

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

IN RE: ACUTE CARE COMMITTEE MEETING
HEARD BEFORE: JEFF YOUNG, MD
CHAIR, ACUTE CARE COMMITTEE

MAY 2, 2019

CONFERENCE CENTER
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
2925 EMERYWOOD PARKWAY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

3:00 P.M.

COMMONWEALTH REPORTERS, LLC
P. O. Box 13227
Richmond, Virginia 23225
Tel. 804-859-2051 Fax 804-291-9460

1 APPEARANCES:

2 Jeff Young, MD, Presiding
3 Committee Chair

4 ACUTE CARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

5 Shelly Arnold

6 Beth Broering

7 Kelly Brown

8 Pier Ferguson

9 Terral Goode, MD

10 Tracey Jeffers

11
12 VDH/OEMS STAFF:

13 Cam Crittenden

14 Tim Erskine

15 ALSO PRESENT:

16 Mindy Carter

17 Dreama Chandler

18 Susan Union

19 Mark Day

20 Heather Davis

21 R. Jason Ferguson

22 Matt Lawler

23 Grace Eaton

24 Valerie Quick

25 Lou Ann Miller

1 ALSO PRESENT (con't.):

2 Charles Dillard

3 Tanya Trevilian

4 Kelly Rumsey

5 Michel Aboutanos, MD

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

A G E N D A

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE
-------------	------

Call to Order	
---------------	--

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.....	5
---	---

Approval of Today's Meeting Minutes.....	6
--	---

confirmation of Crossover Assignments.....	6
--	---

General Discussion of Current Trauma Center Designation Process.....	9
---	---

Introduction of Attendees**.....	10
----------------------------------	----

Criterion.....	20
----------------	----

Current Site Visit Process.....	28
---------------------------------	----

Areas in Need of Centers.....	29
-------------------------------	----

Creation of Action Plan.....	35
------------------------------	----

Public Comment Period.....	108
----------------------------	-----

Unfinished Business.....	108
--------------------------	-----

New Business.....	108
-------------------	-----

Adjourn	
---------	--

Items not listed on Agenda**	
------------------------------	--

1 (The Acute Care Committee meeting commenced
2 at approximately 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present and
3 the Committee's agenda proceeded as follows:)

4
5 DR. YOUNG: All right. Let's call
6 the meeting to order. I've been asked to
7 read this statement regarding our audio
8 recording. All trauma system committee
9 meetings are audio-recorded. These
10 recordings are used for meeting transcripts.

11 Because of this, all
12 participants must do the following. Speak
13 clearly. If not called on by name by the
14 Chair, identify yourself before speaking and
15 speak one at a time.

16 We appreciate the enthusiasm,
17 participation in the trauma system process
18 and welcome input. But following the above
19 rules will assist in accurate transcription.
20 So first of all, do you have a motion to
21 approve the previous meeting? That was it?

22
23 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I'm -- second.

24
25 DR. YOUNG: Any opposed? Okay,

1 great. And any -- anything anybody wants to
2 add to the agenda for today other than the
3 public comment period? Okay, so we'll have
4 that. All right.

5 So we had a little -- Cam, if
6 you could say what each of the crossover
7 assignments were and then -- we couldn't get
8 it off the transcript. So we just have to
9 confirm it. Beth, do you remember which one
10 you were on? Yeah, that's -- we -- we need
11 to know who was going where.

12
13 MR. ERSKINE: Yeah. Yeah, we need
14 to know who was going where.

15
16 DR. YOUNG: Yeah, we designated it,
17 but I didn't write it down.

18
19 MS. BROWN: I go to -- is it the
20 one at 8:00 a.m., tomorrow morning. It's
21 Kelly. Was it emergency --

22
23 DR. ABOUTANOS: Emergency
24 Preparedness.

1 DR. YOUNG: Okay, so Kelly Brown is
2 Emergency Preparedness. All right. What
3 was -- what are the others?
4

5 MS. ARNOLD: Shelly Arnold is to
6 the SIC.
7

8 DR. YOUNG: The what?
9

10 MS. ARNOLD: System Improvement.
11

12 DR. YOUNG: Okay.
13

14 MS. ARNOLD: S-I-C.
15

16 DR. YOUNG: Okay. What were the
17 others?
18

19 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think I'm
20 supposed to be --
21

22 DR. YOUNG: You got -- you got
23 assigned to something.
24

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think it's

1 Post Acute Care.

2
3 DR. YOUNG: Okay. Post Acute,
4 okay.

5
6 MR. ERSKINE: Oh, you missed that.

7
8 DR. ABOUTANOS: It was very good.
9 That was the best.

10
11 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I just -- thanks
12 for the reminder.

13
14 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah, what -- the
15 last minute was two hours.

16
17 DR. YOUNG: Okay. Who else?

18
19 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I'll be -- I'll
20 come --

21
22 DR. YOUNG: That's just three. Is
23 that all there was?

24
25 MR. ERSKINE: I think that may be

1 it. Let me just check one thing here.

2 Wait. You can interrupt.

3
4 DR. YOUNG: Yeah. So we're going
5 to move off of it. So what we want to do is
6 spend the majority of the meeting today
7 talking about the designation process in the
8 State.

9 The criterion and the current
10 process that we use. And to speak about
11 centers that are contemplating verification
12 or contemplating it through the State or --
13 or BACS.

14 So first let's start a little
15 bit out of order. Well, let's frame the
16 issues. So right now, --

17
18 MR. ERSKINE: Oh, I'm sorry.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: Sorry.

21
22 MR. ERSKINE: If we could go around
23 the room and --

24
25 DR. YOUNG: Okay.

1 MR. ERSKINE: -- introduce. So
2 that way, the transcriptionist knows who's
3 talking.

4
5 DR. YOUNG: Okay. Starting to the
6 right.

7
8 MS. RUMSEY: My name is Kelly
9 Rumsey. I'm the pediatric trauma program
10 manager at VCU. I'm here today as the
11 alternate crossover from Pre-Hospital. Your
12 standing -- your standing rep had to leave
13 today.

14
15 DR. YOUNG: All right.

16
17 DR. GOODE: I'm Terral Goode, the
18 trauma medical director at Winchester
19 Medical Center, a Level II center.

20
21 MS. BROERING: I'm Beth Broering.
22 I'm the trauma program manager at VCU, which
23 is a Level I.

24
25 DR. YOUNG: I'm Jeff Young. I'm

1 the Chair and I'm the trauma medical
2 director at UVa, which is a Level I.

3
4 MR. ERSKINE: Tim Erskine, faceless
5 bureaucrat.

6
7 DR. ABOUTANOS: Mike Aboutanos.
8 I'm the Chair of the TAG and the Chair of
9 VCU Trauma Services.

10
11 MS. JEFFERS: I'm Tracey Jeffers.
12 I'm the trauma program manager at Southside
13 Regional, a Level III.

14
15 MS. FERGUSON: Pier Ferguson, not
16 designated.

17
18 MS. BROWN: I'm Kelly Brown. I'm
19 the trauma program manager at Centra
20 Lynchburg General. We're a Level II.

21
22 MS. ARNOLD: Shelly Arnold. ABP of
23 trauma in the Capital Division. I am a
24 representing trauma center administrator.

1 DR. YOUNG: All right, thank you.

2 So we're going to spend the majority talking
3 about the process and to frame the issue of
4 a larger and larger number of trauma centers
5 in the State have gone for ASC -- American
6 College of Surgeons verification.

7 And there has been
8 considerable discussion about what are the
9 true differences between the criteria that
10 the American College of Surgeons use, that
11 the State uses, what -- what's -- what those
12 differences are and what the value is in
13 those differences.

14 And Beth and a group of others
15 spent a great deal of time looking at this,
16 and is going to start the discussion.

17
18 MS. BROERING: So -- yeah. So
19 thanks a lot. So a number of us -- myself,
20 Cathy Peterson, Shelly, Kelly Brown, Tracey.
21 So sort of a broad representation of
22 different centers or level, got together.
23 Talked a lot about what we would look at.
24 And we basically took the ACS criterion and
25 the State criteria, and to the best of our

1 abilities, tried to sort of create a map or
2 a crosswalk between the ACS and the State
3 criteria, where they existed. And
4 certainly, there is some State criteria that
5 are unique to the state.

6 I'll use the example,
7 particularly at the Annual Nursing Education
8 requirements and sort of a -- a
9 certification as it relates to like TNCC for
10 your trauma nurses in the -- or the
11 designated nurses in your emergency
12 department.

13 Whereas there's others that
14 are, for the most part, word for word right
15 out of the ACS manual. And I think what we
16 found as we started working through this and
17 talking about it and trying to figure out,
18 well, what standard -- this is a State
19 standard, Chapter 6 point -- I'm just using
20 numbers.

