

**Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, November 13, 2015 – 9:30 AM to 12 PM
Room 1027, Legislative Building

Present: Representative Dan Bishop, Helen Brann, Representative Becky Carney, Chris Dobbins, Carolyn Dunn, Mary Edwards, Matthew (Vern) Grindstaff, David Y. Huang, Karen McCall, Kimberley Moore, Senator Ronald Rabin, Ryan Swanson, Cathy Thomas, Dr. Randall Williams, Rick Willis, and Representative Larry Yarborough.

Elisabeth Baynard, Ron Cromartie, Samuel Cykert, Yolanda Dickerson, Pamela Duncan, Abby Fairbank, David Glendenning, Greg Griggs, Shayla Hayes, Sally Herndon, Dominique Jones, Katie Knowles, Sanga Krupakar, Kimberly Leathers, Monique Mackey, Eric Naisbitt, Peg O'Connell, Ruth Petersen, April Reese, Lori Rhew, Sharon Rhyne, David Singer, Sandra Stanley, Susan Taphous, Betsy Vetter, Sheree Vodicka, and Maria Yane.

Welcome/Introductions

Representative Becky Carney, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Task Force members and guests to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Dan Bishop made a motion that the November 18, 2014 meeting minutes be approved as distributed. Dr. Randall Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

History and Celebration of the JWTF Legislation – Peg O'Connell, JD

Peg O'Connell, former Task Force member and current co-chair of the Stroke Advisory Council, shared the history and successes and success of the Task Force. The Task Force is celebrating 20 years of service to the citizens of North Carolina.

Established in 1995, through legislation passed by the NC General Assembly, the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force was originally called the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force. In 2003, it was renamed to honor the contributions of Representative Larry Justus of Hendersonville, NC and Senator Ed Warren of Greenville, NC. Both legislative champions were instrumental in the creation of the Justus-Warren Task Force and died of cardiovascular disease.

The Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force (JWTF) provides statewide leadership for the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease and partners with legislators, health care providers, community leaders and other key stakeholders. The Justus-Warren Task Force is considered a national model of an effective legislative task force addressing cardiovascular disease. For a comprehensive history and list of accomplishments and supporting legislation, please visit the [Start With Your Heart](#) website.

Legislative Updates and Future Visioning – Ruth Petersen, MD, MPH

Dr. Ruth Petersen, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Section Chief, NCDHHS, DPH reported:

- The JWTF Executive Director position has been posted on the DHHS jobs website.
[DHHS jobs - JWTF Executive Director](#)

- Past successes of the JWTF have included the 2009 legislation that banned smoking in bars and restaurants. This led to a 21% decrease in emergency room admissions for myocardial infarctions (heart attacks).
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is proposing guidelines that public housing going smoke free. As currently proposed, indoor areas would be 100% smoke free, with a 25 foot smoke-free perimeter from building. This action would reduce many health risks for residents, including fires and the health hazards of direct smoking and second hand smoke faced by children, teens, adults and senior citizens. HUD would be interested in hearing support from task forces, such as the JWTF during this time of public comment.

Stroke Advisory Council (SAC) Report – Karen McCall, Stroke Advisory Council Chair

Karen McCall reiterated the power of partnerships. The Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force was charged with creating the North Carolina Stroke Advisory Council in 2006. The Stroke Advisory Council developed a Stroke System of Care in 2010 and has been working with multiple partners to address the goals and objectives in the plan. The SAC is excited about a new Executive Director for the Task Force and is looking forward to revising and updating the plan.

The SAC is also charged with identifying and disseminating information about the location of stroke care across the state. In 2013, legislation was passed that defines a Primary Stroke Care Center, a Comprehensive Stroke Center, and a stroke capable hospital. There has been success in identifying hospitals by the level of stroke care each can provide, along with a triage plan to obtain the best care faster, is affecting the outcome of stroke. Not all hospitals have the expertise and facilities to provide top level stroke care, but they can be recognized as “Stroke Ready”. If a hospital is not yet “stroke ready”, they must have a plan so that their limitations don’t hinder appropriate health care for stroke victims.

