

STROKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2020

The Impact of COVID-19 on Stroke Care in North Carolina

Webinar 3-4:15 pm

Members/Partners

Present:

Jeff Adams, Johnson & Johnson (J&J); Susan Ashcraft, Novant Health; Andrew Asimos, Atrium Health; Paula Bird, Novant Health; Melanie Blacker, FirstHealth of the Carolinas; Erin Brady, First Health; Nicol Brandon, Atrium Health; Olivia Broomer, Cone Health; Anna Bess Brown, Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force (JWHDSPTF); Felecia Bryan, American Heart Association; Nicole Burnett, UNC Health; Amber Carter, Cone Health; Shannon Chesney, Duke; Alicia Clark, Division of Public Health (DPH), Community & Clinical Connections for Prevention & Health (CCCCPH); Amanda Coble, Davis Regional; Sylvia Coleman, COMPASS Study; Arnett Coleman, Old North State Medical Society; Blake Cook, DHHS Div. of Medical Assistance; Catharine Cotogno, J&J; Ronald Cromartie, Innovative Healthcare Consulting; Tom Curley, New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC); Dana Davis, UNC Health; Rizza de la Guerra, J&J; Bryan Devinney, Advent Health; Pam Duncan, COMPASS Study; Chelsea Dunston, Atrium Health; Matthew Ehrlich, Duke; Nada El Husseini, Duke; Ashley Elks, Vidant Health; Michael Erwin, Stroke Survivor; Abby Fairbank, American Heart Association; Wayne Feng, Duke; Melissa Freeman, Duke; Nick Galvez, NC Office of Rural Health; Ben Gill, Stroke Survivor; Sara Ginn, UNC Wayne Health; Emily Gobble, Central Carolina Hospital; Debbie Grammer, NC AHEC; Chere Gregory, Novant Health, Chief Health Equity Officer; Amy Guzik, Comp Stroke Center & Telestroke Services, Wake Forest Baptist Health (WFBH); Rose Haddock, ECU; David Henao, Novant Health; Jenisha Henneghan, Triangle J Area Agency on Aging; James Hood, Lenoir County EMS; Ed Jauch, Mission Health, Chief of System Research; Rayetta Johnson, WFBH; Stuart Johnson, Vidant Health; Amy Jones, Novant Health; Robin Jones, Mission Health; Sara Jones, UNC Health; JoAnna Keeter, Vidant Health; Mary Kelley, Wake Med; Deborah King Harris, Minority Women Health Alliance; Karissa LaClair, Cone Health; Libby Lawson, NC Community Health Center Association; Melissa Loranger, Novant Health; Divine Love, DPH, WISEWOMAN Program; Monique Mackey, Area L AHEC; Lauren Macko, Atrium Health; Karen Marshall, Atrium Health; Libby Massiah, Alliant Health; Barb McGrath, First Health; Catherine Michael, WFBH; Lisa Monk, Duke; Angela Moody, DPH, WISEWOMAN Program; Kimberly Moore, JWHDSPTF member; Kathleen Nadareski, Wake Med; Karen Norman, Novant Health; Shikha Parakh, Novant Health; Jennifer Park, DPH, Tobacco Branch; Jennifer Parnell, UNC Health; Mehul Patel, UNC Dept. of Emergency Medicine; Nilam Patel, Duke; Iranthi Peiris, WFBH; Debbie Pendleton, NHRMC; Christen Phillip, Atrium Health; Joseph Propst, JWHDSPTF member; Ildiko Rabinowitz, Novant Health; Meghan Radman, WFBH; Kristy Reese, NHRMC; Sharon Rhyne, DPH, Chronic Disease & Injury Section; Christina Roels, Novant Health; Wayne Rosamond, UNC; Alex Schneider, Mission Health, Chief of Neuroscience; Shreyansh Shah, Duke; Birtha Shaw, Diabetic Supply; Maura Silverman, Triangle Aphasia Project; Alan Skipper, NC Medical Society; Denise Spaugh, Minority Women Health Alliance; Lauren Stevenson, NHRMC; Carrie St. Germain, Cape Fear Valley Medical Center; Wayne Sullivan, Janssen; Chuck Tegeler, Stroke Advisory Council Vice Chair; Carey Unger, Duke; Shellie Von Cannon, Novant Health; Renee White, Vidant Health; Gwendolyn Wise-Blackman, Minority Women Health Alliance; Davonnetrae Worthy, Janssen; Erika Yourkiewicz, NHRMC

Welcome, Introductions

Vice Chair Chuck Tegeler welcomed and thanked all for attending the Stroke Advisory Council meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on Stroke Care in North Carolina.

