

**Region 8 Trauma Rotation Committee
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
2915 N Classen Boulevard, Suite 320
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106**

The meeting notice was filed with the Oklahoma Secretary of State on August 20, 2021 at 2:29 p.m. The meeting notice/agenda was posted at the Oklahoma State Department of Health on September 9, 2021.

MINUTES

- I. Call To Order.....David W. Smith, MD, Chair
The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. by Chair Dr. David W. Smith.
- II. Roll Call.....David W. Smith, MD, Chair
Roll call was taken with the following members present: Dr. David W. Smith, Dr. Eric Friedman, Dr. Zachary M. Hurwitz, Dr. Thomas P. Lehman, Dr. Ross Martin, Dr. John Nalagan, and Dr. Ryan Wicks. Dr. Chad Borin left the meeting at 6:16 p.m. and Dr. Roxie Albrecht was absent.
- III. Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2021.....David W. Smith, MD, Chair
Grace Pelley proposed the following changes to the June 15, 2021 minutes:
- Line 13: ~~AGENDA~~ **MINUTES**
 - Line 36: to removal of general surgery and orthopedics from the rotation. ~~Dr.~~**Mr.** Howerton reminded members that
 - Line 125: Currently, there is no ~~s~~**State** or legal requirements to provide follow-up care. All members agreed that
 - Line 166: **OU Health** Trauma ~~Ground~~ **Grand** Rounds are scheduled for July 8th covering whole blood usage and how it improves outcomes.
- A motion to approve the June 15, 2021 minutes with the above changes was made by Dr. Thomas P. Lehman and seconded by Dr. Eric Friedman. There was no discussion and the motion passed 8-0.
- IV. Reports
- A. Region 8 Prehospital Statistics Report.....David Howerton
David Howerton was unavailable for report with no data available for review. Chair Dr. David Smith noted the Region 8 RTAB voted to approve that all Region 8 EMS agencies work together to create a trauma data report regarding transported Priority 1, 2, and 3 trauma patients to be presented to the RTAB and Trauma Rotation Committee. Dr. Smith will send a letter to the Region 8 RTAB requesting data to be presented and/or available for committee review at future meetings.
- B. Emergency Systems Report.....Jennifer Woodrow
Grace Pelley introduced Chris Dew as the new Trauma System Coordinator and announced open positions to include EMS Administrator II, Statistical Research Specialists, and Epidemiologist II/III. Ms. Pelley noted that with the vacancies, Emergency Systems (ES) is only operating with 50% of staff responsible for data and requested members be patient with any data requests. Trauma Fund applications are currently being processed. One of the challenges moving towards the next trauma fund distribution is hospitals are not submitting data for 2022 which can also result in delays for data requests. The Emergency Systems' data team is currently working on a project with Dr. David Beam of Comanche County Memorial Hospital on a project comparing trauma patient priority scores from EMS with those given at the hospital with the hope to present preliminary results statewide soon. The Oklahoma Trauma and Emergency Response Advisory Council (OTERAC) and the Medical Direction and Coordination Subcommittee last met August 4, 2021. OTERAC Chair Eddie Sims of EMSSTAT has retired. The Council reviewed amendments to the Emergency Medical Services Rules proposed by the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee as well as amendments to Chapter 667, Hospital Standards, Subchapter 59 regarding classification of hospital emergency services.

The primary goal of the changes was to meet the goal directed by the Governor to reduce the language currently in the State rules. The amended hospital rules will be voted on for approval to recommend to the Oklahoma Legislature at the Hospital Advisory Council meeting scheduled for October 8, 2021. Questions regarding the proposed changes can be directed to Grace Pelley with copies of the proposed rules available upon request. Ms. Pelley clarified that the Trauma Rotation Committee was not included as part of any proposed rule changes. Region 8 TReC data from May 2021 through July 2021 was presented and made available to members in the members packet with a decrease noted regarding times for patient acceptance at definitive care. Ms. Pelley introduced Lisa Fitzgerald and Director Jesse Leslie of TReC and requested members identify possible ways to improve the TReC data reports. Dr. Smith asked if TReC has identified any trends or challenges. Ms. Fitzgerald confirmed the decrease in times for patient acceptance noting the decrease may be due to hospitals auto accepting patients. The TReC Medical Director suggested that TReC stay on the phone longer while hospitals are connecting to avoid hospitals having to call the receiving facility directly with the change resulting in a smoother and faster process. Ms. Fitzgerald also noted a period of increased refusals that has improved as hospitals are implementing their surge plans and improving bed availability. Occasionally, TReC will receive calls to help facilitate medical transfers; no increase in medical calls has been noted and these calls have not interfered with the ability to facilitate trauma transfers. TReC has also received a couple of calls to assist in facilitating out of state transfers but due to the lack of knowledge regarding out of state resources and limited Oklahoma resources, TReC suggests hospitals reach out to the out of state facilities directly. The TReC contract is from July 1 to June 30 every year.

