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**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**Minutes of the Trauma Systems Committee**

**Meeting of Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**UMass Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA Room S1-123**

**Date of Meeting:** **Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**Beginning Time:** 10:01 AM

**Ending Time:** 11:39 AM

**Committee Members Present:** The following (15) appointed members of the Trauma Systems Committee attended on May 23, 2018, establishing the required simple majority quorum (9) pursuant to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (OML): DPH Assistant Commissioner and Interim Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality Director Dr. Elizabeth Chen (Chair); Dr. Reginald Alouidor, Denise Buckley; Sara Burgess; Todd Correia; Joan D’Ambrosia; Dr. Jonathan Drake; Dr. Peter Masiakos; Dr. Timothy Emhoff; Lisa McNamara; Angela Mulkerin; Dr. Michael Murphy; Dr. Brian Patel; Dr. Ali Salim; and Lorraine Willett.

1. **Routine Items**

Dr. Chen called the meeting to order at 10:01AM and provided introductory remarks. Dr. Chen thanked everyone for their attendance and confirmed that there is a quorum. She introduced Pooja Phaltankar, Kate Fillo and Mark Miller present from the Department.

Dr. Chen explained that the meeting is being conducted in accordance with open meeting law and is being recorded and minutes will be taken. She asked if anyone else was recording the meeting, and received no affirmative response.

Dr. Chen informed the group that this will be Joan D’Ambrosio’s last meeting because she is leaving her community hospital to work elsewhere. Dr. Chen thanked Joan for her service and informed the committee that the Department is in the process of finding a replacement and will let the board know as soon as the replacement is finalized.

Dr. Chen also recognized and thanked the members of the public who are attending this hearing. Denise Buckley arrived at 10:03. Drs. Reginald Alouidor and Ali Salim arrived at 10:04. Dr. Chen continued and informed the members of the public that there will be 30 minute public comment period at the end of the meeting.

Dr. Chen then asked for approval of the minutes from last meeting. She asked if there are any changes to the minutes from the February 28th meeting. Seeing and hearing none, Dr. Chen asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

* Motion: Dr. Drake
* Second: Ms. Willett
* All in favor: 14; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 1 (Angela Mulkerin)

1. **Trauma Registry Structure:**

Dr. Chen introduced the next agenda item and introduced Katherine Fillo, Director of Clinical Quality Improvement, at the Bureau to present on the Trauma Registry structure. Dr. Fillo presented the slides, after which there was a discussion of the structure of the registry, including where the data is housed and how it gets back to the Department.

The committee held a discussion about uploading problems that various hospitals were having. Dr. Fillo stated that hospitals using all three vendors have successfully uploaded the data, but others are having difficulty Dr. Chen added that Dr. Fillo has been working directly with hospitals to address specific issues with data submissions.

Mr. Correia asked if there will be data incorporated from Rhode Island hospitals because he has concerns that the current numbers don’t reflect the traumas in Region 5 because there are many going out of state to Rhode Island hospitals.

Dr. Fillo stated that the statutory authority for data collection comes from Massachusetts and don’t extend to Rhode Island but she is aware that this was a request from the last meeting and are trying to use MATRIS data to capture the out of state transfers.

The committee continued to engage in discussion about the data submissions, particularly in Level 1 or Level 2 trauma centers. Dr. Fillo confirmed that Level 1 and Level 2 trauma hospitals have submitted data.

Ms. Willett stated that everyone in the room received a letter from the state saying that they were non-compliant in submitting FFY2016 data. She stated that she would like Dr. Chen to address that letter.

Dr. Chen responded that she doesn’t believe everybody in the room received the letter.

Dr. Emhoff stated that he is unaware of hospitals that have successfully submitted their data. Dr. Emhoff stated that his hospital has been working with the state.

Dr. Masiakos said he is unaware of any Level 1 or Level 2 trauma center that is compliant. He asked if Dr. Fillo was aware of any trauma centers that have provided the FFY2016 data.

Dr. Fillo said yes, both level 1 and level 2 trauma centers have submitted FFY 2016 data.

