and fire departments report to EMSIRS.

**Member Status:** Executive Director Wagoner and Ms. Simon reported that there are four committee seat vacancies: #6 (PM&R Physician), #10 (Chief Air Medical Officer), #19 (EMT/Paramedic providing trauma care), and #22 (Non-Trauma Center Hospital Representative).

Ms. Simon reminded the committee that, per the Ohio Revised Code, only one person from one health system can serve on the committee, and this requirement has become restrictive. In addition, each sponsor has to submit three individuals. Some seats have four sponsors and, as

a result, the seat cannot be filled until 12 acceptable applications are received. Some seats now have sponsors that are defunct, and these seats cannot be filled without a law change. It is the hope that amendments to the current language can be added to upcoming legislation to allow for up to two representatives per health system to serve on the committee as well as updating language for sponsors to make it sector-focused and less organizationally specific to avoid an insurmountable hurdle when a sponsor becomes defunct.

## Liaison Reports

**Legislative Updates:** Executive Director Wagoner provided updates he recently received on the following:

**House Bill 138** – Representative Baldrige took on issues that the Division of EMS requested to be addressed legislatively, such as EMS responders and agencies having to call hospitals for every intervention, treatment, and assessment in the field. Failure to do so is breaking the law as it is currently written.

In addition, per Ohio Revised Code 4765, all Ohio DNR Comfort Care orders currently must be signed by a physician. Per the ODH, the orders must be signed by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, and a physician assistant.

The disparity causes issues for EMS on-scene responders. The Senate requested some changes, which were made. The bill is going back to the House next week for a vote.

**House Bill 158** - Executive Director Wagoner reported that Representative Baldrige is working on legislation regarding firefighting foam and ground water contamination. It will prevent foam from being used for training and restrictions may be in place for its use in the field.

**Senate Bill 21** - Executive Director Wagoner explained that this is the stroke protocol bill. This is part of a law that EMS agencies must have updated stroke protocols that are approved and implemented by the EMS medical directors. The deadline for submission of the protocols is March 20, 2022. Failure to do so will have those agencies in violation of the law.

**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Funds** - Executive Director Wagoner reported that the \$75,000,000 fund grant is being coordinated by the Ohio EMA and is a competitive grant. The EMS Division cannot accept any of those funds or have funds directed anywhere. EMS agencies will need to go to <https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/> for information about guidance and the grant application. Additional information may be available in April.

## State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board)

Executive Director Wagoner reported that of the 21 seats on the Board, seven seats are unfilled (which is one-third of the Board seats). Of note, the seat vacated by Susan Kerns has defunct nominating organizations. Thus, it will remain unfilled until there is a change in the law.

The EMFTS Board has its retreat in April. ODPS Assistant Director Huey will attend to discuss the issues with filling board and statutory committee seats. Language needs to be changed to allow a seated board member to remain until a reappointment or replacement has been made.

The board retreat is April 19-21, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio.

## State Medical Director

Dr. Cunningham reported that RPAB now has representation in all regions. The first RPAB Chair meeting will be held later today at 1 PM following the Trauma Committee meeting. She clarified that her reference to “new regions” meant the RPABs regional alignment with Ohio’s Homeland Security regions. When the RPAB was originally created, the regions were aligned with the Ohio Department of Health. Although the transition occurred in 2015, the RPAB but did not have full representation in each of the new regions until recently.

Regarding trauma, Dr. Cunningham informed the committee that the State of Ohio EMS guidelines utilize the National Association of State EMS Officials’ (NASEMSO) National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines as their foundation. NASEMSO is near completion of it the third edition of these Guidelines, and it will be released to the public once final editions are completed. This edition will also include the upcoming 2021 National Field Triage of Injured Patients algorithm from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. This algorithm and associated guidelines will replace the 2011 CDC trauma triage guidelines for injured patients.

Dr. Cunningham will participate in the Northeast Ohio Regional Trauma Network (NORTN) Conference on May 20, 2022, and will be delivering two lectures.

## Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Ms. Jolene Defiore-Hyrmer reported that reports will now be on the ODH website with monthly data about drug overdoses and suicides.

Ms. Defiore-Hyrmer also reported that the child restraints/seats given to low-income families is encountering distribution issues due to sites closing and a reduction in citation income from violations over the past couple of years. The citation income was used to offset the cost of the seats. Sites need to be open for distribution of safety seats and they are slowly starting to reopen.

The CDC is updating its 2016 requirements for prescribing opioids. Overdose legislation went into effect in September 2021. County review boards are being established. The ODH is providing suicide prevention resources that overdose and fatality review boards approved.

Teen driving schools have moved to online training and a driving toolkit for schools is available.

ODH is reviewing the Burn Surge Plan for hospitals. An email will be sent out to the committee members when a meeting will be held.

Executive Director Wagoner thanked Ms. Difiore-Hyrmer for her and the ODH’s assistance with the stroke protocols.

## Workgroup Reports

**EMS Workgroup** (on hiatus)

**Performance Improvement (PI) Workgroup:** Mr. Mays reported that the 2021 Trauma Registry report will be delayed as data submission is slow due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussion took place about developing a trauma dashboard, and the committee looked at two other states' websites for illustrative purposes. The EMSIRS annual report will be under discussion at an upcoming meeting to determine the parameters and data variables to be included.