21 I'm just -- I'm not saying
22 this exactly. But 6.24 maps here, you know,
23 in -- into the ACS. And there is some
24 grayness in the ACS. We agree to that, but
25 they were also where we found some

1 interpretative guidance and -- that was in
2 the ACS, that then became a standard for the
3 state. Or there was interpretative guidance
4 in the state that became a standard, but
5 there really wasn't another standard.

6 So -- and you know, I think
7 that that has sometimes maybe led to some
8 confusion and some frustrations. And also,
9 just where we need to go.

10 I'll use an example of, you
11 know, the ACS says you have to have surgeon
12 response times within 15 minutes. That's
13 immediate. 30 minutes is prompt.

14 And your surgeon response time
15 is 80% in -- in the state manual or -- as
16 that's involved with ACS in our state manual
17 back -- didn't evolve that metric of 80% of
18 the time.

19 So we didn't -- we sort of
20 follow it, but we don't. So what we did
21 find, though, is -- and I think that we
22 would agree upon -- is that for the most
23 part, the Level I criteria -- it is almost
24 exactly the same with the exception of the
25 nursing -- the nursing education. And

1 certainly, if we adopt the -- the CME
2 requirement or whatever, as the
3 clarifications have changed.

4 And -- and for the most part,
5 again, with the exception of -- with the
6 exception of the nursing education
7 requirements, the Level II and then research
8 is almost exactly the same.

9 And so, designee -- who has to
10 really -- as we start to revise and -- and
11 develop a trauma -- a State trauma
12 designation manual to sort of really kind of
13 stick to the guidance of the ACS.

14 Or stick to the language of
15 the ACS and not try to write further
16 interpretive guidance or create more
17 standards that are trying to be interpretive
18 guidance that would lead to further
19 confusion in the long run.

20 And I -- and I don't know the
21 answer to that. But that's sort of where we
22 sort of led. And that would it be -- is it
23 the right thing for the patients of our
24 State because -- because of what we should
25 be providing at a Level I or a Level II

1 center to sort of emulate the ACS standards
2 for the Level I's and the Level II's to the
3 closest as possible. And then decide where
4 there's differences or different standards.

5 Do we continue to accept those
6 standards or not. And -- or do they need it
7 -- do we need different additional
8 standards.

9 And then we got that far and
10 we're -- we still have some work to do with
11 Level III's because there's a bigger
12 variation with Level III's between the ACS
13 and -- and the State.

14 And so I think Tracey can
15 speak to that. But again, what's the right
16 thing for our hospitals. But what's the
17 right thing for our patients.

18 And where we currently have
19 Level III's and where we might see Level
20 III's develop in the future based on the
21 needs of the State.

22 Are the ACS criteria versus
23 State criteria -- are they practical, are
24 they meet-able, are they, you know, what's
25 -- and what's the best. So I -- I -- that's

1 where I'm going to leave it.

2
3 DR. ABOUTANOS: Can I ask a
4 question?

5
6 DR. YOUNG: Of course. Mike
7 Aboutanos speaking.

8
9 DR. ABOUTANOS: Right, oh, yeah.
10 Yeah, sorry. Mike Aboutanos. The -- it
11 sounds like we're jumping to ACS versus
12 State. Which initially, it was what is
13 going on with our designation manual.
14 Is it -- there's a lot of
15 issues with discrepancies, issues with it.
16 And is the fact of going to let's adopt the
17 same language as the ACS a solution to that.
18 Because that was identified as initial.

19 Instead of saying, hey, those
20 two are not, you know -- and -- and I think
21 that's got to be an important --

22
23 MS. BROERING: Sure.

24
25 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- question. One

1 of the things that I've gotten a lot from is
2 that we have adopted a -- a triage criteria
3 equating clinically Level I to Level II in
4 the State. But our designation manual does
5 not equate clinically. Forget research.

6
7 MS. BROERING: Sure.

8
9 DR. ABOUTANOS: Does not equate
10 clinically, Level I to Level II. The
11 requirements are not the same --

12
13 MS. BROERING: Right.

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- for what you
16 need. So that's a problem.

17
18 MS. BROERING: Correct.

19
20 DR. ABOUTANOS: If -- if we can not
21 equate clinically Level I to Level II, then
22 why are they different. And so -- that was
23 one issue. That are other issues with it.
24 You got medical issues, obligation-ness, you
25 know. There were --

1 MS. BROERING: Yeah.

2
3 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- bunch of stuff
4 that needed to be looked at. So my question
5 is, do you jump into all of this or do you
6 say, are the -- do the ACS criteria now
7 solve most of the stuff.

8 And therefore, we're taking a
9 very good shortcut. And the question that
10 came in before, and we're skewed ourselves
11 because we're with ACS a lot of ways.

12
13 MS. BROERING: Yeah.

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: Is ACS the standard
16 for the -- for us or not? If it is --

17
18 MS. BROERING: Sure.

19
20 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- the standard,
21 where does -- you know, [unintelligible].

22
23 MS. BROERING: Yeah.

24
25 DR. ABOUTANOS: I think that was

1 kind of just basic question I think this
2 committee has to be able to answer to the
3 trauma system plan.
4

5 DR. YOUNG: And -- and I think,
6 Beth, the way we approached it was are there
7 aspects of the current Virginia designation
8 criteria that truly add value to the patient
9 that should be preserved.

10 And the other side of that was
11 are there criteria by the ACS that would
12 firmly prevent a place that wants to be an
13 ACS Level II -- or wants to be a Virginia
14 Level II or I --
15

16 DR. ABOUTANOS: That's a good
17 question.
18

19 MS. BROERING: Yeah.
20

21 DR. YOUNG: -- that would -- that
22 would hurt it. And you know, I think our
23 conclusion was, you know, there's some
24 things such as nursing education in the
25 Virginia that could certainly be preserved.

1 And it did not seem that there was things in
2 the ACS, but that's where we have to open it
3 up for comment. But I -- I'd just -- like I
4 said, I do visits all over the country, so
5 there's a lot of models to do this.

6 And North Carolina, they have
7 the ACS team, the state OEMS director, the
8 state medical director and then the state
9 EMS director. They go to each visit
10 together.

11 And the -- and the state
12 people are there to look at whatever state
13 criteria they may have and to determine if
14 -- if the ACS does not verify the center, do
15 they stay state-verified.

16 And that's why that team is
17 there. Colorado does the same thing. West
18 Virginia does a very similar thing. New
19 Jersey does a very similar thing. So there
20 are models where -- where you can preserve
21 parts of each.

22 I do agree with Mike that we
23 should try to create similar -- one set of
24 criteria at least for the Level I's and
25 Level II's. And then I think the discussion

1 was the Level III's may require a little bit
2 more time to figure out.

3
4 DR. ABOUTANOS: This is Mike
5 Aboutanos. I think the process of how you
6 evaluate -- where you to two team, one team
7 is a separate discussion.

8
9 MS. BROERING: Sure.

10
11 DR. YOUNG: Right.

12
13 MS. BROERING: We agree.

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: I think the
16 discussion is really does the State
17 designation manual and the quest that came
18 from last time for this committee to take a
19 look at it again.

20 You know, is the proposal now
21 to compare it to the ACS? And I think this
22 is such a touchy subject when it comes to
23 the designation manual. And I think simply
24 saying we think they're mostly similar --
25 I'm not saying simple. I know it's not

1 simple at all. But it took us, as you all
2 remember, three years to come up with the
3 first designation manual. And -- and it
4 took literally looking at every -- and this
5 what I will ask.

6 To get legitimacy and to get
7 transparency is to just simply put one right
8 next to each other and just say, this is the
9 same, this is the same. And --

10
11 MS. BROERING: That's what we did.

12
13 DR. YOUNG: That's what they did.

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: But it needs to be
16 shown --

17
18 MS. BROERING: Oh.

19
20 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- is what I'm
21 saying. I'm just saying eventually from
22 this --

23
24 MS. BROERING: Yeah.

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- it needs to come
2 out that this is what we have seen for it to
3 go forward, you know.

4
5 MS. BROERING: Okay.

6
7 DR. ABOUTANOS: And -- because it's
8 -- and -- and does it answer the question I
9 asked before. Does it solve some of the
10 issues we've had with the -- I'm hoping it
11 does.

12 It would be a lot easier to
13 just have one -- one criteria. But we have
14 to show it. That's most --

15
16 DR. YOUNG: Anything else --
17 comments? Just a conclusion from their
18 group was for the Level I's and II's,
19 there's a tremendous amount of similarity in
20 those very few instances it seems that where
21 there are differences that those differences
22 are critical to the -- the survival of
23 patients. Except for maybe a few things
24 that -- that may be better that are in our
25 criteria. But there aren't that many of

1 those.

2
3 DR. ABOUTANOS: Can I ask a
4 question?

5
6 MS. BROERING: Sure.

7
8 DR. ABOUTANOS: Since you are also
9 reviewer for the State of Pennsylvania, why
10 is their state criteria much more stringent
11 than the ACS? They don't even use the ACS
12 criteria.

