

Oklahoma Trauma and Emergency Response Advisory Council (OTERAC)
Medical Direction and Coordination Committee
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Location of Meeting: Oklahoma County Medical Society
313 NE 50th Street • Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Minutes

1. Call to Order.....Dr. Patrick Cody, Chair
Lori Strider called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Roll Call.....Dr. Patrick Cody, Chair
Roll call was taken. Attendance was recorded as follows:

Present	Absent
Dr. Carolina Wales	Dr. Amanda Celii
Dr. William Worden	Dr. James Campbell
Dr. Patrick Cody (arrived at 10:22)	
Dr. David Gearhart	
Dr. Curtis Knoles	
Dr. Jason McElyea	

3. Introductions and Announcements.....Dr. Patrick Cody, Chair
Lori Strider introduce to the committee; Kelli Rader, the Deputy Commissioner, Dawn Lovett-Whitney, the Assistant Director for Medical Facilities, Lewis Robinson, the EMS/Trauma Manager, Raina Finny, a Health Planning Specialist, Norma Perez, a Health Planning Specialist, Tyler Alan, EMS/Trauma Navigator, Becky Novak, EMS Inspector Community Liason, and David Graham, Trauma Coordinator.
4. Approval of Minutes from November 11, 2025.....Dr. Patrick Cody, Chair
Dr. Knoles made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Dr. Wales. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes	Nays	Abstain
Dr. Curtis Knoles		Dr. William Worden
Dr. David Gearhart		
Dr. Jason McElyea		
Dr. Carolina Wales		

5. Emergency Systems Report.....Kelli Rader, Deputy Commissioner and Lori Strider, Interim EMS Coordinator
 - Licensure, Medical Director change, and Amendment for EMS Protocol update

Kelli Rader gave an update on protocol approval. Historically protocols were done through an attestation process, now we are working with a physician, Dr. Whiteside, to review and approve protocols. We are looking for a part-time Medical Director. We have tightened our internal processes for licensing and communication on status of applications. The agency application and protocol applications have been updated and added to the website. Once a complete agency application is in per Statute we have 2 months to process the application. Dr. Worden asked if the Medical Director could receive the status updates on the application process, Kelli stated the application is for the agency and if the agency would like the Medical Director to receive those updates to have the agency inform us.

Emergency Systems has added two new employees. Jackson McKoewn started this Monday and Niki Whitehead will start next Monday. Their title will be EMS Inspector and Community Liaison.

We are asking for the agency's owned protocols. If it is a large file we can try different ways to receive those protocols. Dr. Whiteside is open to discussing protocol questions with the agency and Medical Director.

Raina Finny is a Health Planning Specialist; she will be helping with the administrative work on updating the State Protocols. She will be taking the notes we have from previous meetings and making the edits in the State Protocols. If you have any notes, please forwarded them to the Esystems@health.ok.gov email.

March 5, 2026, the State Department of Health will be hosting a meeting for a small group of individuals, roughly 20-25 stakeholders. They will start to investigate the American College Surgeon (ACS) report and start prioritizing the findings of the report. The meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon. From there we will have work groups to work on the findings from the ACS report.

A question about the State Medical Director position was asked they could not find the opening position on the website. Kelli replied that it has not been posted yet but will send out notification when it is posted.

6. Discussion, consideration, possible action and vote to:Dr. Patrick Cody, Chair
 - Medical Director qualifications:
Discussion over what qualifications an EMS Medical Director should have. The qualifications would need to be added to the EMS Rules; the changes will have to go to OTERAC then to the legislation for the changes to be made. Medical Director classes were discussed, along with other States offering an EMS Medical Director license. They must prove they were an ER trained and had specific training before they can receive their EMS Medical Director license. Dr. Worden volunteered to pull some other State rules and bring them back to the committee to look at. Dr. Worden mentioned Emergency Medical Service Physician (EMSP) National Association and will send the link for the committee to review their recommendations. Quality Assurance policy was mentioned that there needs to be a more standardized policy for the Medical Directors to review cases.
 - Status on the Interfacility for new Triage, Transport, and Transfer guidelines:
The committee mention the progress of the Interfacility guideline. Dr. Cody offered to make the guidelines a shorter version. He will present it at the next meeting.

- Recommend OTERAC to update to current state EMS protocol guidelines:
The committee discussed updating the protocols. Dr. Knoles offered to speak to Oklahoma Medical Direction (OMD) to see if the committee can use their updated protocols to help with the State’s EMS Protocols. Dr. Knoles made a motion to use OMD’s protocols and provide initial and ongoing State protocol changes under the direction of the Medical Director Committee and seconded by Dr. Wales. After the motion the committee asked if there could be a hyperlink or an app for the State Protocols. They asked if some of the Rural Health Transformation money could be used to help design an app for protocols.

The motion carried as follows:

Ayes	Nays	Abstain
Dr. Curtis Knoles		
Dr. David Gearhart		
Dr. Jason McElyea		
Dr. Carolina Wales		
Dr. William Worden		
Dr. Patrick Cody		

- Committee member status
Dr. Cody asked if the committee had any Bylaws on attendance for members of the committee. Lori Strider advised the committee that they are under OTERAC’s direction, so the committee had no Bylaws. Dr. Cody informed the committee that he received a call from a Stakeholder with concerns about adding so many trauma surgeons to the committee in today’s OTERAC meeting. Concerns were the rural services would not be represented in this committee. Dr. Cody will remind OTERAC that the committee would welcome more regional diversity. Dr. Worden would like to speak to Dr. Murry that replaced Dr. Behm at Memorial Health EMS to be a part of this committee. It was mentioned to be able to have the meetings via Zoom. Dr. Worden made a motion to remove Dr. Celii from the committee and seconded by Dr. Cody. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes	Nays	Abstain
Dr. Curtis Knoles		
Dr. David Gearhart		
Dr. Jason McElyea		
Dr. Carolina Wales		
Dr. William Worden		
Dr. Patrick Cody		

7. Public Comment

Lewis Robinson informed the committee that the State will send out a calendar invite for the next meeting. When the agenda is sent and added to the calendar invite the Statue and rules will be included.

Dr. Cody stated he has noted a marked improvement over the last 12 months in terms of the quality of work and communication with the Health Department. Dr. Worden stated he agreed and that things are more cohesive and not confrontational like it was.

Dr. Cody informed the committee that Norma Perez has been a godsend to CQI.

8. Next Meeting

- May 6, 2026 – Tulsa County Medical Society

9. Adjourn

Dr. Wales made a motion to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. and seconded by Dr. Knoles. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes	Nays	Abstain
Dr. Curtis Knoles		
Dr. David Gearhart		
Dr. Jason McElyea		
Dr. Carolina Wales		
Dr. William Worden		
Dr. Patrick Cody		