

STROKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 11, 2017 10:00 - 1:00 PM
Cardinal Room, DPH

Members/Partners

Present: Karen McCall, Chair, UNC Healthcare Communications & Marketing; Peg O'Connell, Vice Chair, Fuquay Solutions; Sue Ashcraft, Novant Health; Elisabeth Baynard, Brunswick County and Doshier Memorial Hospital Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas; Anna Bess Brown, Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force; José Cabanas, Wake County EMS; Vonda Cogdell, Vidant Medical Center (VMC); Ron Cromartie, Innovative HealthCare Consulting; John Dugan, American Heart Association (AHA); Ashley Elks, VMC; Kimberly Elks, WakeMed; Heather Forrest, Duke University Health System (DUHS); Morgan Wittman Gramann, NC Alliance for Health; Sally Herndon, DPH Tobacco Prevention and Control (TPC); David Huang, UNC Health Care Comprehensive Stroke Center; Amy Jones, Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center (NHFMC); Robin Jones, Mission Health; Susan Kansagra, DPH Chronic Disease and Injury (CDI); Jim Martin, TPC; James McKinney, New Hanover Regional Medical Center; Wanda Moore, Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force; Karen Norman, NHFMC; Mehul Patel, UNC School of Medicine; Nilam Patel, DUHS; Jessica Pyjas, State Health Plan; Sharon Rhyne, CDI; Wayne Rosamond, UNC Chapel Hill; Birtha Shaw, Central Carolina Hospital; Sherry Shepard, Columbus Regional Healthcare System; Maura Silverman, Triangle Aphasia Project; Joyce Swetlick, TPC; Cathy Thomas, DPH Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health; Betsy Vetter, American Heart Association; Haley Wetmore, Medtronic; Gwendolyn Wise-Blackman, Minority Women Health Alliance; Noah Woods, Robeson County Board of Commissioners

By phone: Sylvia Coleman, Wake Forest Baptist Health; Tom Mitchell, NC Office of Emergency Medical Services; Andrew Asimos, College of Emergency Room Physicians; Monique Mackie, NC AHEC; Jackie Thompson, UNC Rex Hospital

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of May 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Karen McCall, chair, welcomed everyone; and attendees introduced themselves.

Peg O'Connell made a motion that the minutes from the May 23, 2017 meeting be approved as submitted, David Huang seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Action Agenda Update: Call for Applications

Peg O'Connell, vice-chair, reviewed the **2016-2017 Action Agenda Report** from the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force. See full [report](#). Summary of status of Action Agenda items:

- \$500,000 (recurring) in additional funding was appropriated for tobacco cessation services.
- \$500,000 (non-recurring) was appropriated for FY18 and FY19 for tobacco use prevention.
- \$250,000 in continued funding was appropriated for Healthy Corner Stores.
- The Task Force monitored efforts to close the health insurance gap.

Betsy Vetter commented that the **Journal of the American Heart Association** has reported on a new [study](#) which shows how health insurance expansion was associated with a reduction in heart attacks.

Telestroke Update

Wayne Rosamond, Professor, Department of Epidemiology, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, presented an **Update on Telestroke** in North Carolina. See [slide set](#).

- Dr. Rosamond explained that the goal of the Telestroke project was to create a database of telestroke providers in the state, and that the next step is to ensure quality across regions.
- Dr. Rosamond and post-graduate assistant, Brittany Bogle, are writing a paper on the results of the Telestroke Provider survey.
- Betsy Vetter added that the General Assembly has asked for a study commission on telemedicine which provides an opportunity to educate legislators on telestroke. Betsy also noted that the American Heart/American Stroke Association has published a [statement](#) on telestroke metrics.
- Dr. Huang noted that simply having telestroke is not enough and pointed to the need for training local hospitals to use telestroke effectively.
- Robin Jones mentioned that telestroke is not measured in Get with the Guidelines and suggested that telestroke be benchmarked nationally.

Inter-facility Transportation

David Huang, Director, UNC Health Care Comprehensive Stroke Center, presented **New Stroke Treatments and Inter-facility Transport**. See [slide set](#).

Following Dr. Huang's presentation, participants discussed new interventions and transports.

- New interventions are changing the ways patients are transported.
- The DAWN study has the potential to increase transports exponentially. The DAWN study has not yet been published, but the number of patients who would qualify may range from about 1 in 10 to 1 in 20. This could translate to 5-10 extra admissions for UNC which is 90% full all the time.
- Current and emerging means of treating stroke point to the immense need for provider education.
- Representatives from hospitals, emergency room physicians, Telestroke and telemedicine providers/physicians, and others in the system of care are needed at the table.
- More data is needed to evaluate the process overall and the need to transport.
- Dr. Rosamond shared that he is applying algorithms to simulate challenges and direct action needed for improvement.
- The population of NC overall is growing and aging, and the need for stroke care is great in the non-metropolitan areas of the state.
- Educating local hospitals on the value of keeping and caring for stroke patients, when appropriate, is needed.

In light of important discussion, work groups did not meet. Participants discussed Dr. Huang's recommended next steps (slide 18):

- Continue current SAC dialogue: Integrating and Accessing Care Work Group.

- Encourage each Hub to begin dialogues with their referring hospitals and transport systems.
- Provide education to government and health care leadership on the current issues and needs.
- Organize a meeting (SAC, Hub leadership teams, NCHA, NCCEP, NCOEMS, NCDHHS, Critical Care Transport leadership, others) to continue dialogue on a larger scale.

Stroke Advisory Council Role

- Educate the Task Force to connect members of the General Assembly to the needs in their communities.
- Bring Hospital Association into these efforts.
- Educate the public that stroke is an emergency: Time is Brain
- Assist with inviting partners and convening a meeting of statewide stakeholders in spring 2018.

Eastern NC Stroke Network

Ashley Elks briefed the SAC on the **Eastern NC Stroke Network** meeting held March 30, 2017:

- Developed destination protocols
- Importance of relationships between emergency rooms and emergency medical services
- Barriers to rapid tPA administration; others shared solutions that improved their metrics
- Need for accurate representation across the entire state when developing protocols and policies
- 95% of ENC hospitals do not retain tPA patients in their facilities which creates a large influx of patients into the hubs and tertiary care centers
- Re-educating providers before DAWN is launched is preferred
- All Vidant hospitals are striving to be stroke certified in 2018
- The next Eastern NC Stroke Network meeting will be November 9, 2017

Action Agenda Applications

On behalf of the **Prevention Work Group**, Peg O'Connell asked the Stroke Advisory Council to recommend the following Action Agenda items to the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force:

- Add the word *recurring* to the endorsement of \$7 million in funds for tobacco prevention. David Huang made the motion, and Robin Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Endorse a \$3 million request to expand cessation services including QuitlineNC. The motion passed unanimously.
- Morgan-Wittman-Gramann, Executive Director, NC Alliance for Health (NCAH), explained that NCAH will be submitting an Action Agenda application asking for endorsement of efforts to strengthen PE reporting requirements. Data shows that PE in schools has declined over the years.

Mechanical Thrombectomy

Haley Wetmore of Medtronic demonstrated Mechanical Thrombectomy to remove a clot from the brain.

Next Meeting: November 1, 2017 1-3 PM Cardinal Room, Building 3, 5605 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609