13
14 MS. BROERING: Their foundation,
15 now. Yeah, I think that they are -- I'm
16 just going to be honest. I think they're a
17 little bit more evolved than we are at a
18 state system perspective.

19 And I think that what I've
20 seen over the years of being a reviewer from
21 back in 2004 and 2005, all the way up to
22 this year. Their standards have greatly
23 evolved. Some of their standards, back in
24 2004 and 2005 -- again, I think their
25 standards are very, very similar to the ACS.

1 And then there are some additional standards
2 where the -- they're a little bit tight --
3 they are a little bit tighter. And I will
4 use the example of nursing education. That
5 is one of their standards that is -- is much
6 more stringent.

7 I think that they've --
8 they've evolved as we are beginning to
9 evolve with this. And that their -- and
10 that's what they've made the decision.

11 What -- what Pennsylvania has
12 also done is their standards that -- they
13 have created standards that are just
14 standards.

15 But then they create sort of
16 interpretive processes that allow change
17 without having to go through the general --
18 General Assembly.

19 So here's the minimum
20 criteria. You must have a surgeon present
21 80% of the time or whatever, you know. I'm
22 just using that as an example. But there's
23 other parts of that like nuances of
24 performance improvement, etcetera, that
25 become like appendices that allow change and

1 reflect over time so that they can move the
2 system and they can move patient care
3 forward without having to be so exhaustive
4 in a -- in a true Code mentality.

5
6 DR. ABOUTANOS: See that -- that
7 would be one -- one part where we could
8 learn from --

9
10 MS. BROERING: Yeah.

11
12 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- another avenue,
13 you know, as far as putting -- adding
14 something additional. And I'm not -- ask
15 the question again. Again, this is Mike for
16 the recorder.

17 So to Jeff, you've done so
18 many of the ACS visits. Is there something
19 in the ACS visit that -- and in their
20 criteria -- that bothers you.

21 That you say, you know, for
22 our own state maybe it's better to actually
23 add this. If you were just speaking --

24
25 DR. YOUNG: Well, the biggest thing

1 is the ACS finally got rid of the CME
2 requirement, which was the biggest problem.
3 And now that that's gone, that's -- for the
4 physicians, that's the biggest difference
5 between the two criteria.

6 The ACS visit is -- is much
7 more in depth on performance improvement as
8 you all know if you've gone through it. The
9 way that we look at charts and stuff is --
10 is a much deeper dive.

11 And -- but other than that, I
12 think that's why we came to the conclusion
13 the Level I and II criteria are not that
14 different.

15 They're not appreciably
16 different between the two, except for CME.
17 So what -- any other comments or -- yes.
18 Terral, good.

19
20 DR. GOODE: In your experience and
21 when you're looking at these different
22 states who have decided to adopt the ACS
23 philosophy and those who have decided to
24 retain their own, does it matter if you have
25 a state that has an overwhelming -- say a

1 geography -- a demographic where there's the
2 access to health care is pretty robust in
3 all -- in all elements of the state, versus
4 places where there are big gaps in care.

5 Such as a more -- a larger,
6 more rural state where there are deserts in
7 and around the places where the Level I and
8 Level II.

9
10 DR. YOUNG: So there's a factor in
11 that. So the more rural states usually do
12 not have enough resources on the state EMS
13 side to do their entire verification
14 process.

15 So actually you find it more
16 often in the very rural states that they
17 want to farm the entire process out to the
18 ACS. You know, the states that don't use
19 the ACS are actually very urban states.

20 Illinois doesn't, although
21 I've done visits in Illinois. No -- there
22 have been no ACS visits in Pennsylvania as
23 far as I know. Florida had their own system
24 for a long time, but now they've gone to the
25 ACS. Colorado, basically when you go --

1 when you finish the visit, they just hand
2 you a checklist. And it basically goes,
3 these are the ones that are different than
4 the ACS. So you need to make sure that
5 they're there.

6 New Jersey essentially uses
7 the exact same criteria. So -- you know, I
8 just haven't seen any state where they have
9 us use their additional criteria where they
10 were -- a lot of them has nursing education.

11 Because I think people do
12 object to the vagueness of the nursing
13 education requirements of the College. In
14 fact, reviewers object to the vagueness of
15 it.

16 But other than that, it's --
17 it's pretty similar. One issue that has
18 come out nationally is a lot of places are
19 Level II's and want to be Level I's.

20 And there's been a lot of
21 gaming going on nationally to meet the
22 research requirement. That there are places
23 where, if you pay them a certain amount of
24 money, they'll provide a certain amount of
25 papers for you. And the VRC knows about

1 that and has tried to stop that. And then,
2 the College requires for you to be a Level I
3 -- and I am not entirely sure of the State
4 requirement on this. That you have to have
5 a continuous rotation in trauma surgery to
6 PGY 4 or 5 level.

7 And so places that want to be
8 Level I start making an affiliation with an
9 academic center to have one resident come
10 over five days a week so that they can do
11 that.

12 And -- and I hope we would
13 never do that kind of gaming here because
14 it's a little bit destructive to the whole
15 thing.

16
17 DR. ABOUTANOS: Can I add
18 something? We're not talking -- I hope
19 we're not talking, unless we're going to
20 make another clarification.

21 It's simply adopting criteria,
22 not adopting an organization. Those are
23 very separate things because with the ACS
24 comes a lot of additional finances and
25 costs.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah. True
2 that.

3
4 DR. ABOUTANOS: And so you know,
5 we're simply looking at the criteria. Are
6 we going to adopt some of their criteria?
7 That's a different discussion from saying,
8 are we going to become automatically ACS.

9
10 MS. BROERING: Right.

11
12 DR. ABOUTANOS: A state -- a -- at
13 least maybe a proposal that this committee
14 is putting together that a hospital can
15 choose how they want to be state-verified.

16 I know these criteria are very
17 similar to the ACS, but I don't want to be
18 ACS verified. Let's put it that way.
19 Right?

20
21 DR. YOUNG: And I think in our
22 discussions, we never put forward that the
23 whole system would be ACS.

24
25 MS. BROERING: Yeah.

1 DR. YOUNG: I think the philosophy
2 was, number one, let's try to make as much
3 of the criteria's that the same, the same.
4 Try to look for those that actually add
5 value.

6 For places that are already
7 ACS verified and are already spending that
8 money, that perhaps we could consider using
9 their ACS verification with a State augment,
10 like I said North Carolina does.

11
12 DR. ABOUTANOS: Mm-hmm.

13
14 DR. YOUNG: For places that don't
15 ever want to be ACS, they could just have
16 the same State visit they've always had,
17 just using these criteria. And then I don't
18 want to get into the weeds with this.

19 But it was something to
20 discuss was if they go and the ACS does not
21 verify them, but they would've passed by
22 State criteria. And that's the reason why
23 you have the State team go with them.
24 Because -- and I've done this. I've done
25 places where they didn't meet the ACS

1 criteria and we had a discussion with the
2 state. And the State said, well, they do
3 meet our criteria. And they will continue
4 to be state verified.

5
6 DR. ABOUTANOS: And how does that
7 work, they're using the same -- the same
8 state --

9
10 DR. YOUNG: The -- the -- some of
11 those states -- the states where this
12 occurred, they do have five or six different
13 criteria.

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: Oh.

16
17 DR. YOUNG: But actually, as you
18 may know, the most common reason to -- to
19 not be verified in an ACS site visit is
20 performance improvement.

21 And so the states -- some of
22 these states performance improvement bar may
23 have been lower than the ACS. They looked
24 at the charts with us. And the ACS reviewer
25 would go, we're not going to pass them. And

1 the state reviewer who, you know, is an
2 expert sector person, would go, no. This is
3 good enough for us. And they would stay
4 state verified.

5 And that happened in North
6 Carolina and happened in Ohio when I was
7 there. It does happen.

8
9 MS. ARNOLD: And -- this is Shelly
10 Arnold. Kind of on that same note that we
11 talked about, there may be things where the
12 state would allow a corrective action plan
13 where the ACS won't allow a corrective
14 action plan if it's a Level I or Type I.

15 And you -- and you don't pass
16 it, the ACS will just say you're not
17 verified. You didn't pass. Whereas the
18 state and the state team may say, we will
19 allow you to continue with the state
20 designation --

21
22 DR. YOUNG: That's a good point.

23
24 MS. ARNOLD: -- as long as you do
25 this and you provide us this in three

1 months. And we'll come back in six months
2 or whatever the state would say.

3
4 DR. YOUNG: Yeah, I --

5
6 MS. ARNOLD: To allow that -- that
7 flexibility for your state to just not be
8 not designated and done.

9
10 DR. YOUNG: And many states do
11 that. And we -- we can certainly bite this
12 off in chunks. And this -- the first chunk
13 can just be what criteria are different,
14 what are the same?

