

Pre-Hospital Committee Meeting Notes – April 16, 2025

EMS Agency / FRO Attendees

DJ Capener, Bryan FD
Kevin Deramus, Washington County EMS
Adam Gallagher, Robertson County EMS
Jason Giles, College Station FD
Sheri Guerra, Hilltop Lakes VFD

Melissa Kendrick, AirMed 12
Erin Kramer, St. Joseph EMS
Eric Leland, TAMU EMS
David Lozano, TAMU EMS
Josh Varner, College Station FD

Hospital Attendees

Kristen Christian, St. Joseph Regional
Amber Heredia, Baylor Scott & White CS
Brandi Mendoza, Baylor Scott & White CS
Brooke Moore, St. Joseph Regional
Christina Nickerson, St. Joseph Madison

Patti Parks, Baylor Scott & White Brenham
Lori Porter, St. Joseph CS
Shelby Reed, Baylor Scott & White CS
Courtney Saunders, St. Joseph CS

Medical Directors / Physicians

Dr. Aaron Buzzard

BVRAC Staff

Rebecca Hill
John Heritage

Other Attendees

Herman Iles, CATRAC

Communications Drill – Mr. Iles shared some updates on the monthly communications drill. The drill has an EMResource notification and there are steps on Pulsara for hospitals. The EMS agencies are asked to create an incident and add some test patients. They should add “07-RMOC-MCI/EVAC MGMT, TX” as an entity in the incident. Twice a year the drill will be done at night to test the night shift. Please let Mr. Iles know if there is any change that can be made to the drill to make it more realistic or valuable. The calendar invite that is sent out has spreadsheet with instructions as well as a spreadsheet with patient name and info.

Temperatures – Pre-Hospital to Hospital – Mr. Deramus asked for an update on where the region is with this and how it is going. Ms. Heredia reported that the few spot checks that she did show that warming measures are being done with the level one trauma patients as well as some burn victims. Ms. Mendoza noted that about 50% of trauma victims being brought into BSW CS have zero temperatures documented.

MIST / TimeOut Process – The process is working well for the critical patients but not for the standard, routine patients. The trauma rules state that it must be done with every trauma patient. This must be driven from the pre-hospital standpoint for it to work. Dr. Christian agreed and asked that the EMS teams drive it and ask if it is time to do the EMS timeout. Ms. Parks asked Mr. Deramus to reach out to the San Antonio RAC to see how they do it and if there is something different they did to get it implemented. Mr. Deramus will also send out a memo to the EMS Directors on this.

Funding – Ms. Parks reported that contracts for EMS County FY26 are being put together and should be out by May. Anyone who received Senate Bill 8 funds that need to pay it back should reach out to make arrangements asap. The state does not intend to suspend any licenses but will be looking into how to get funds back. The state is expecting to receive an increase of \$16 million in state funds.

Also, 4 out of 8 EMS agencies have submitted requests for Amendment 2 funds.

Update Wishlist / Needs Assessment – If any agency has a need, please be sure to send information to Mr. Deramus.

Whole Blood Task Force – Mr. Gallagher is doing a presentation in June at GETAC. The plan is to also do a presentation in May at the Homeland Security Meeting. The next thing is to look at formalizing whole blood

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task force in the region. May look at doing a workshop for providers that are interested. The current thought is for hospitals to be the centers and take blood banks out of the process due to regulations.

Regional Stroke Committee Update – The stroke committee asked for input on using the VAN Score or RACE on the form. Dr. Buzzard recommended staying on VAN because that is what is taught in schools and used. Others shared that at the national level, many are looking at changing to RACE due to it being more accurate.

Pulsara – For St. Joseph facilities, if St. Joseph EMS brings a patient to your facility and the patient is transferred out by helicopter or St. Joseph EMS, the patient must be transferred to them. This is a little different than if Bryan Fire brings a patient in and then St. Joseph EMS transfers them somewhere else. When the original transport entity is also the transferring entity, the patient must be transferred.

Dr. Christian reported that they are getting some duplicate patients coming in. One example is the ground crew sets the patient up in Pulsara and calls the helicopter. The air crew sets the patient up in Pulsara with a different incident. This is probably a handoff issue between ground and air.

Dr. Christian gave kudos to the group for improvement in information coming in on initial Pulsara report, especially in relation to blood thinners with patients that fall.

Open Forum – DataSense closes on April 30th.

BVRAC Symposium will be on October 10th at TEEX. There will be skills stations over the lunch hour. The hope is to have a little more hands on at this symposium. Ms. Porter asked for information on any vendors that may be interested. Dr. Buzzard will follow up with Patti on presenting at the symposium. Mr. Deramus also suggested Dr. Hollcomb who lives in Burton.

Next General Assembly meeting is on June 12, the second Thursday of June.

May 22nd is the AirMed 12 Symposium