

## STROKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2024

1 - 2:30 pm

### **Members/Partners**

**Present:** Wally Ainsworth, NC OEMS; Michael Aquino, Rapid AI; Sue Ashcraft, Novant Health (NH); Andrew Asimos, SAC member, Atrium Health; Barbara Beatty, JWTF member, Catawba County Commissioner; Sharon Biby, SAC member, Cone Health; Annabelle Black, NH Greater Charlotte; Heather Bradley, Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health (CCCPH), DPH; Haley Brennan, NH Huntersville & Mint Hill Medical Centers; Anna Bess Brown, Executive Director, Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force (JWTF); Stacey Burgin, Coverdell Stroke Program (CSP), CCCPH, DPH; Adrienne Calhoun, JWTF member, NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Heather Carter, Dementia Services, NC Division of Aging; Amber Chapman, NC Center for Health and Wellness; Judy Clark, NH Greater Winston-Salem; Arnett Coleman, SAC member, Old North State Medical Society; Sylvia Coleman, CSP; Kat Combs, JWTF member, YMCA Triangle; Tom Curley, NH New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC); Brittany Daley, American Heart Association (AHA); Carissa Dehlin, NH Greater Charlotte; Karissa Del Hoyo, NH Kernersville MC; Tina Dotson, NH Rowan; Heather Forrest, Duke; Melissa Freeman, Duke Health; Rebecca Gainey, NH NHRMC; Michelle Geroleman, WakeMed; Stephanie Hart, Duke; Gina Howell, Appalachian Regional Health/ Watauga Medical Center; Aaren Hunt, Salisbury VA; Ed Jauch, Mountain Area Health Education Center; Eddie Jordan, Surry County EMS; Erin Lewis, UNC Rex; Liliana Marin, AHA; Phil Mendys, UNC; Lisa Monk, Duke; Grayson Moore, ECU Health; Terri Moore, CSP, DPH; Debbie Moser, Northern Regional Hospital (NRH); Margaret Murchison, JWTF member, WFJA radio; Kathy Nadareski, WakeMed; Sharon Nelson, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Section, DPH; Peg O'Connell, Chair, Stroke Advisory Council; Sarah O'Neal, WakeMed; Gaurang Palikh, SAC member, Neurologist, Shelby; William Pertet, Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health (CCCPH), DPH; Melissa Papadopoulos, CCCPH, DPH; Renee Potter, UNC; Joey Propst, JWTF member; Robin Raynor, ECU Health Beaufort; Julia Retelski, Atrium Health; Jennifer Rhines, Telespecialists; Anthony Ribeiro, Rapid AI; Ciara Rukse, WISEWOMAN, DPH; Brittney Sala, WISEWOMAN, DPH; Tish Singletary, CCCPH, DPH; Staci Smith, FirstHealth; Julie Sundermann, JWTF member, DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services; Julie Teachey, ECU Health; Chuck Tegeler, vice chair, Stroke Advisory Council; Atrium Health WFBMC; Emily Volk, NRH; Erika Yourkiewicz, NHRMC.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Peg O'Connell, SAC Chair**

Stroke Advisory Council chair Peg O'Connell welcomed everyone and recognized Vice-Chair Chuck Tegeler. She extended a special welcome to those attending a Stroke Advisory Council meeting for the first time and encouraged them to become involved with the work.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Peg reminded members that minutes from the March meeting were posted on the website [start with your heart.com](http://startwithyourheart.com) and sent via email. She asked for corrections and additions. Seeing none, members approved the minutes by acclamation.

### **Legislative Update on Items on the Task Force Action Agenda**

Peg explained that the legislature convened the short session in April, and they continue to meet to consider funding issues. The Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force will meet after session adjourns. She noted that Secretary Kinsley said yesterday (6/12/24) that 483,000 have

enrolled in Medicaid since Expansion began enrollment in December.