V. Business

- A. Discussion, consideration, possible action and vote to approve any recommendations to committee workgroups and/or needed scheduling or coverage changes regarding hand, OMFS, and neurosurgery coverage.....David W. Smith, MD, Chair
Chair Dr. David W. Smith asked members to identify any issues regarding current hand, OMFS, and neurosurgery coverage. Dr. Thomas P. Lehman discussed an incident over Labor Day in which Tulsa hospitals did not have hand coverage resulting in transfer request to Region 8 hospitals noting this could be an issue if it continues to happen. Dr. Smith noted further discussion will be addressed with agenda item Business C.
- B. Discussion, consideration, possible action and vote to approve proposed Code of Ethics and possible recommendations regarding Priority 2 trauma patient follow-up requirements...David W. Smith, MD, Chair
Chair Dr. David W. Smith stated Dr. Roxie Albrecht will be working within her healthcare system to review available Codes of Ethics and follow-up plans to bring back for committee discussion. Dr. Albrecht was not present for discussion but provided a draft Code of Ethics that was presented by Grace Pelley and made available to members for review. Discussion was tabled to be continued at the next meeting when Dr. Albrecht is able to participate in discussion.
- C. Discussion, consideration, possible action and vote to approve plan regarding on call coverage in the event that all Tulsa hospitals must divert their Priority 1 trauma to OU Health while OU Health is also on call for Region 8 Priority 2 hand, OMFS, and neurosurgery.....David W. Smith, MD, Chair
Discussions addressed in agenda item Business C were continued. Incidents have occurred recently in which the Tulsa Level II Trauma Centers were unable to provide care for Priority 1 patients resulting in transfer request to Region 8 hospitals. Chair Dr. David Smith noted that the incident did not occur due to any significant event causing strain on the system and arose only from issues with capability and capacity within Tulsa. Grace clarified that the incident occurred due to high number of COVID patients coming into Tulsa from Missouri and Kansas. Ms. Pelley emphasized that OU Health, Ascension St. John Medical Center, and Saint Francis Hospital typically do not turn away and do their absolute best to take care of Priority 1 trauma patients with incidents like this extremely rare. Even though rare, a plan is needed to address any future occurrences. Dr. Smith noted that although on call facilities are on call with additional resources, they do not necessarily have all the resources of a Level I or Level II Trauma Center necessary to care for a Priority 1 trauma patient. Ms. Pelley clarified a plan should include the on call hospitals taking on more Priority 2 patients with OU Health providing care for the displaced Priority 1 patients. Dr. Smith stated these patients have time sensitive injuries and he did not think sending Priority 1 trauma

patients by air from Tulsa to Oklahoma City is safe for the patients and should not be an expectation that the committee supports. Moving less acute patients out of the higher level hospitals to other hospitals within the region with appropriate resources in order to accommodate the more severe patients was proposed as a possible solution to the issue. Dr. Smith clarified that current regulations do not allow for the proposed solution and no hospital mechanism exists allowing the movement of patients in order to make room for the most time critical patients. Dr. John Nalagan stated and committee members agreed that unstable patients should be transported to the closest Level III facility for stabilization rather than transported over long distances to OU Health. The committee was asked what would happen if OU Health was unable to provide care for Priority 1 patients resulting in those patients being transferred to the Region 8 on call hospitals. All members agreed those patients would be accepted and care/stabilization provided as it would be safer than transferring to Tulsa. The committee expectation is that Tulsa hospitals takes care of their Priority 1 trauma patients with Dr. Smith stating he is willing to meet with Tulsa facilities for further discussion if needed.

- D. Discussion, consideration, possible action and vote to approve proposed special and regular meeting dates for 2021 and 2022.....David W. Smith, MD, Chair

The proposed meeting dates were discussed with the following dates and changes agreed upon:

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| 1. December 14, 2021 December 7, 2021 | 4. September 13, 2022 |
| 2. March 15, 2022 March 29, 2022 | 5. December 13, 2022 December 6, 2022 |
| 3. June 14, 2022 | |

Chair Dr. David W. Smith noted the December 7, 2021 proposed meeting may be canceled depending on the availability of data and Dr. Albrecht for discussion regarding the draft Code of Ethics. A motion to approve the proposed special and regular meeting dates for 2021 and 2022 with the discussed changes noted above was made by Dr. Thomas P. Lehman and seconded by Dr. Eric Friedman. There was no discussion and the motion passed 7-0.

VI. New Business (For matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting)

Dr. Lehman discussed possible hand coverage issues as discussed in Business Item A and requested an agenda item be added to the next meeting agenda item for discussion. Lisa Fitzgerald of TReC stated no recent issues have been noted regarding hand transfers out of Region 7 into Region 8 but issues have been noted in the past, mostly due to gaps in coverage. Similar incidents of hand transfers from Region 8 to Region 7 have also been noted in past. Grace Pelley noted that transfer request regarding hand injuries can be a result of the injury type and not always the nature of the request. TReC data regarding hand and OMFS transfers in and out of Region 8 and hand and OMFS coverage call schedules will be provided at the next meeting for discussion. Dr. David Smith requested that members send him any ideas for future discussions noting the inability to reimburse for follow-up care provided through the Trauma Fund as an example.

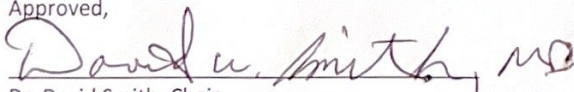
VII. Next Meeting

- A. Region 8 Regional Trauma Advisory Board
October 12, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
- B. Region 8 Trauma Rotation Committee
December 7, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
- C. Oklahoma Trauma and Emergency Response Advisory Council
October 6, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

VIII. Closing, Adjournment, and Dismissal

A motion to adjourn was made Dr. David W. Smith and seconded by Dr. Ross Martin. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Approved,



Dr. David Smith, Chair
Region 8 Trauma Rotation Committee
December 7, 2021