

## **STROKE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, April 16, 2015 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM  
Division of Public Health Campus – Cardinal Room  
5605 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC

### **Members:**

Cheryl Bushnell, Amy Douglas for Regina Godette-Crawford, Larry Goldstein, David Huang, Karen McCall, Peg O'Connell, and Jacqueline Wynn, with Andrew Asimos and Robin Jones by phone.

### **Partners/Guests:**

Natosha Boyd, Sylvia Coleman, Terry Congleton, Valarie Gatlin, Sabina Gesell, Lisa Holmes, Kimberly Leathers, Karla Loper, Sandy Maney, Kellie Norris, Beth Parks, Senator Louis Pate, Ruth Petersen, Chris Pfitzer, Libby Puckett, Sharon Rhyne, Birtha Shaw, Laura Shuey, Cathy Thomas, Betsy Vetter, Marie Welch, and Cornell Wright, with Ron Cromartie, Debbie Lambert and Christine Small by phone.

### **Welcome, Introductions and Approval of October 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes:**

Karen McCall, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all. Attendees, in person and by phone, introduced themselves.

Minutes from the October 9, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force and Legislative Updates**

Karen McCall shared updates from the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force and announced and welcomed three new Stroke Advisory Council members:

- Cheryl Bushnell, MD, MHS, Associate Professor and Director, Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Stroke Center;
- Jacqueline R. Wynn, MPH, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Associate Director for Regional Support;
- Arnett Coleman, MD, President, Old North State Medical Association

### **Legislative Updates:**

**Primary Stroke Center Rules:** Amy Jones, representing Regina Godette-Crawford, NC Office of Emergency Medical Services (NC OEMS), spoke to the Designation of Primary Stroke Center Rules: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/rules/stroke2014.html> This set of rules reflects the requirement of [S.L. 2013-44, Gen. Stat. 131E-78.5](#), to create a process by which hospitals can submit documentation to the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) for inclusion on the NC Department of Health and Human Services' website, which includes a list of designated hospitals. The list is updated annually in June. Primary Stroke Center Rules became effective February 1, 2015. Reference the hyperlinks for details. Amy reported that 31 of the 36 designated stroke centers in NC have submitted documentation for the OEMS list. Further discussion on dissemination of the listing, mapping and other enhancements will carry over to the appropriate SAC work groups.

**Mobile Integrated Health Care/Community Paramedicine Follow-up:** A meeting handout provided information on the Mobile Integrated Health Care/Community Paramedicine legislation. NC OEMS is excited about the initiative and the anticipated outcomes. EMS agencies involved in the pilot project presented the benefits of the program at the November 18, 2014 Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Task Force meeting and answered questions from those attending. Regina Godette-Crawford has submitted a written report to

the SAC.

**Chronic Disease and Injury Section (CDI Section), NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Update:**

Dr. Ruth Petersen provided updates on the accomplishments, opportunities and challenges of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section. Dr. Petersen introduced Cornell Wright, the new director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD) in the NC Division of Public Health. Dr. Petersen urged the group to start thinking about how to integrate stroke care and treatment with other programs and reporting systems. Integration, networks and partnerships support our connection to the local health departments. Patient specific linkages will provide data to address all chronic disease needs.

The CDI Section is convening partners across the state to address the certification of Community Health Workers. An upcoming meeting with many interested partners will advance a “community health worker” system that can offer expanded access to health resources for more North Carolinians. A follow-up discussion will be shared at the next SAC meeting.

Dr. Petersen announced Anita Holmes’ retirement with today’s SAC meeting being her last as Executive Director of the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force. Kimberly Bratcher, from the NC Institute of Medicine, starts on April 17 as Interim Executive Director housed in the Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health Branch

**COMPASS (COMprehensive Post- Acute Stroke Services) Study:**

Dr. Cheryl Bushnell, Associate Professor and Director, Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Stroke Center and CoPI for the COMPASS study shared the work of the COMprehensive Post-Acute Stroke Services Pragmatic Trial to improve stroke care in NC.

A variety of challenges, including getting patients back for the 7-14 day follow-up and in to see a primary care doctor within 90 days were expressed by several attendees. More discussion will take place at future SAC and workgroup meetings. See Dr. Bushnell’s handout for details.

**North Carolina Stroke Association Announcement:**

Dr. Charles Tegeler announced, on behalf of Robin Jones, that the NC Stroke Association (NCSA) has opened a grant process targeting hospitals as grantees. Hospitals can apply for up to \$20,000 to develop or improve their stroke program.

Dr. Tegeler announced that SAC member, Dr. David Huang, will be receiving the 5<sup>th</sup> annual North Carolina Stroke Association SHAPE award (Strike Heroes Advocating Prevention and Education). The award honors health care providers and other advocates who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and passion for stroke prevention and education in North Carolina. The official presentation of the SHAPE award will take place Oct 1, 2015, which is also the next SAC meeting.

**Special Recognitions:**

Karen McCall recognized Dr. Larry Goldstein for his work as a “wonderful and respected partner in the war on stroke”. Dr. Goldstein is leaving North Carolina to go to the University of Kentucky. Karen presented, on behalf of the Justus-Warren Task Force, a Certificate of Recognition with special thanks for Dr. Goldstein’s efforts to advance stroke care in NC over the last 30 years.

Peg O’Connell also presented the *Order of the Long Leaf Pine*, North Carolina’s highest civilian recognition, to Dr. Goldstein as “Ambassador Extraordinaire”.

Betsy Vetter presented Dr. Goldstein with an American Heart Association recognition award.

Dr. Goldstein expressed appreciation for the recognitions and noted that our integrated partners and process has really advanced stroke care in NC. He takes pride in the work as a partner and SAC member.

Senator Pate, Co-chair of the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force delivered words of appreciation to Dr. Goldstein on behalf of the Task Force

Senator Pate also recognized Anita Holmes for her committed service as Executive Director of the Task Force. Senator Pate invited both Dr. Goldstein and Anita, to continue advocating for the prevention of heart attack and stroke.

**SAC Work Groups:**

The SAC Prevention/Public Awareness and Acute/Subacute work groups convened for a short period and reported back on the progress of goals in this 4th year of the 5-year plan. Senator Pate sat in on the Prevention Work Group meeting. Prevention Committee Members will have a presence at the Hypertension Awareness Day on May 20th at the General Assembly.

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment:**

In recognition of Anita Holmes' quality service to the Task Force and in congratulation of her retirement, Dr. Ruth Petersen presented her with the North Carolina Retirement Award and highlighted her professionalism, strong understanding of "community" and true ambassador skills.

Other colleagues (present and past) and community partners added remarks and recognition for Anita's service. All enjoyed social time with cake and punch.