WESTAC meeting

June 12, 2014

1. Welcome and Introductions

The group was welcomed by the chair. Introductions were done. Minutes were approved as written.

1. MN State Trauma System

RTAC Leadership meeting report. The RTAC meeting was held on 6/3/14.

* The RTAC - grant cycle was completed on May 31. The new cycle has since started and will include the expenses from Dr. Morris ' trip to San Antonio. (Details are listed below).
* A handout was provided listing the Goals of RTACs. A list of possible projects was also discussed, including providing the RTTDC course in this region. It was suggested that the MN COT chair, Dr. Art Nye, be included in any discussion about providing the course in the WESTAC.
* The overall RTAC leadership is impressed with the WESTAC case review process, and is especially excited that the region has already started looking at pediatric radiation exposure.
* Work on the state trauma registry is still in progress. There is still nothing definitive in place with regard to capturing out of state patients. Many committee members have also noticed that their registry numbers appear incomplete with volumes lower than expected. There is also some discrepancy with activations and code able injuries being included in the registry.

Dr. Morris discussed his trip to visit with the leadership from the San Antonio regional trauma committee.

* There is a very noticeable difference in the activities and scope of the two organizations due to regular funding from an n endowment on tobacco settlement.
* This group combines trauma, EMS, disaster preparedness, stroke and STEMI. All data from all of these groups is processed by contract workers. The hope is that this allows for more accurate and timely data.
* There was a suggestion that the WESTAC team up with the SMARTAC to better develop the registry. There may also be grant funding available for additional registry and QI training.

STAC meeting. The most recent STAC meeting was held 6/3/14.

* Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls was designated as a Level III center.
* Tourniquet training materials are available on the MN Trauma System website, in the education section.
* There is a new group in MN focused on time sensitive syndromes, such as stroke and STEMI. The group will stress education and availability of educational resources.
* Criteria for designation as a state Level III trauma center were discussed. The discussion centered around the involvement, including on call and arrival times, of surgeons. Went with basics when system started to get organizations involved. Forced review of criteria.
* Future dates are: 9/9/14, 12/9/14, 3/3/15, 6/2/15, 9/15/15, and 12/8/15

1. Financials
2. “Peds Ready” Project

* Kjelsey Polzin and Kristi Moline from EMSC reported on the MN results of the readiness survey. This is a federally funded project through the MN EMS Regulatory Board and MN Children’s Clinics. There was a 100% response rate for the survey.
* The group noted that there may have been some variation in answers as questions could have had multiple interpretations and wording was often vague. For example, in regard to specific pediatric availability in the ED, the organization may have the equipment on site, but not stored in the ED.
* Anyone interested in being the regional representative to the EMSC should contact either Kjelsey or Kristie.

1. Towards Zero Deaths and Other Injury Prevention Projects

* There were about 70 participants at the annual TZD meeting. The number of EMS providers in attendance was low. There were EMS providers that spoke as gave testimony at the conference and this was much appreciated, and well received by the attendees.
* This year’s goal for traffic related deaths is 350. The goal for motorcycle fatalities is 14 and as of this date the state is at 12 motorcycle traffic fatalities.
* Seat belt surveys were completed state wide by the state patrol. The West Central region had the lowest compliance in the state at 73.1%. There has also been an increase in our traffic related fatalities in this region, though there has been a decrease state wide.
* TZD is also looking for a case study presentation that would include a trauma patient that is evaluated at a smaller referral facility, and then transferred to a Level I or II facility. Also strong EMS involvement would be helpful.

1. EMS/Hospital/ED responsibilities during an MCI

Discussion was tabled.

1. Performance Improvement

* PI training was held May 16 here in Detroit Lakes. This course is very similar to the training that was provided by the state. There were people from outside the WESTAC that attended. Dr. Briggs provided a presentation titled "Priorities for Optimal Care".
* There is some work being done to integrate the individual RTAC PI programs with the overall state STAC. The committee requested that a registry report be written at the state level that would allow every facility to pull reports such as the pediatric radiation exposure. The group discussed the idea of a state trauma medical director and how this person would be important to the engagement of the smaller facilities. There were also some concerns about how to provide feedback and education to the smaller volunteer EMS services.
* The group was asked to continue to share any new PI projects that they are involved with.

1. Regional Priorities and Concerns

* There are still 5 facilities in the WESTAC region that are on designated hospitals. Deb and Dr. Morris are trying to plan outreach visits to these facilities to encourage their participation in the region. The group also suggested contacting Dr. Cunningham and asking him to be involved when visiting Cass and Red Lake.
* Complete spinal immobilization was discussed. There is a group in the Metro area looking at a protocol that would allow for NO immobilization of the patient for transfer, though this would depend heavily on the medical director. This will be discussed at the Ambulance Medical Director retreat in September, and there are many rural services that are interested in what this group decides.

1. Future Dates

* The remaining 2014 meeting dates are 9/11/14 and 12/11/14.
* The tentative 2015 meeting dates are 3/12/15, 6/11/15, 9/17/15, and 12/10/15.

1. Upcoming Regional Events

* MN EMS Medical Directors Conference, September 7-9, Alexandria.
* 17th Annual ND Statewide Trauma Conference, September 24-25, Fargo.
* Greater NW EMS Conference, October 3-4, Mahnomen.
* Annual MN Statewide TZD Conference, November 13-14, Duluth.

1. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.