15 How should we merge them and
16 should it be just ACS criteria we use, or
17 ACS plus? And the other thing everyone
18 needs to be aware of is there's big ACS
19 revisions going in -- on right now.

20 And -- but the ACS in general
21 -- and I'm in charge of the two of the
22 chapters -- has, if I could say, has gotten
23 more lenient. Has gotten away from those
24 criteria that have never shown that they
25 provide any value to the patient. And sent

1 down to all the centers to get feedback on
2 every single criteria. And if the feedback
3 from the centers were, this is a burden and
4 we don't think we should do it. Then the --
5 the VRC is being very receptive to removing
6 those criteria.

7
8 DR. ABOUTANOS: So this is -- this
9 is Mike. Let me ask this other question
10 because this one's important. So now there
11 is a process also that's eventually being
12 looked at.

13 Because so now you have
14 another organization that has its own
15 committees, its own people. And I'm sorry,
16 from Pennsylvania. They have three
17 exceptions.

18 Oh, I'm sorry, from Virginia.
19 And they -- if they -- they need to change
20 the criteria. Does that mean the State has
21 to immediately change our criteria or -- it
22 probably does not mean that.

23
24 DR. YOUNG: We can decide whatever
25 we want. What many states do is they just

1 say -- they can say we follow every
2 clarification document that comes from the
3 ACS and we adopt it. Some have said, we're
4 not going to change until an entire new
5 optimal resources document comes out.

6 And you know, I think the way
7 that states have done that is -- I think
8 it's the way the Code is written here is
9 that we will determine standards for trauma
10 center designation, or Tim may know better
11 what it says.

12 But the states that have
13 regretted what they've done have said, our
14 criteria for state verification are the
15 current ACS criteria. And those states have
16 regretted that because --

17
18 DR. ABOUTANOS: They're changing.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: Right. So you know, I
21 think -- you know, we would still have a
22 group. And you know, we can make a group
23 that whenever new clarifications or actual
24 changes in criteria come out. They don't --
25 the really, really big ones I don't think

1 come out more than three or four times a
2 year. And we can just discuss them.

3 And you know, I think the
4 Commonwealth can still have autonomy to say,
5 you know, to make it -- I guess we have to
6 decide whether it's going to be ACS plus or
7 ACS minus a few things.

8 I think Beth and others have
9 said one of the problems with the State
10 criteria over the years is that we've
11 tweaked things dependent on issues that came
12 up. And it's left the criteria kind of
13 gray. So --

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: But it just means
16 that the State is -- sorry, it's Mike. That
17 the state is responding to its need --

18
19 DR. YOUNG: Right.

20
21 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- in the criteria.
22 And I think -- so this -- these are the --
23 you know, the committee can decide and
24 obviously and you can -- eventually when the
25 work is done it's got to be brought up to

1 the TAG. But the -- I -- I'm more into the
2 language of ACS versus the labeling of ACS.
3 And those two are not the same.

4 I'm just saying this is an ACS
5 language that works fine. Instead of saying
6 we're ACS plus, we'll just simply use the
7 same language.

8
9 DR. YOUNG: I think -- don't we
10 already say that now? Don't we already say,
11 Tim or Cam --

12
13 MR. ERSKINE: No, we say --
14

15 DR. YOUNG: I thought we said it
16 was -- doesn't it say somewhere it's
17 fundamentally based on --
18

19 DR. ABOUTANOS: It does say that.
20

21 MS. CRITTENDEN: It says it's based
22 on a national standard.
23

24 DR. YOUNG: Oh, that's all it says?
25

1 MR. ERSKINE: Mm-hmm.

2
3 DR. YOUNG: So I guess we could
4 make that --

5
6 DR. ABOUTANOS: Be supported by.
7 Which I --

8
9 DR. YOUNG: Although more --

10
11 MS. CRITTENDEN: Yeah.

12
13 DR. ABOUTANOS: How to avoid -- how
14 to avoid some -- some things that, if -- if
15 the criteria makes sense, you know, and it
16 fits. Like I said, currently there are a
17 lot of ambiguity needs to be solved, either
18 way. So -- okay.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: And we also may have to
21 go through a transition period. I -- I
22 realize there may be many people that don't
23 trust the ACS. But having been on the
24 verification review committee for 22 years,
25 I -- I -- it has tremendous representation

1 from all over the country. From Level I,
2 II, III's and IV's. And people are not shy
3 about speaking up if they think that there's
4 an issue.

5 And for a long time, the
6 executive committee stuck with criteria that
7 a lot of people disagreed with. And the new
8 executive committee has been very amenable
9 to logical and reasonable changes in the
10 criteria.

11 So -- so where do we want to
12 go next with -- let's just take the first
13 chunk of the criteria. And the question is
14 to make a definitive assessment of what
15 criteria we think should just be considered
16 the same.

17
18 DR. ABOUTANOS: Mm-hmm.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: And then what that we
21 think really need -- need additional
22 Commonwealth of Virginia criteria, and for
23 what levels. So Beth, what do you think?

24
25 MS. BROERING: I'll let somebody

1 else.

2
3 DR. YOUNG: What do you think,
4 somebody else.

5
6 MS. BROERING: Anybody else is
7 fine.

8
9 COMMITTEE MEMBER: If you're going
10 to do kind of like the -- the areas where I
11 have these 10 identified, and I'm only
12 speaking for I's and II's.

13 We're kind of leaving III's
14 over here because we know there's a
15 significant variance between state and ACS
16 that.

17 But for I's and II's, I mean,
18 I think we need to look at nursing education
19 and are we getting included or excluded.
20 Physician CME's, are they in or are they
21 out? Do we match the CME --

22
23 DR. YOUNG: They're on -- they're
24 on their way out.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: But we're
2 putting some other things in place.

3
4 DR. ABOUTANOS: We already voted on
5 that, I think.

6
7 COMMITTEE MEMBER: The mid levels
8 --

9
10 DR. YOUNG: It's -- it's working
11 its way up.

12
13 COMMITTEE MEMBER: The mid levels
14 are a higher standard than ACS. So they
15 really are a higher standard than ACS with
16 the new coming in's. But --

17
18 DR. YOUNG: In which -- in which
19 way?

20
21 COMMITTEE MEMBER: The State of
22 Virginia's going to have a higher
23 requirement for mid level providers for
24 CME's.

DR. YOUNG: Oh, for CME. Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER: So if -- we need to have discussion on CME. I do think there needs to be a discussion on the research component for Level I's.

There is pretty significant difference between ACS and State for the research requirements.

DR. YOUNG: Excuse me. Just for the group, what is the State research requirement?

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Five articles in three years.

DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Four adults, one peds. And one of the adults needs to be nursing by -- by -- there's a total of five article requirements for the State.

DR. YOUNG: Okay.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: So I think
2 that's one. The neurosurgical in-house
3 coverage is different with the State versus
4 the ACS.

5
6 DR. YOUNG: And -- and the --

7
8 COMMITTEE MEMBER: For Level I's
9 only.

10
11 DR. YOUNG: And the difference is
12 what again? Who is what?

13
14 COMMITTEE MEMBER: The
15 interpretation of the State guidelines says
16 that there must be neurosurgical coverage
17 in-house, 24 --

18
19 MS. CRITTENDEN: In person.

20
21 COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- in-house.
22 Right.

23
24 COMMITTEE MEMBER: In person. I
25 don't know if it says in person or in-house.

1 MS. CRITTENDEN: It says in-house.

2
3 DR. ABOUTANOS: It says in-house.

4
5 COMMITTEE MEMBER: A body has to be
6 in-house where the ACS does not have
7 in-house requirements. It has response time
8 requirements, but not in-house.

9
10 MS. CRITTENDEN: But that can be
11 filled by a PA or --

12
13 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah.

14
15 (Several committee members starting speaking
16 at once.)

17
18 COMMITTEE MEMBER: The neurosurgeon
19 has to be --

20
21 DR. YOUNG: So -- so Cam Crittenden
22 said that it -- it can be covered, not only
23 by a neurosurgeon, but by a physician's
24 assistant.

1 MS. CRITTENDEN: That is correct.

2 But the ACS --

3
4 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Nurse
5 practitioner, too?

6
7 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

8
9 MS. CRITTENDEN: The ACS doesn't
10 have a requirement on -- for the in-house
11 piece.

12
13 DR. YOUNG: PTY, whatever.

14
15 MS. BROERING: What are the other
16 big ones? I'm trying to think if there's
17 anything else --

18
19 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Well, there's
20 actually a volume requirement for Level
21 I's --

22
23 MS. BROERING: Volume requirement,
24 yeah.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- by the ACS,
2 but there is not actually -- and I was just
3 looking again. I still have not been able
4 to find the true volume requirement for an
5 adult. There is peds, but there's not --

6
7 DR. YOUNG: For the State?

8
9 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Mm-hmm.