Approval of February 26, 2020 Minutes

Due to the shortened meeting format, the February 26, 2020 minutes have been reviewed and approved by members electronically.

Meeting Logistics

This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on our website, **Start with Your Heart.com** along with the agenda and slide presentations.

Today we will hear from hospitals about how their stroke services have been impacted by the coronavirus and about adjustments they have made. We will have presentations on Health Equity in COVID-19 and strokes in North Carolina, the Expansion of Telehealth in response to the coronavirus pandemic, changes in stroke system of care, and an update on resources from the American Heart Association.

COVID-10 and Stroke Health Equity Perspective

Dr. Chere Gregory, Chief Health Equity Officer and neurointensivist at Novant Health, shared that COVID-19 is the bellwether event that helped us more fully understand the impact of health care disparities. She presented the latest overall COVID-19 mortality rates for Black Americans which is 2.4 times as high as the rate for Whites and 2.2 times as high as the rate for Asians and Latinos. In New Mexico, the Indigenous mortality rate is eight times as high as the White mortality rate. In Arizona, the Indigenous mortality rate is more than five times the rate for all other groups. She shared that there has been a decrease in people with strokes presenting at the ED. See the full presentation.

Expansion of Teleneurology and Telehealth

Dr. Amy Guzik, Director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center and of Telestroke Services at Wake Forest Baptist Health, presented on telehealth expansion from a focus on Telestroke serving 20 hospitals across the state to a broader application of the technology during a pandemic. Advances in telehealth had grown tremendously just before the pandemic hit. Facilities at Wilkes, Davie and Lexington, handled 5-10 tele-consults in June. These consults have helped fine tune and improve workflows of these remote locations. Dr. Guzik shared barriers to video visits and patient and provider satisfaction data. An important next step is to determine how we can support continued reimbursement following the pandemic. See the full presentation.

Changes in Stroke Care

Dr. Ed Jauch, Dr. Alex Schneider, and Robin Jones with Mission Health

Mission Health shared that COVID-19 has forever changed health care and research and presented comparisons of Door to Needle and Door to Groin times pre- and post- COVID-19 onset. COVID screening, intubation protocol and location considerations, and proper PPE have forced changes from parallel action to a necessary step-by-step action progression. There have also been diagnostic delays. Dr. Jauch noted that they have become more comfortable analyzing risk. Robin shared that patient and family are at the center of the Mission model, and COVID has disrupted that. Post-stroke navigation is even more important; yet, many patients refused to go to rehab due to concerns about the virus.

Dr. Melanie Blacker with FirstHealth of the Carolinas

Using CDC guidelines and AHA materials, FirstHealth created a public education stroke campaign to encourage those with stroke symptoms to call 911 and get to the ED. All four

FirstHealth sites have telehealth/telestroke options. Discharge planning was beefed up and educational materials were provided including a post-stroke resource for general public available at www.lcareforyourbrain.com

AHA Emergency COVID-19 Guidance, COVID-19 Registry and Campaign to Call 9-1-1 for Heart Attack or Stroke

Abby Fairbank Regional Director Quality & Systems Improvement, American Heart Association, shared AHA Temporary Emergency Guidance to Stroke Centers in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AHA COVID-19 CVD Registry, and a public awareness Campaign to Call 9-1-1 for Heart Attack or Stroke. Abby is available for additional support and encourages all to reach out for assistance and to share success stories.

Closing

Reminder: This webinar is being recorded and will be posted, along with presenters' slides, on [Start with Your Heart.com](http://StartwithYourHeart.com)

Thanks to all for sharing insights into stroke/stroke systems of care, both the challenges and opportunities, presented in the time of the COVID pandemic.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 28, and we'll keep you posted as to whether we will meet at WakeMed or via webinar.

Look for updates on work groups and meetings via email from Anna Bess Brown. Send lessons learned and ideas for future meeting to Anna Bess at anna.brown@dhhs.nc.gov

2020 SAC Meetings

- **August 28 from 1-3 PM** (Tour at 11 AM; Lunch at 12) at Andrews Center, WakeMed, 3024 New Bern Ave., Raleigh or by webinar.
- **November 12 from 12:30-2:30** (Tour at 11AM; Lunch from 11:30-12:30) at Atrium Health in Charlotte