Ms. Willett added that all level 3 trauma centers in the northwest received the letter but also had submitted about three-quarters of the data. She suggested maybe revising the language of the letter.

Dr. Chen stated that she understood the frustrations of the committee and we are trying to improve the submission process. She further stated that the Department wants to work collaboratively with the Committee and have a robust a data set as possible. She stated that she believed that the letter was sent out to 13 hospitals.

Dr. Emhoff stated that there should be alignment with the National Trauma Data Bank and there is more and more regulation but they don’t have the resources to have another process by the state without seeing output. Dr. Emhoff stated that he instructed staff to stop with the latest round of data submissions. Dr. Emhoff suggested a state process that is a subset of the National Trauma Databank.

Dr. Chen stated that this is the 2nd meeting and we are currently engaged in the process and that there is still data that Dr. Fillo has to present which will include trauma data by town or city as well as an overview of the legacy data.

Dr. Fillo continued with her presentation and presented data by age, gender, and the trauma data by the incident city or town. Dr. Fillo stated that one of the questions that the committee had was to review the data by the incident town or city. She shared the data from 2014 and 2015.

The committee engaged in a discussion about data reporting and shared a belief that the data as shown under represents the actual trauma numbers.

Dr. Fillo continued her presentation and discussed trauma by age, diving incidents, dog bites and suicide by age.

Dr. Patel asked why there is no trauma data for community hospitals.

Dr. Fillo stated that while it is not in the presentation, it is in the data set, and she can try to gather that data for a future meeting.

The committee continued to discuss the data irregularities and the difficulty the hospitals were having submitting data. Dr. Chen stated that she would like to make it a goal for DPH to work directly with each hospital and their respective registrars to figure out the issues.

Dr. Chen also stated that the Department would attempt to get more data about Rhode Island transfers, but it is unclear if that is possible.

Ms. Willett asked about the June 14th deadline to submit FFY 2018 Q2 data.

Dr. Emhoff expressed that he is concerned about the resources expended on submitting data and would like to see it fixed to get it submitted and get good data.

Dr. Chen stated that that is the goal of the Department as well and that the Department will work individually with hospitals having issues submitting the data.

Ms. Buckley asked if the deadline will be extended.

Dr. Emhoff stated that there shouldn’t be a deadline for data submission.

Dr. Chen asked if he is suggesting that the June 14th deadline for FFY 2018 shouldn’t be upheld?

Dr. Chen stated that she won’t send a letter, to hospitals that are unable to submit FFY 2018 data at this time, if that is the concern.

Dr. Chen stated that there are people who have successfully submitted data. She pointed to Bay State as an example of such. Dr. Chen continued that maybe we should look at how those hospitals are able to submit the data.

Dr. Chen suggested that we keep the deadlines, but that if the letter is the issue, then she won’t send the letter.

Dr. Chen thanked those hospitals who have submitted, and hoped that we can learn from those hospitals.

Dr. Chen suggested that the group continue onto the data sub-committee proposal requested by Dr. Masiakos.

1. **DATA SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSAL**

Dr. Masiakos presented his proposal, suggested that the chair be someone who has experience with trauma data and with no more than 7 members. He further stated that there is frustration and that the proposal is for a committee with no more than seven members, and it is a committee that is a living entity, so that there will be more real time structure for the fixes that the committee would like to address.

Dr. Chen asked if anyone on the committee had anything to add.

Dr. Salim stated that the committee had spent most of the meeting discussing this, and that there should be a vote.

* Motion: Dr. Murphy
* Second: Dr. Salim
* All in favor: 15; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Dr. Chen then opened up the meeting to public comment. She stated that we will have 3 minutes for comment and asked that the committee not respond to questions. This was a listening period only, not a discussion

Mr. Correia returned to the room.

Many members of the public echoed the concerns of the committee that there is a data submission issue, and wanted help fixing the issue going forward.

1. **NEXT STEPS**

Dr. Chen thanked everyone for coming and for the discussion. The next scheduled meeting is August 29th at MEMA. Dr. Chen asked for a motion to adjourn.

* Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Emhoff
* All in favor: 15; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0