

South Central Regional Trauma Advisory Council Trauma Coordinators Meeting

March 25, 2008

Minutes

Members Present:

Dan Williams	SCRTAC EMS	Janet Volk	Reedsburg
Lynne Sears	SCRTAC/UWHC	Linda Tyler-Doudna	Richland Hospital
Laura Ahola	Divine Savior - Portage	Tina Strandlie	Stoughton
Joe Ketarkus	Meriter Hospital Madison	Jennifer Lorenz	Beloit Memorial
Amy Franklin	Boscobel Health	Brian Cushman	Upland Hills
Theresa Weiland	St. Claire - Baraboo	Cella Janisch	Grant Regional
Russ Picard	Mercy - Janesville	Karri Ratzlaff	Mercy – Janesville
Donna Friedman	Southwest Health - Platteville	Karen Walhoud	Mercy – Janesville
Terri Kelm	Columbus Hospital	Tim Bjelland, MD	Mile Bluff-Mauston
Shari Ruesga	Lafayette County Memorial		

- 1) Introductions of members present
 - a) Welcome new Trauma Coordinator representatives and Registrars!

- 2) Approval of the January 2008 SCRTAC Trauma Coordinators Committee meeting minutes:
 - a) Motion by Linda Tyler-Doudna, second by Lynne Sears: Unanimous approval.

- 3) Grant Committee Update:
 - a) The grant committee met at 3:30 PM today, just prior to the trauma coordinators meeting.
 - b) This year, the SCRTAC has \$8,000 budgeted for injury prevention related grants.
 - c) A number of potential ideas for grants were discussed, as listed below. The committee agreed to focus the financial support to RTAC-wide initiatives rather than individual/local projects.
 - i) *Booster Seats*: Can be obtained at a discount, and likely could be stored at a local FD, until 'pick-up' day, when each agency would be responsible for picking-up their seats.
 - ii) *Latch-Locks*: Locking mechanisms for car and booster seats that fit modern car technology. They can be obtained at a discount, and likely could be stored at a local FD, until 'pick-up' day, when each agency would be responsible for picking-up their seats.
 - iii) *Buckle-Up Initiative*: Provide financial support and media attention to this seat-belt use supporting program.
 - iv) *RTAC Informational Media Spots*: Provide media spots (radio and television) that would educate the regional public on the RTAC/Trauma System/and injury prevention.
 - v) *Trauma Awareness*: May is Trauma Awareness month, and the SCRTAC could use this avenue to publicize injury prevention regionally, and by local hospitals in their own communities (EACH LOCAL HOSPITAL IS ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE INJURY

PREVENTION PROJECTS AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES. THESE CAN FULFIL THE 'INJURY PREVENTION' REQUIREMENT FOR SITE SURVEYS!)

- d) The group is asked to think about the above options and be prepared to decide at a future time. No action was taken on deciding on a focus at this meeting.
- 4) Site – Survey Reports:
 - a) Tina Strandlie of Stoughton reported on the Stoughton Hospital Survey:
 - i) All in all, it went very well. One of the reviewers, John Walsh RN of Oshkosh, was very helpful and full of support and resources.
 - ii) They did not meet the injury prevention requirement. A few ideas were shared:
 - (1) Sponsor safety classes at the hospital that are open to the public (basically using your facility, not necessarily having the hospital provide the instruction)
 - (a) Hunter Safety
 - (b) Boating Safety
 - (2) Provide gun-locks (can be obtained free-of-charge from national gun-safety programs)
 - iii) The surveyors requested credentials of all MDs. This is NOT a requirement, and should not have been asked. Only things listed in the site-survey requirements and the pre-survey questionnaire are required. You may (politely) inform the surveyor that you are not aware of that requirement, and request to see where (in writing) it is mandated.
 - iv) Only ATLS for surgeons is required for Level III facilities. (Many other hospital reps reported on their current and past ATLS woes).
 - v) The survey only lasted 4 hours, as Stoughton is located very close to Madison's UWHC Level One Trauma Center, so they very infrequently receive trauma patients.
- 5) WARDS:
 - a) Laura Ahola has forwarded to Nora Stofflet at the State EMS Office the list of those individuals requesting WARDS access. Individual passwords are to be issued based on her request. Be patient, as things at the State EMS Office are back-logged.
- 6) Performance Improvement (PI):
 - a) The Trauma Coordinator Committee is the official PI committee for the SCRTAC based on the decision at the January 2008 meeting. The Trauma Coordinators will address PI issues at every other Trauma Coordinator meeting (at a minimum).
 - b) Laura Ahola presented an email from Judy Jones of the North-Northwest RTAC, requesting the SCRTAC input on PI indicators to be used statewide.
 - i) The group agreed to most of the clarification points that Judy presented in her email, however questioned a few issues:
 - (1) On the EMS side: PI indicator of GCS \leq 8 and no advanced airway. It is the SCRTAC understanding that this is not an EMS issue, but rather one of ER to ER interfacility transport. Many EMS agencies are not able to place an advanced airway unless patient pulseless, apnic, and/or totally unresponsive.
 - (2) On the Hospital side: The section dealing with DOA patients needs clarification.
 - ii) The group questioned whether or not this group was the appropriate group to make these approvals. Lynne Sears will follow-up with these issues at STAC.

- 7) AIS to go into effect April 1st!
 - a) The Adjusted Injury Severity Score (AIS) will be used in the registry starting April 1st. All new patients (those injuries occurring after March 31st) will require entry of the AIS. Trauma occurring prior to April 1st can still use the old data field.

- 8) Hazardous Environments and Interfacility Transfers: Ethical dilemmas.
 - a) Laura Ahola and Lynne Sears introduced the issue of severe weather and dangerous travel conditions when it comes to transferring patients. Much discussion took place on this topic, with many examples coming out of recent snow/ice storms that have hampered interfacility transport safety. Anybody and any agency that has examples of extreme dangers in transferring patients, hardships encountered during a transfer, or decisions to not transfer based on environmental dangers are asked to forward those examples to either Lynne Sears or Laura Ahola for future publication in an ethics article.

- 9) Next Meeting is May 27, 4 PM, at Meriter Hospital's Bolz Auditorium

- 10) Adjourn