10
11 COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- a requirement
12 for the State.

13
14 DR. YOUNG: There's not. Just from
15 what I know, all of the current ACS verified
16 Level I's in the State would meet -- meet
17 the ACS volume criteria. So it's not --
18 there is no volume criteria for Level II's
19 in the ACS.

20
21 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Correct.

22
23 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Right.

24
25 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think that's

1 -- I think you spoke to it.

2
3 DR. YOUNG: So for an action plan
4 --

5
6 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think that --
7 I think that where we found it is that
8 there's been some -- I'm going to use this
9 example where the ACS says you must have a
10 prompt response of surgical and surgical sub
11 -- or you know, care of the patient in the
12 emergency department.

13 The State has taken it to say
14 there will be at least two board -- two
15 physicians who are board-certified. So
16 we've sort of taken that to a -- a level of
17 higher specificity.

18 So -- and I -- some of that I
19 think might -- might -- is actually pretty
20 good. I'm not -- I'm not saying it's bad.
21 But those are the types of nuances of how
22 the standards in the State have been. The
23 interpretive guidance have been turned into
24 standards or -- in the State.

1 MS. CRITTENDEN: So can I say one
2 thing?

3
4 DR. YOUNG: Mm-hmm. Cam.

5
6 MS. CRITTENDEN: So we keep saying
7 the State. So for those of you that just --
8 just as some background.

9
10 DR. YOUNG: Uh-huh.

11
12 MS. CRITTENDEN: So the State
13 didn't create this manual.

14
15 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Right. Yeah.

16
17 MS. CRITTENDEN: Just -- just so
18 y'all know.

19
20 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah.

21
22 MS. CRITTENDEN: We -- there's a
23 lot of --

24
25 DR. ABOUTANOS: The TSOM -- the

1 TSOM.

2
3 MS. CRITTENDEN: Y'all did.

4
5 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah.

6
7 MS. CRITTENDEN: I mean, it was 18
8 months of work from the TSOMC and that
9 group. All the trauma program managers and
10 all that.

11 So I'm looking at -- you know,
12 we talk about nuances, but any of you that
13 were on any of those work groups that came
14 up with this criteria, I'm sure there were
15 reasons and a ton -- knowing y'all and tons
16 of discussions --

17
18 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Sure.

19
20 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- about all those
21 nuances. So I think that, just from looking
22 in this manual and living and breathing it
23 and all these site visits, I -- the nuances
24 are there. What we could benefit from, in
25 some ways, is it may be a broader

1 interpretive guidance section. And into the
2 manual, each section does have guidance
3 wording. But if we help beef that up, some
4 things -- I'm -- I don't know where -- how
5 we got to some of these nuances --

6
7 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah, you do.

8
9 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- because I
10 wasn't there. But I mean, but I know that
11 the brain trust came up with it. So I know
12 that it wasn't just picked out of thin air.
13 There was a ton of thought that went into
14 it.

15 So if we move forward, that
16 may be beefing that up a little more and
17 providing more in-depth guidance or broader
18 -- so that people 10 years from now, when
19 we're all gone and retired forever,
20 understand what we were talking about and
21 why we're talking about it. I think that
22 would be helpful.

23
24 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

1 DR. YOUNG: Terral.

2
3 DR. GOODE: I wasn't around when
4 the -- the manual came out, either. I mean,
5 I wasn't a part of the process. But I
6 wonder is -- was some of the nuances, as
7 well as the ambiguity that y'all referred to
8 -- was it in some way in response to the
9 idea that, at least from a Level II center,
10 that all the Level II's are not exactly the
11 same.

12 Do you know if you -- do you
13 know what I'm saying? Like depending on --
14 on where you are --

15
16 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

17
18 DR. GOODE: -- this Level II --

19
20 DR. YOUNG: But that -- that's very
21 similar in the whole nation, though.

22
23 DR. GOODE: Right. This level --

24
25 DR. YOUNG: When you look at -- and

1 I said this to the group. Like when you
2 look at the variability and performance of
3 Level I's in the nation, they're like this.

4 When you look at the variation
5 of Level II's, it's like this just because
6 there are so many different institutions and
7 such. And that's why the Level II criteria
8 are kind of what they are.

9 They don't have the volume
10 criteria. They don't have the research
11 criteria. They don't have the educational
12 criteria for the College of Surgeons. So
13 that's -- you're correct.

14 That -- that's why the Level
15 II criteria tend to be -- allow more
16 entrance of centers to be in that -- to be
17 in the Level II area. And -- so that's
18 correct.

19 And now, as far as -- just
20 give -- I don't know how many people have
21 been dealing with this as long as I have.
22 But the ACS was not a player in this state
23 when I first started on this committee.
24 Nobody was ACS verified. And so it wasn't
25 even something we even talked about. So we

1 developed our criteria manual independently
2 without really even thinking much about the
3 ACS. And then -- then Inova and then VCU
4 and then various places. And then some
5 Level II's got verified.

6 And then that's what has had
7 -- tried to make people realize why do we
8 have to have two completely separate
9 systems. And try to examine, you know, what
10 value the differences really have.

11
12 DR. ABOUTANOS: I think the -- to
13 answer your question. So the -- it was a
14 long arduous process. Every line was
15 debated, literally. That's why it took us
16 three years.

17 And the short answer is yes.
18 Because the difference -- when the TSOMC was
19 in charge of this -- and this is what Cam's
20 referring to -- you had every trauma center
21 was on -- at that time, our committee was
22 huge. But every center was basically
23 represented. So -- and what happened was
24 everyone brought their nuances to it. And
25 everybody says, forget about this criteria.

1 I'm not going to vote for that. That's
2 going to kill us. And the other one would
3 just say, well, you know, I -- of course,
4 you have to have this.

5 The ACS was used as a
6 background because that -- we had something
7 to go where -- that's why a lot of the
8 criteria are very similar, almost the same
9 in many, many ways, very much so.

10 So the -- that's why -- that's
11 why -- like this is a process. It still has
12 to go, you know, forward. We've made sure
13 it's the same significantly, the fact that
14 almost every Level I now is also ACS.

15 I wasn't -- before like Jeff
16 was saying. And -- and I think almost every
17 Level II now? No.

18
19 DR. YOUNG: No, not yet. But
20 still, there were no Level II's ACS
21 verified. Just, you know, a few years ago.

22
23 DR. ABOUTANOS: That's why my -- my
24 -- as much as I am -- I am a fan of
25 simplicity when it comes to criteria making

1 easier, especially when I see a trauma
2 program manager going like, just do so many
3 things all over again, different way,
4 nuances.

5 So if we make it simpler and
6 achieve the same outcome for our patients,
7 I'll all for that, you know, from one
8 aspect.

9 But I'm a little bit
10 frustrated -- just to tell you, I'm a little
11 bit hesitant of -- of labeling as in ACS
12 because it's going to create some
13 negativity.

14 Instead of saying, it's the
15 same criteria and just allowing the State to
16 continue to do what the State is doing, but
17 it's very much similar to ACS. So I think
18 there's a way to do both.

19 And that's my opinion, to gain
20 -- to gain it appropriately. And -- because
21 ultimately, we have to decide our own fate
22 here. You know, and we can't -- you know,
23 if you choose to be ACS, okay, fine. But
24 for the State, this is what the State is
25 requiring. But it sure makes it a lot

1 easier if it was the same criteria. Just a
2 lot, lot easier.

3
4 COMMITTEE MEMBER: And this is to
5 -- to what Cam said. And I -- I came back
6 to the -- I -- I was very -- I was much less
7 involved back in -- in the early 2000's, you
8 know, peripherally just when I was up at
9 Fairfax.

10
11 But when I came back here in
12 2013 and into '14, the -- the manual was
13 essentially had been written, the drafts of
14 it. So they were tweaking it in drafts and
15 tweaking of the criteria.

16 And while the foundation as --
17 as Cam said and you've said has -- has
18 always been the basis of -- of the ACS or
19 national standards.

20 You know, whether it was the
21 blue book or the white book, whatever, you
22 know. And -- and we've evolved over that.
23 There's -- I think that there's some --
24 there's some ambiguity in the standard of an
25 ACS standard to allow for the interpretive

1 guidance to change and evolve as -- as we
2 evolve. And so if we think about it that
3 way, then the standard says there will be
4 surgical commitment. That's the standard.

5 But the ACS says the surgical
6 commitment is evidenced by x, y and z,
7 versus in this state, we have the standard
8 and x, y, z and three more as standards.

9 So how do you create an -- as
10 Cam said, more robust interpretive guidance
11 that can help us evolve that -- that doesn't
12 have 13 -- you know? -- I -- I don't know.
13 That's what I'm --

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: That's right. And
16 I would say -- this is Mike, sorry. What
17 you're talking about, it's going to happen
18 no matter what.

19
20 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Sure.

