



DCMS Task Force for Mass Critical Care
Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2011

On May 23, 2011, the DCMS Task Force for Mass Critical Care met at the Park City Club.

Attending

Robert L. Fine, MD, FACP, Chair

Jeff Beeson, MD, Tarrant County – MedStar and EPAB

Kendra Belfi, MD, Tarrant County – TCAM-EC

Mark Casanova, MD, Baylor Hospital

Wendy Chung, MD, Dallas County Health & Human Services

Ed Goodman, MD, Texas Health Resources

Steve Harris, MD, Dallas County Health & Human Services/Medical Director/Health Authority

Stephen Landers, MD, DCMS Community Emergency Response Committee member

Steve Love, President, DFW Hospital Council

Mark Mlcak, MD, DCMS Community Emergency Response Committee member

Tom Mayo, JD, Legal Community Representative, SMU/Dedman School of Law

Sandra Parker, MD, Tarrant County Public Health, Medical Director/Health Authority

Don Read, MD, DCMS Community Emergency Response Committee member

Bob Simonson, MD, Methodist Hospital

Daphne Walker, JD, Fulbright & Jaworski

Lauren Cowling, Director of Communications, DCMS

Michael Darrouzet, EVP/CEO, DCMS

Robert Fine, MD, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After introductions, Dr. Fine led discussion of the minutes of the previous meetings and gave an overview of what has been accomplished to date. The *DRAFT Crisis Standards of Care Guidance Document for Adults* that task force members previously adopted was reviewed.

A second version titled *DRAFT Crisis Standards of Care Guidance Document for Pediatrics* was discussed. Based upon the recommendations of the pediatric members of the Task Force (given to DCMS prior to the meeting) the Task Force took the following action:

ACTION: Upon a proper Motion (Dr. Landers) and Second (Mr. Mayo) the Task Force for Mass Critical Care approved the *DRAFT Crisis Standards of Care Guidance Document for Pediatrics*.

Discussion Summary

Based upon the introductory remarks from our colleagues from Tarrant County, Dr. Fine asked the committee to add the topic of Expansion to North Texas to the agenda. It was agreed to do this. Below is a bullet point summary of the discussions:

Expansion of Effort Across North Texas

- Dr. Fine invited Dr. Sandra Parker, MD, Medical Director and Health Authority for Tarrant County to inform the Task Force of the previous efforts of their community to accomplish similar goals.
- Drs. Parker, Beeson, and Belfi shared that 4 or 5 years ago they started a similar effort in Tarrant County. They made significant progress but did not implement the plan due to various distractions including creation of the Medical Reserve Corps as well as significant changes in the hospital systems in the county.
- Since this time, Baylor Healthcare System (BHCS) and Texas Health Resources (THR) have strengthened their relationships with the physicians and community and are better structured to accomplish this.
- The Tarrant Medical Operations Center (TMOC) and Dallas Medical Operations Center (DMOC) will also support these efforts.
- THR has expressed support for the draft documents and feels it is important to be united between all major health systems.
- The work of the Task Force should include future political support and resolutions.
- Other organizations that should be approached in North Texas include, but are not limited to, DFW Public Health Committee, which includes Denton and Collin County leadership.
- It will be critical to get consensus among all four major counties prior to beginning a public communications strategy.

Public Communications Strategy

Dr. Fine then invited Paul Pepe, MD, Medical Director of the City of Dallas, to discuss preliminary plans for a public communications strategy.

- Knowing that the magnitude of such a situation would go beyond anything North Texas has faced to date, it is difficult to explain the full extent of the severity of such a situation.
- The key to public communications regarding this plan is to educate the community based upon the consensus of the lead organizations, because the media and the elected leaders will turn to the hospitals and physicians for guidance.
- Given the discussion above regarding consensus, the lead organizations must reach consensus on the plan and approach the media in advance to prevent the novelty of the situation from undermining the strong planning that needs to be in place prior to such an event.

Feedback from Parkland Health and Hospital System

Dr. Shannon, Chief Medical Officer at Parkland Health and Hospital System provided written feedback on the document. He asked the Task Force to be certain to coordinate with the “RAC” or Regional Advisory Committee. Dr. Robert Simonson, former chair of the RAC, and current member of the Task Force agreed to help coordinate the efforts of this group with the RAC.

Next Steps for the Task Force

- Dr. Fine asked the Task Force to reach consensus on next steps. Numerous members volunteered to take assignments to facilitate discussions at their respective organizations. It was the consensus of the Task Force to pursue two parallel tracks: (1) Seek support from physicians in the region through the four staffed county medical societies, and (2) Seek support from the major hospital systems.
- Such support will be sought prior to contacting the media.
- DCMS Staff will draft a cover letter directly to the hospital systems asking them to “endorse the basic concept of the documents,” for the purpose of creating a plan that will maximize the number of lives we can save in an extreme Mass Critical Care event. Highlight that North Texas is building upon the good work of numerous states, medical specialty societies, and the Institutes of Medicine.
- Specific Assignments:

Task Force Member	Organization(s)
Dr. Robert Fine	Baylor (Completed)
Dr. Robert Simonson	Methodist and RAC
Dr. Don Read	HCA of North Texas
Dr. Edward Goodman	Texas Health Resources
Dr. Jay Shannon	Parkland Health and Hospital System
Mr. Michael Darrouzet	Dallas, Denton, Collin, and Tarrant CMS
Mr. Steve Love, Mr. Tom Mayo, and Ms. Daphne Walker	Legal Counsel of all health systems
Drs. Sarah Helfand and Maeve Sheehand	Children’s Medical Center
Drs. Sandra Parker and Steve Harris	Tarrant and Dallas County Health Departments, and other County Public Health Departments/Health Authorities across the region
Yet to be assigned	John Peter Smith Health System
Yet to be assigned	Cook’s Children’s Medical Center, FW
Yet to be assigned	Tenet Health Care
Yet to be assigned	Small hospitals throughout the region

- To all the organizations listed above, each member will personalize and send a copy of the draft cover letter (attached) and the Draft Adult and Pediatric Guidance Documents.

Creation of the North Texas Task Force for Mass Critical Care

A singularly important outcome of the meeting was the decision by the Task Force to change its name from the DCMS Task Force to the North Texas Task Force for Mass Critical Care to better reflect the strong desire to work collaboratively across the region in the creation of this Guidance Document. The Task Force approved such a change unanimously. Likewise, DCMS offered to amend the Guidance Document to reflect that it authored by the North Texas Task Force. Such changes will be incorporated prior to release to the organizations above.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. (just in time for a very bad hail storm and tornadoes across North Texas!)