Peg added that Senator Jim Burgin presented a bill that would exempt rehab facilities from the Certificate of Need (CON) process to allow such facilities to expand or build a new facility. The NC Department of Health and Human Services is working with Sen. Burgin on this bill, and the Task Force is tracking its progress. Peg noted that anything that includes changes to CON tends to be controversial.

### **Coverdell Stroke Program Update**

Peg announced that the Division of Public Health's Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health (CCCPH) branch submitted the application on Monday for the next cycle of Coverdell funding which will run for five years. The start of the Year 1 budget period is Sept. 30. Peg thanked those who provided letters of support and noted we'll let you know as soon as we hear if we are funded!

Peg added that, sadly, with this gap in funding, we will lose Coverdell Program Coordinator Terri Moore when her contract ends at the end of June. Terri has done a terrific job with the team at the CCCPH branch and with the hospital and health system partners. Terri has brought such great energy, joy, ideas, and creativity to her role. Peg said that we are deeply grateful and will really miss Terri.

Next, Terri gave a brief update on the Coverdell Stroke Program and introduced the Northern Regional Hospital stroke team.

### **Coverdell Stroke Program Update**

#### **Terri Moore, Stroke Program Coordinator**

In June the Coverdell Program is wrapping up the third and final year of this round of funding. (See slides for details.)

- In Year 3 we are adding a Stroke Risk Factors tab to the HIE Stroke Registry.
- Coverdell partners have been working on establishing protocols to monitor disparities, have reviewed this data and identified gaps in care and patient needs, and have worked on tracking SDOH and directing their outreach and educational efforts to populations in need/at risk.
- ECU Health is conducting post-Stroke Awareness Matters (SAM) training evaluation and collaborating with their Business Analytics team to incorporate SDoH data into stroke metrics and dashboards. The team uses this data to serve lower-resourced communities in the 29-county catchment area.
- Novant Health is using data from EHR and special reports, from focus groups held in rural counties, and from community events to address health disparities and improve patient care and to convene targeted outreach and educational activities. Novant Health presented their work at the International Stroke Conference in February.
- Today, one of our Coverdell Program partners, Northern Regional Hospital, will share their work to improve communication and collaboration with EMS, hear how they've enhanced protocols to improve stroke care hospital-wide, and learn how they've worked with family medicine to identify social drivers of health and implemented interventions and education to prevent stroke.

### **Northern Regional Hospital's Stroke Response: Enhancing Communication with EMS, Strengthening Protocols to Improve Care, and Collaborating with Family Medicine to Address Social Drivers of Health**

**Debbie Moser, Director of Staff Development and Stroke Coordinator**  
**Emily Volk, Manager, Quality Management**

Debbie began by sharing a story about receiving a note on her desk in 2014 that read, “Make us a Stroke Center.” She described how their stroke program has grown and collaborated with EMS and family medicine to serve their community of Mt. Airy aka Mayberry, Surry County, and surrounding counties including several in Virginia. She noted that NRH had 459 code strokes in 2023. Debbie added that pharmacists are trained and attend all code strokes; they bring thrombolytic with them. See slides and listen to the recording for the full presentation.

### **Questions and Answers**

Q: Do you check Hemocult stool on all patients before thrombolytic?

A: Yes.

Peg thanked the Northern Regional team for their work to improve stroke response and care and for sharing it with us. She added that we have learned a great deal during this cycle of the Coverdell Program, and we are grateful to NRH for sharing their expertise.

Peg urged everyone to mark their calendars for the remaining 2024 Stroke Advisory Council meetings. We will meet in person in Charlotte in September and will have the opportunity to tour the hospital. The stroke coordinators will also meet in person that day. More info on the timing is to come, and we hope you will all plan to attend.

The final meeting of the year will be in November and will be virtual.

Peg concluded by saying that she hopes to see everyone in person in Charlotte in September.

### **Stroke Advisory Council Meetings**

- September 25 – in-person in conjunction with meeting of stroke coordinators and tour of Atrium Health
- November 12 from 1-2:30 PM – virtual