21
22 DR. ABOUTANOS: But that number is
23 a bit different. See, you made the
24 guidelines. Then an issue come up and the
25 committee votes to change it or to make an

1 amendment or to do something to bring it up.
2 Once you say that this is ACS -- that's why
3 I was talking about the process.

4 Does this committee continue
5 that you will evolve based -- or you say,
6 now I'm going to have to wait now for the
7 ACS to change.

8 And all this -- you know, like
9 these things will come up where this
10 committee brought up its movement is not --
11 I'm only saying we think this criteria works
12 for the State well, but just make same
13 criteria. But also, what happens if a
14 change is needed? But maybe --

15
16 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Sure.

17
18 DR. ABOUTANOS: Because those are
19 -- those -- that's what changes you --
20

21 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Sure.

22
23 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- you know. So I
24 think --
25

1 MS. CRITTENDEN: So we have a
2 mechanism to update the manual. We don't
3 have to wait and do major revisions to it.
4 For example, by the CME change. You know,
5 there is a way -- we've done it.

6 Just send a note over to the
7 Commissioner to ask him to, you know -- the
8 Board can do it or he can -- the
9 Commissioner, whoever it might be -- can
10 sign off on that.

11 And that's what we've asked
12 for, for him to sign off on the CME change.
13 And we'll make an addendum to the trauma
14 manual. With everything that's been going
15 on, all the other we've been doing, it's not
16 really ever been a topic.

17 But if there are things, as we
18 move forward -- talking about kind of being
19 an agile document to reflect changes in the
20 environment in this state, something we want
21 to do better, there are ways that we can do
22 that without having to do major revisions.
23 So we can make this a living document versus
24 every three or five years we have to do this
25 major, you know, dozen tons of changes.

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: Sure.

2
3 MS. CRITTENDEN: And the only thing
4 I would caution a little bit is that with
5 four changes a year, if their major changes,
6 you guys have to react to that four times a
7 year.

8 And you're in mid-cycle or --
9 you know, I mean, those are -- those are
10 from an operational perspective --

11
12 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Sure.

13
14 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- in your
15 program. Those are big deals. And so, we
16 -- by maintaining control ourselves, we can
17 time that. And we can put in effective
18 dates and things.

19 So we do have mechanisms to
20 make this a living document, versus we have
21 to re-do it totally every time.

22
23 DR. YOUNG: So let's try to learn
24 from what the ACS has done wrong. So six
25 years ago, there was a big deal about making

1 a living document. They gave up on it after
2 four years because it was a disaster.
3 Because people -- new criteria would come
4 up.

5 You would go visit someone.
6 Oh, I didn't know that was the new criteria.
7 Well, we sent it to you in an email three --
8 you know. So we can't -- so ACS --

9
10 MS. CRITTENDEN: Every triennial,
11 we would say effective with this -- you
12 know, that --

13
14 DR. YOUNG: That's a semi-living
15 document.

16
17 MS. CRITTENDEN: For us -- we're
18 controlling ours to date. I mean --

19
20 DR. YOUNG: No, no, no. I agree
21 with that. I'm just saying, they were --
22 their idea was that as science happened, as
23 things they would revise. And it was a
24 disaster.

1 MS. CRITTENDEN: I mean, four times
2 a year -- what you just said for major --
3 for changes. And you -- I mean, that's a
4 big deal to implement.

5
6 MR. ERSKINE: Yeah, that's a lot.

7
8 DR. YOUNG: I actually thought this
9 would be the smaller chunk. But maybe --
10 maybe the smaller chunk is actually having a
11 discussion of what we should do with people
12 that are already ACS verified.

13 Do they have to do two visits?
14 Can they have a combined visit? I mean,
15 maybe that's a[n] easier discussion. And we
16 can still keep all the criteria exactly the
17 same and they could just have a combined
18 visit.

19
20 MS. CRITTENDEN: We're back to Code
21 change to do that --

22
23 MR. ERSKINE: Right.

24
25 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- in some ways.

1 Well, let me back up. We have tried to do
2 that with ACS, but our speed -- when we were
3 asked by two other facilities, we sent that
4 -- met with the trauma program -- trauma
5 surgeons site team leaders about that who
6 would have to train in two different ways to
7 a review.

8
9 DR. YOUNG: Oh, no, no, no. No, I
10 meant having the State people do State --
11 you would have --

12
13 MS. CRITTENDEN: Like in current
14 reviews.

15
16 DR. YOUNG: Yes.

17
18 MS. CRITTENDEN: So we -- we tried
19 to do that, but we would have to then
20 conduct our visits in different ways. Y'all
21 do it differently than we do.

22 The trauma surgeons that do
23 our site review, our team leaders really
24 didn't want to do that. I mean, we had
25 somebody requesting, you know, we got an ACS

1 visit coming up. Can you just do the same
2 medical records for ACS? I --

3
4 DR. YOUNG: Well, we could.

5
6 MR. ERSKINE: No. Absolutely not
7 because that is not even across the board.
8 There are only five ACS centers in the
9 state.

10
11 DR. YOUNG: No, I'm saying --

12
13 MR. ERSKINE: The other 14 --

14
15 DR. YOUNG: -- what is the matter
16 with the way the ACS pulls their charts?

17
18 MS. CRITTENDEN: We have our own
19 formula that we --

20
21 MR. ERSKINE: We have our own --

22
23 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- that we have to
24 follow.

1 MR. ERSKINE: We have our own
2 randomization formula. And it has been
3 applied evenly across the State. And to
4 then say, well, if you're ACS we'll give you
5 special treatment.

6
7 MS. CRITTENDEN: Different
8 treatment.

9
10 MR. ERSKINE: One could argue the
11 ACS criteria are much harder to get through
12 the visit than the State criteria are. The
13 failure rate is certainly much higher.

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: I think the
16 question is not -- I think that -- if you're
17 saying as far as what can we do to have, you
18 know, the site visit done at the same time
19 -- even just arguing that, there's going to
20 be some -- not necessarily combined, you
21 know, kind of one aspect.

22 I think maybe we get this
23 through steps. Step one. Like for us,
24 we're continuously in preparation. We don't
25 even have time to work on QI's because

1 you're always at preparation. Whether
2 State, ACS. It is -- it is not -- has not
3 allowed time to change -- to happen because
4 you're always working it. So --

5
6 DR. YOUNG: And also doesn't add
7 value.

8
9 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

10
11 DR. YOUNG: It doesn't add value to
12 do it that way. There is no -- I mean, I've
13 done 170 ACS visits. So we'll have a dinner
14 -- which you don't have to come to. You
15 guys don't have a dinner.

16 And then the next morning, we
17 have a tour and we look at charts. So you
18 could have different set of charts. You
19 know, possibly we would look at the way
20 Virginia randomizes charts and we would say,
21 do it that way.

22 That's not written in stone
23 for the ACS. So it's quite possible that
24 the ACS -- since I've been on that committee
25 for a long time -- could probably -- could

1 probably adjust to those things that we
2 think are essential. Because we do do that
3 in other states.

4
5 COMMITTEE MEMBER: And like do you
6 believe that the ACS is looking at a new
7 process for chart selection? There was some
8 pilot projects going on when we were at the
9 last TQIP conference --

10
11 DR. YOUNG: Yeah, that's --

12
13 COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- which maybe
14 would match what the State wants as well. I
15 don't know. But they are continuing --

16
17 DR. YOUNG: Yeah, I wouldn't -- I
18 wouldn't say out of bounds the ACS wouldn't
19 adopt it. Because I think we're all trying
20 to figure out what the right charts are to
21 pull.

22 All the ACS cares about is we
23 want to see every -- every mortality with
24 OFI and every unanticipated mortality.
25 Beyond that --

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: And then it's a
2 matter --

3
4 DR. YOUNG: And for Level II's we
5 want to see every patient you transfer out,
6 because we want to make sure you're not
7 transferring out stuff you should keep.
8 Other than that, that's -- that's pretty
9 much the core.

10
11 COMMITTEE MEMBER: And we'd got to
12 do that, wouldn't you agree?

13
14 MS. CRITTENDEN: Yeah, I think the
15 core -- yeah, I think -- I mean, I -- yeah.
16 It gives us the -- we -- it's much -- I
17 think there's more -- it's more
18 [unintelligible].

19
20 DR. ABOUTANOS: Well, that's what I
21 was talking about, sorry. It's Mike. I'm
22 talking about different -- different --
23 distinguish the process from the tool. So
24 first, we thought about talking about the
25 tool. You know, is the tool adequate?

1 Should we adopt the same tool? And that's
2 why I said at very beginning, that's a
3 different discussion --

4
5 MS. CRITTENDEN: It is.

6
7 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- from the
8 process. No matter what tool we -- whether
9 we adopt our tool or whether we set ACS plus
10 or just, hey, it's the State. We just have
11 to do very much the exact same thing just to
12 make it easier.