The last SAC meeting (October 1, 2015) was co-hosted with the NC Stroke Association to honor Task Force/SAC member, Dr. Huang, as the 2015 Stroke Heroes Advocating Prevention and Education (SHAPE) award. Dr. Wayne Rosamond addressed the concerns of keeping NC Stroke Care Collaborative (NCSCC) data since funding has been discontinued. Currently, the Office of EMS and participating hospitals will keep data collected through the NCSCC project.

The North Carolina Stroke Association will offer funding in the late summer of 2016 to get hospitals “stroke ready”. There will also be grants for telestroke care, transition to home with secondary rehabilitation care.

Karen’s presentation was followed by questions and discussion on the tiers of qualified stroke care, the flow of patients through triage and the acute care phase following stroke. Other comments included the need for community support with rehab resources.

Member Chris Dobbins asked for a motion to support/endorse HUD’s smoke free proposal with a letter from the Task Force. Discussion followed, a letter of support was recommended and the motion was passed. The Division of Public Health will send a draft letter to the JWTF Chair for potential action.

Heart Health Now- Samuel Cykert, MD, Professor

Dr. Cykert presented on the Heart Health Now program. Heart Health Now is a research project to advance heart health care through primary care providers. North Carolina Healthcare Quality Alliance in partnership with the UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Service Research, NC AHEC, and Community Care of NC, was awarded funding for 3 years through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The goals of the project are to reduce cardiovascular risk, prove the value of primary care in preventing heart disease, and setting up an effective system that will help small practices thrive in a value-based care environment. The Heart Health Now program is recruiting 300 independent practices to participate in quality improvement activities that include analysis of their patient population with cardiovascular risk calculators.

Dr. Cykert's slide presentation can be reviewed on the [Justus-Warren Task Force Meetings page of the Start With Your Heart Website](#)

**COMPASS: A Pragmatic Trial for Comprehensive Post-Acute Stroke Services (COMPASS)-
Pamela Duncan, PhD, FAPTA, FAHA**

North Carolina is 1 of only 5 COMPASS funded recipients. Dr. Duncan noted that the history of NC legislative action to prevent heart disease and stroke was a key element to successful application for this funding.

Stroke Rehabilitation and Transitions of Care are one of the 5 areas of a comprehensive stroke system of care plan. It is the least studied and there are no protocols available to assess the quality of care being provided. Patients who are discharged to their home with no consistent care plan are more likely to be readmitted to the hospital, to fall, and are less likely to have medication adherence. Dr. Duncan advocated that stroke should be considered a chronic condition as it currently costs NC \$1.05 billion each year to treat stroke survivors.

The goal of the study is to address the needs of stroke survivors and their caregivers, connect community and hospital resources, and develop individualized care plans for each patient.

Dr. Duncan's slide presentation can be reviewed on the [Justus-Warren Task Force Meetings page of the Start With Your Heart Website](#)

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Representative Carney closed the meeting by revisiting the original legislation that formed the Task Force and proposed that twice yearly meetings were not sufficient to complete the task. The current legislation allows the Task Force Executive Director and Chair to call special meetings as needed. Representative Carney's personal experience has shown her the need for action now and proposed the Task Force adopt a slogan of "This is the Time!". Awareness and education are key to meeting the need. Learning through collaboration provides this education through expertise and tools. It starts with the patient's responsibility to work with a primary care provider. Family, physicians and hospitals all have responsibility in the system of care, but most patients don't have a network for support for post discharge care. Given the massive need, Representative Carney reiterated her slogan suggestion, "This is the Time!"

Cathy Thomas was recognized for facilitating the meeting as the Interim Executive Director.

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Clark, Program Assistant, Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health Branch. 11/16/15