

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Stroke Advisory Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Zoom

Date of Meeting: Monday, October 3, 2023

Beginning Time: 3:07 PM

Ending Time: 3:55 PM

Committee Members Present: The following (8) appointed members of the Stroke Advisory Task Force attended on October 3, 2023, establishing the required simple majority quorum (5) pursuant to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (OML): Elizabeth Kelley, Dr. Brian Patel, Dr. Linda Wendell, Dr. Lester Leung, Dr. Mahesh Jayaraman, Tina Dixon, Susan Schiller, Dr. Brian Silver.

The inaugural meeting of the Stroke Advisory Task Force was called to order by Elizabeth Kelley at 3:07PM.

Ms. Kelley welcomed the members of the Stroke Advisory Task Force and stated that the first meeting will be to swear in members and review conflict of interest law and open meeting law. Finally, the Department will provide a brief overview of current requirements and guidelines for stroke care as well as data reporting and validation requirements.

Ms. Kelley asked Amy Kaplan to administer the oath of office to the Committee. Ms. Kaplan administered the oath, with Rebecca White serving as a witness.

Ms. Kelley asked Joshua Boeh-Ocansey to give an overview of the requirements of Open Meeting Law (OML) and Conflict of Interest Law (COI) as it pertains to the members of the Committee.

Mr. Boeh-Ocansey reviewed the requirements for members to adhere to Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law.

Ms. Kelley then asked Dr. Jon Burstein to review the statewide treatment protocols. Dr. Burstein asked if there were questions. There were none.

Dr. Katherine Fillo reviewed the requirements for reporting primary stroke data to the Department of Public Health.

Ms. Kelley then noted that the remainder of the time has been reserved for member discussion.

Dr. Lester Leung asked if the main goal of the group is to provide the language for the statewide point of entry.

Ms. Pooja Phaltankar answered that the group is advisory so it would not be specific verbiage but to provide recommendations to the Department.

Dr. Mahesh Jayaraman asked if one of the charters of the task force was to offer recommendations for a severity based triage protocol.

Ms. Marita Callahan noted that the language Dr. Jayaraman is referring to was stricken from the budget section that established the advisory committee.

Dr. Brian Silver suggested looking at the performance data for the FastED score. Dr. Silver noted that a close look at the data would determine if the scores on the FastED score are working correctly.

Dr. Leung said that Tufts does have some data out of Tufts on the FastED.

Dr. Leung suggested to review how much choice EMS would have or is it a rule that EMS is required to follow. He also noted that another consideration should be if stroke patients should be brought in if a hospital chooses not to be certified by Joint Commission or another certification agency.

Dr. Jayaraman suggested his hospital has some data on door-in and door-out times and field to start times and could produce slides to share with the group. Members of the group agreed that would be helpful.

Dr. Leung asked if a single set of rules would make sense for each region given the differences between Boston and other regions.

Dr. Silver also suggested reviewing this in a health inequity lens and how it performs from that perspective.

Ms. Susan Schiller noted that it is important to remember how these plans are operationalized across EMS as well noting especially the workforce shortage in EMS.

Ms. Kelley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Patel so moved. Dr. Silver seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55PM.