13 I think that's one process
14 committee in charge of. The second is a
15 total ask for, you know, whether you want to
16 combine. How do you combine?

17 Do you distinguish now a
18 process for Level I, Level II that's
19 separate from Level III. What does that do
20 to the -- to a state process together? I
21 mean, so those -- I think those are bigger
22 questions.

23
24 DR. YOUNG: Knowing the -- knowing
25 the criteria for the College very well, if

1 the state is eliminating CME then it's
2 easily do-able. You could even have the
3 state team come the day of the dinner. And
4 you'd have the charts there.

5 We could probably make the
6 charts as similar as possible. And then the
7 ACS would just stay the next day.

8
9 DR. ABOUTANOS: See, but you could
10 actually do that now without even -- I mean,
11 you could do --

12
13 DR. YOUNG: Well, it depends on --
14 it depends on your cycle. I mean, you'd
15 have to get it --

16
17 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

18
19 DR. YOUNG: So a lot of us are in a
20 different ACS versus State cycle.

21
22 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah, but I'm just
23 saying you could have the State come in,
24 take a look, review the -- the chart. Then
25 the ACS review the same chart when it's its

1 turn.

2
3 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

4
5 DR. ABOUTANOS: But it --

6
7 MS. CRITTENDEN: Actually, that's
8 what we offered to do --

9
10 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

11
12 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- that, but we
13 won't do it in the same week. You know,
14 we'll -- you know, we're triennial date,
15 Code of Virginia, what we follow.

16 So if they want to try to
17 schedule it the day after or two days after
18 -- I mean, we could work with the -- the
19 schedule.

20
21 DR. YOUNG: Yeah. Well, that might
22 be a solution. It would just be a two-day
23 visit. One and a half for the ACS and one
24 for the State.

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

2
3 MS. CRITTENDEN: Yeah, I mean, that
4 was our -- we said we would do that. But
5 nobody has taken -- well, y'all haven't done
6 it yet. But they haven't taken us up on it
7 yet.

8
9 DR. ABOUTANOS: No matter how we
10 look at this, I -- I do think going back to
11 the fact that there are certain things in
12 the designation manual that needs to be
13 changed. So we -- we -- with -- that has to
14 be addressed.

15
16 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah, and I
17 think that to -- just to clarify. When we
18 said we would, quote -- I'm going to use the
19 term that was sort of thrown out -- adopt
20 and I even used sort of adopt.

21 It wouldn't be -- here's the
22 ACS standards, we're going to follow them.
23 We would literally take every single
24 standard. We would have a designation
25 manual. And if standard 1.1 and 1.2 and 1.3

1 that talks about involving in regional
2 trauma from the ACS. If we have that
3 standard when you think it meets, then that
4 becomes for a Level I. This is the
5 standard, it's the Level I.

6 So there wouldn't be a literal
7 manual. It wouldn't be -- you know, we can
8 do it that way so that you have a -- so if a
9 center did not want to be ACS, there's still
10 a State manual. And if there needs to be a
11 change --

12
13 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

14
15 COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- but it would
16 allow sort of -- I don't know, to some -- to
17 some degree, it might be a little bit of a
18 reset to some of the stuff that we've
19 evolved and changed. But sort of more to
20 make it live-able.

21
22 DR. YOUNG: Yeah. I guess -- my
23 only comment would be, I -- I think -- I
24 wasn't on this committee for 12 years. I
25 did it for 12 years before that. Back 12

1 years ago, many of the criteria were changed
2 because one person objected. Not a lot of
3 you were here. And it would be a single
4 person from a single center who would say
5 this is going to hurt us.

6 And therefore, we changed all
7 the criteria for the state. And I think
8 what -- having it in some way fits to the
9 ACS is -- I don't think that's a good idea,
10 for a State trauma system, for us to do
11 that. And I mean, perhaps it's never
12 happened in the last 12 years.

13
14 DR. ABOUTANOS: To do what?

15
16 DR. YOUNG: To have a single --

17
18 DR. ABOUTANOS: Point.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: -- veto of a criteria.

21
22 MS. RUMSEY: Yeah, this is Kelly
23 Rumsey. Doesn't that take us back to how we
24 established our mission for the school
25 system?

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah.

MS. RUMSEY: That we're here in --
on behalf of the citizens of the
Commonwealth, not the individual
institution.

DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

DR. ABOUTANOS: And that's why
there's -- you know, I mean, one could
object. It doesn't matter. It's going
through -- first it's got to come out of
this committee.

MS. RUMSEY: Mm-hmm.

DR. ABOUTANOS: Then it's got to go
out of the -- the TAG. And then -- so I
mean, so we created different aspect for it
to be vetted very well and looked at very
well, you know. And so -- and none of us --
I think that the nuances have been also is
that everybody understood that -- and got to
understand more and more in the past --

1 whatever -- six years at least were the
2 difficulties in every center, and what they
3 were facing locally.

4 And -- which was -- that
5 allowed to a lot of aspect of the political
6 things that came in -- into, you know, this
7 center really should function as a Level II.

8 Is this really an issue? Can
9 everybody live with that? And that's kind
10 of what -- what it was. It's a little bit
11 different if we -- that by itself can lead
12 to a lot of issues eventually, if the system
13 does not evolve.

14 If it doesn't evolve, we're --
15 then you end up saying, you know -- you
16 know, I'm sorry. We eventually did evolve
17 and we said, for example -- I'm not sure if
18 you guys remember with CKD and all that
19 stuff. These are the criteria.

20
21 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

22
23 DR. ABOUTANOS: Everybody, no
24 matter how much it was pushed and how much
25 people were that we love or respect, you

1 know, the -- the system. We still, as a
2 committee said sorry. We are going to adopt
3 these criteria because that's what -- that's
4 for everybody overall.

5 Not the best for each
6 institution. And so, that's just an
7 example. It was a very touchy example. It
8 was fought at every level.

9 I'm just saying it's -- it's
10 -- I think we are able to do that and not
11 allow one institution to say, this is what's
12 best for us and everybody say, okay, now
13 we're going to have to change.

14 And this will come no matter
15 what it is. I just -- I just -- why I think
16 if -- we just need to look at our tools and
17 say, does it still serve us or not? It's
18 been three years.

19 It's a new committee. And
20 then if the ACS is an example, can we use
21 it? Can we in any way match? Then we talk
22 about the processes next.

23
24 DR. YOUNG: Lou Ann Miller.
25

1 MS. MILLER: Yeah. Lou Ann Miller,
2 Riverside.

3
4 DR. YOUNG: I just introduced --

5
6 MS. MILLER: As probably one of the
7 only persons or people that were here during
8 the last designation manual -- well, maybe
9 Kelly.

10 Revision -- I would like to
11 say that we did not take -- I mean, we did
12 have a lot of people say, oh, that's not
13 going to work at our facility. However, we
14 looked at what was best for the patient as a
15 whole.

16
17 DR. ABOUTANOS: True.

18
19 MS. MILLER: And that's what we
20 made the -- the criteria regarding. I mean,
21 one of the things -- an example is Level III
22 said that they couldn't have -- you know,
23 they wouldn't be able to hire a half FTE as
24 a -- with the full time trauma coordinator.
25 And we said, well, that's -- that's the

1 criteria. If you can't meet that, then you
2 won't be a Level III. And that was, you
3 know, we adopted that. And lo and behold,
4 the -- you know, Level III's were able to
5 come up with that half FTE.

6
7 DR. ABOUTANOS: After we changed
8 the trauma fund to give them --

9
10 MS. MILLER: Same thing with the
11 Level II's. Huh?

12
13 DR. ABOUTANOS: Well, we also
14 changed the trauma fund to be able to also
15 help. So we --

16
17 MS. MILLER: Right.

18
19 DR. ABOUTANOS: -- we were
20 cognizant of what -- what was needed.

21
22 MS. MILLER: Absolutely. So --

23
24 DR. YOUNG: And still is needed.

1 MS. MILLER: So I think that -- you
2 know, I just want to say that, you know,
3 when we -- when we made the criteria, we did
4 not look at each center as to what their
5 needs were.

6 We looked at the Commonwealth
7 as a whole and what the needs were for the
8 Commonwealth --

9
10 DR. ABOUTANOS: Absolutely.

11
12 MS. MILLER: -- and for -- for the
13 patients.

14
15 DR. YOUNG: Yes. Tracey Jeffers.

16
17 MS. JEFFERS: I'd just like to add
18 as not -- as a Level III and as a
19 non-designated ACS. I want to come out of
20 the weeds of the ACS.

21 Looking at the ACS document
22 and the updates that they have done, it's
23 more of an evidence-based practice and
24 standard that we were able to kind of say,
25 are we at the standard? Are we -- or can

1 we, as a commonwealth, is that beneficial to
2 our -- our -- our trauma system. And so, I
3 think that it's gotten kind of convoluted a
4 little bit that this is -- it's -- it's
5 ACS-driven.