**Trauma Registry Advisory Workgroup (TRAW):** Ms. Deanah Moore reported that the Ohio Regional Data Dictionary (ORDD) was added to the appendix of the 2022 Ohio Trauma Registry's Data dictionary at the end of last year. Ohio's six regions consolidated their dictionaries into one document, the ORDD. This should assist in data submissions as vendors will now have only two software systems to update as four regions are on one system and two are on a second system. The ORDD consists of 11 fields identified as the most valuable.

The workgroup discussed developing a resource document for new registrars which will be helpful in providing guidance for them.

**Rehabilitation Subcommittee** (on hiatus)

**Epidemiology Intelligence Service (EIS) Evaluation Workgroup** (on hiatus)

**Human Resources (HR) Ad Hoc Committee:** Executive Director Wagoner reported that the committee is planning to submit a fourth recertification option, which is developed at the paramedic level only, and he will present it at the board retreat in April. It is a 60-hour continuing education program designed to be completed over three years with each year reviewing updates and changes in medicine, best practices, and other pertinent contemporary measures, and it will also be updated on a yearly basis. When the project is complete, the ad hoc committee will sunset.

**Scope of Practice (SOP) Ad Hoc Committee:** Executive Director Wagoner reported that the revised documents and matrix will be reviewed with the EMFTS Board at the April retreat. There were some questions in the trauma section regarding wound packing. It will be part of the documents presented at the retreat.

The committee is also reviewing skills that responders may want to utilize, some of which can included as added competencies. If the curriculum of EMS education institutions is decoupled from added competencies, e.g., ultrasound-guided peripheral IV placement, the burden of requiring every training program in the state teach the skill would not be mandatory.

### **Trauma Committee Strategic Plan Focus**

**Rural Trauma Workgroup:** Ms. Simon reported that the workgroup is reaching out to the Level III trauma centers to see if the centers are willing and able to partner with a critical access hospital in their area and sponsor trauma education courses for their nurses. More discussion will take place in April on this issue.

**Universal Trauma Workgroup:** Dr. Beltran has nothing new to report until after the workgroup's next meeting. This group looks at education for physicians, nurses, and responders on a global level.

**System Oversight - Ohio Regional Trauma Organizations Coalition (ORTOC):** Ms. Rossler reported that the group is continuing work on the Need for Trauma Intervention (NFTI) project

but it has had delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The group will develop a plan to teach the regions' hospitals how to pull data to pool for the NFTI project. The group meets at the end of March and hopes to start collecting the data points beginning April 4. State statistics may be incorporated. NFTI will be compared to Safari to see which system is most viable. This is the focus of the group at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Rules Update:** Ms. Cooper reported that two proposed amendments to OAC 4765-14 will be forwarded to CSI by March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The review of additional chapters in 4765-14 as well as the chapters in 4765-4 are on target to be filed with JCARR in early November 2022. After filing with CSI, changes can still be made. After submission, there are at least 16 business days to submit changes if any arise.

**EMS Incident Reporting System (EMSIRS):** Mr. Mays reported that we continue to report to the national registry without issue. No known outages occurred with submissions. The DEMS ended 2021 with more records than the previous year. Some agencies are now reporting more consistently which likely accounts for the increase in submissions.

**New Trauma Committee Strategic Plan:** Ms. Simon had nothing to report.

**Child Fatality Review Board (CFRB):** Ms. Simon reported that the CFRB meets twice a year, and she will attend the next meeting once it is scheduled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**The Health Collaborative – TriState Trauma Coalition:** Ms. Doll had nothing to update at this time.

**2020 Annual Trauma Report:** Mr. Mays stated that the report had been forwarded to committee members for review and needs a motion to send it to the EMFTS Board in April. A motion was made by Ms. Moore and seconded by Dr. Shannon.

***ACTION: Motion to forward 2020 Annual Trauma Report to the EMFTS Board for review.*** Ms. Moore – First; Dr. Shannon – Second. None opposed. None abstained.  
Motion approved.

**Trauma Committee Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):** Ms. Simon reported that the SOP is to be reviewed every two years and was delayed due to the pandemic. The 2017 SOP document was provided to committee members. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Natko and seconded by Dr. Sauto to approve the SOP. The next review must be completed by March 2024.

***ACTION: Motion to approve the Trauma Committee's Standard Operating Procedures.*** Mr. Natko – First; Dr. Sauto – Second. None opposed. None abstained.  
Motion approved.

**Open Forum:** No matters were brought before the committee.

**Recap of Action Items**

1. Deanah Moore will provide an education presentation at the May 2022 meeting.
2. Robin Burmeister will send a poll to committee members regarding if the May 11, 2022, Trauma Committee meeting should be conducted in-person or virtually.
3. Eric Mays/staff will send a letter to trauma facilities to inform them that the 2021 fourth quarter data must be submitted by April 30, 2022. If little or no response takes place, a warning letter will be sent to the facility's CEO about the lack of response.
4. Diane Simon will present the trauma annual report to the Board in April.

**Adjournment**

There was no further business. Therefore, Dr. Sauto moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Shannon seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**ACTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting.** Dr. Sauto – First; Dr. Shannon – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

**Next meeting:** The next Trauma Committee meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2022, from 10am – 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robin Burmeister  
Trauma Committee Secretary