The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Department of Public Health

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**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**Trauma Systems Committee**

**Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2021**

WebEX

**Date of Meeting:** **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

**Beginning Time:** 10:02 AM

**Ending Time:** 11:02 AM

**Committee Members Present:** The following (14) appointed members of the Trauma Systems Committee attended on September 15, 2021, establishing the required simple majority quorum (10pursuant to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (OML) Elizabeth Kelley, , Dr. Mark Pearlmutter, Dr. Peter Masiakos, Dr. Reginald Alouidor, Lisa McNamara, Dr. Ali Salim, Brenden Hayden, Erin Markt, Dr. Jonathan Drake, Dr. Michael Murphy, Sara Burgess, Sandra Mackey,

The September 15, 2021 meeting of the of the Trauma Systems Committee was called to order by Elizabeth Kelley at 10:02AM.

Ms. Kelley asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes from the March 17 meeting. Brenden Hayden motioned to accept the minutes, Dr. Drake seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted into the record.

2. DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Ms. Kelley stated that on March 17, 2021, the Trauma Systems Committee voted on a plan presented by Dr. Alouidor and Erin Markt to transport patients wearing a solid organ injury bracelet to the nearest trauma hospital. The Medical Services Committee voted on this measure in their April meeting and recommended updating the Trauma Point of Entry Protocol accordingly.

Ms. Kelley noted that Commissioner Monica Bharel left the Department of Public Health after six years as Commissioner in June 2020 and Margret Cooke is serving as Acting Commissioner.

Ms. Kelley then asked Kate Fillo to review the trauma data slides. Dr. Fillo reviewed slides 6-20. Nora McElroy presented slides 21-29.

Ms. Kelley asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Masiakos asked about solid organ bracelets and asked who is ordering the bracelets and what do they say.

Dr. Alouidor noted that his hospital orders the bracelet and what is written on the bracelets states that if the patient is found injured that they should be transferred to the nearest trauma center.

Dr. Masiakos asked if the committee was going to review the fields for the new database.

Dr. Fillo noted that the Department can provide the fields, but by and large the fields being collected are aligned with ACS requirements.

Dr. Masiakos stated that he thinks it is important to review the entire database without knowing if this is a perfect database.

Dr. Masiakos commented that he has noticed an uptick in drownings as well as bicycle accidents with the cyclist not wearing a helmet. He added that one of the better options is to remind parents to watch their kids. He added that MGH has made PSAs on this as well.

Dr. Masiakos also noted that incidents of trauma are increasing while capacity at hospitals is decreasing. He asked what can be done about the load balancing concerns in hospitals.

Dr. Fillo responded that drownings that have been seen during the summer has been amongst adolescent males with friends and not necessarily with parent involvement. She added that DPH would take back Dr. Masiakos’ feedback.

Dr. Fillo stated that in response to Dr. Masiakos’ question regarding load balancing amongst hospitals all acute care hospitals are sharing the number of ICU and med-surge beds available, so DPH is able to track that information daily. She added that the regions are meeting regularly to determine capacity and load balancing within the region. She noted that DPH is working on load balancing across the regions by meeting with regions twice weekly to discuss any major concerns and trends that are happening across the regions.

Dr. Masiakos asked if EMS is involved.

Dr. Fillo noted that they are a core member of the regions.

Dr. Murphy added that EMS workforce has decreased significantly and are seeing issues with referring facilities to trauma centers. He noted that there are a lot of working groups at an EMS level.

Scott Cluett noted that there is a large work group with representatives from across the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, along with ambulance providers to discuss these issues in order to support EMS.

Brenden Hayden noted that hospitals are struggling with transport times from community hospitals to Trauma Centers.

Dr. Murphy asked if it is possible to see interfacility transfer data on timing.

Dr. Pearlmutter noted that while he agrees with Dr. Murphy, but noted that the data might not be available

Dr. Fillo added that when there is an interfacility transfer, there isn’t yet a way to know when the call was initiated at the first hospital, so we would have to look further into that.

Ms. Kelley asked if there were any other comments or questions from the Committee.

Dr. Masiakos observed that we may see an increase in hospitalizations in children.

Ms. Kelley asked if there was a motion to adjourn,

Dr. Masiakos motioned to adjourn, Mr. Hayden seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:02AM.