6 And we want to become just
7 like the ACS. The ACS came into the State
8 and evaluated our state. But we spent a
9 very hard three years of our lives
10 comparing, is this going to work for the
11 State of Virginia?

12 Is this going to benefit the
13 patients of the Commonwealth? And some of
14 the things, no, it's not. And that's kind
15 of what we're doing in -- in trying to say,
16 okay, well the State -- we live by this.
17 ACS suggests or ACS lives by this.

18 Is that something that would
19 benefit our patients? Is it going to
20 benefit our centers and is it going to
21 benefit our growth?

22 And can we bring in more
23 centers in those deserts to assist the --
24 the trauma centers that are not able or that
25 -- the non-designated facilities that we

1 have in these areas that are rural areas.
2 Because we don't have that concentration of
3 trauma centers. So I don't -- I -- I kind
4 of wanted to back out of the weeds and the
5 ACS part of that.

6 Other than the fact that we've
7 used this document as evidence-based as
8 proven and as a national guideline is how
9 we're using it.

10 And that's what we're trying
11 to work towards. The -- the designation
12 manual, if -- if you've lived in and been
13 through a designation, I -- most trauma
14 program managers have -- then yes, there are
15 places you're going, what the heck did they
16 come up with that at?

17 How -- where did that come
18 from? How am I supposed to live up to that?
19 But that's where it gave us a little bit of
20 backbone for that half FTE, for going to
21 these committees with trauma surgeons --
22 sorry. And arguing, yes, you have to be
23 there in 30 minutes because it says so. And
24 we're going to lose our designation. We're
25 going to lose our -- we're going to lose

1 everything. So I don't think the -- it's
2 that we want to become a -- everybody has to
3 become ACS, because we can't all afford
4 that. So -- but we can afford to use that
5 -- that guide and criteria to help us become
6 better.

7
8 DR. YOUNG: Yeah, we have to
9 separate those two things. I don't think
10 anyone is suggesting here we want to be ACS.
11 I -- I'm not.

12
13 MS. JEFFERS: No, I didn't make --
14

15 DR. YOUNG: I am -- I am consent --
16 I think -- I -- we're saying -- I think what
17 Mike was just saying the -- the ACS criteria
18 as a foundation --
19

20 COMMITTEE MEMBER: It's a frame
21 work --
22

23 DR. YOUNG: -- for how we move --
24

25 MS. JEFFERS: I just want to make

1 sure that the perception --

2
3 DR. ABOUTANOS: Because that's what
4 counts.

5
6 MS. JEFFERS: Because -- because
7 that's what counts. Perception is what
8 counts. And if it looks like -- because in
9 my perception sometimes, I feel like Level
10 III's -- oh, here's I's and II's, but you're
11 over here.

12 So you know -- but we're going
13 to have to do special things because you're
14 a Level III. So -- but instead of being
15 inclusive --

16
17 DR. ABOUTANOS: Mm-hmm.

18
19 MS. JEFFERS: -- I feel like
20 there's some separation. And I felt like
21 that may have been a perception that needed
22 clarification.

23
24 DR. ABOUTANOS: I think this is
25 important to learn from our own history.

1 That's what we struggled with the first
2 three years after the ACS site visits. That
3 just that word can cause so much problems.
4 And I don't know why, but it did.

5 And we have to face reality
6 and we said that we - we need to determine
7 and make our own destiny. The State can
8 decide for itself.

9 So that's what I was warning
10 is that -- that's -- we could use the ACS,
11 but we don't have to say it's ACS plus or
12 ACS.

13 It's just -- here's a
14 guideline that's -- and if it matches and we
15 have two different organizations that have
16 very similar guidelines and very similar
17 criteria, it's easier on everybody, you
18 know. That's all.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: So then, what's the
21 suggestion for the process? We have a State
22 designation manual right now.

23
24 MS. BROWN: And we just about --
25 I'm sorry, it's Kelly. We've just about

1 cross-walked all of it. Right? Isn't that
2 the intention --

3
4 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah, I think we
5 have --

6
7 DR. YOUNG: Cross-walk with the
8 current --

9
10 COMMITTEE MEMBER: State.

11
12 DR. YOUNG: -- ACS.

13
14 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Not --

15
16 DR. YOUNG: The current state with
17 the current ACS as a cross-walk.

18
19 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yes.

20
21 MS. BROWN: Yeah.

22
23 DR. YOUNG: So -- so where do we go
24 from here?

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: Can I make a
2 suggestion? Sorry.

3
4 DR. YOUNG: I'm hoping.

5
6 DR. ABOUTANOS: That -- see what --
7 what I'm -- like this, right? I'll just
8 give you what I'm interested in. I'm
9 interested in looking at here there's a
10 designation manual. Here's a highlight.

11 Here's the issues we've had
12 with it that need to have changed. Here's
13 the ACS manual. And where it -- and kind of
14 achieve both.

15 And then bring that as a
16 proposal out of this committee to the TAG,
17 eventually saying this is the proposal of
18 fixing these criteria. That's it. I mean
19 --

20
21 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think that was
22 the first thing you said.

23
24 DR. YOUNG: And we just look at the
25 ones who are different.

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: And -- and -- but
2 fixing the issues we've had with it. See,
3 that was the whole point that drove this
4 thing is fixing some of those.

5
6 MS. JEFFERS: I think -- I think
7 it's -- sorry, Tracey. I think is to taking
8 a step further and we've cross-walked. Now
9 we need to go back to the designation manual
10 and look at where our problems are within
11 that and how that aligns what we've cross-
12 walked.

13
14 MS. BROWN: Yeah, I would agree
15 with that.

16
17 DR. ABOUTANOS: Okay. That's what
18 I'm --

19
20 MS. JEFFERS: Different way to say
21 it. Is that better?

22
23 DR. ABOUTANOS: It's a different
24 way of saying it.

1 DR. YOUNG: So let's just make --

2 so --

3
4 MS. JEFFERS: That's the nurses'
5 explanation.

6
7 DR. YOUNG: So at the next meeting
8 -- obviously we're not going to do that now.

9
10 MS. JEFFERS: No.

11
12 DR. YOUNG: So that -- we're saying
13 we are now going to -- but didn't you cross-
14 walk?

15
16 COMMITTEE MEMBER: We cross-walked

17 --

18
19 MS. BROWN: With the exception of a
20 few chapters, we just ran out of time.
21 We've done a majority of it. We can get it
22 done, just within a couple --

23
24 DR. YOUNG: So we're pretty much
25 saying finish the cross-walk?

1 MS. BROWN: Finish the cross-walk.

2
3 DR. YOUNG: And then make
4 recommendation --

5
6 MS. BROWN: I mean, we can
7 highlight -- we can highlight the
8 differences. But it -- it's not the
9 differences, it's the -- it's the problem,
10 if that's what you're --

11
12 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah. My -- my
13 interest is not -- is not the difference
14 between ACS and -- I said from very
15 beginning, it shouldn't be what's the
16 difference between ACS. It should be these
17 are the -- the things that should've been
18 fixed.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: Should've been fixed in
21 the State?

22
23 DR. ABOUTANOS: That -- that --
24 let's just -- let's just say if ACS doesn't
25 exist. Let's just say it doesn't exist.

1 DR. YOUNG: Right.

2
3 DR. ABOUTANOS: These are our
4 current guidelines. These are the things
5 that we've been wanting to change. Let's
6 highlight them. But then you could add --
7 since you've already done it in a cross-walk
8 of saying, this cross-walk would actually
9 solve this.

10
11 MR. ERSKINE: So who -- who has a
12 list of those problems?

13
14 DR. ABOUTANOS: We do.

15
16 DR. YOUNG: I do.

17
18 MR. ERSKINE: Okay. Can you send
19 it to me?

20
21 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

22
23 DR. ABOUTANOS: We've been working
24 on it for a while.

1 DR. YOUNG: It was one of the first
2 things I did.

3
4 MR. ERSKINE: So we'll take a --
5 take a look at those problems --

6
7 COMMITTEE MEMBER: You're going to
8 read criteria --

9
10 MR. ERSKINE: Yeah, look at that.

11
12 DR. YOUNG: Pretty much, you know.
13 And it's -- it's --

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: It's a good
16 question.

17
18 DR. YOUNG: It's not clinical.
19 It's three pages of grammar typo's and
20 logic.

21
22 MR. ERSKINE: Oh.

23
24 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Well, that's not
25 -- that's not -- that's not what we're --

1 no, we're worried about. Grammar typo's and
2 logic are -- are spell checks that --

3
4 DR. YOUNG: Well, logic that --
5 logic enters in into quite a bit of it. The
6 --

7
8 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah, logic may be
9 a problem.

10
11 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay.

12
13 DR. GOODE: This is Terral. You
14 don't mean like syntax logic. You mean the
15 -- the thought process, the way its written,
16 it's too ambiguous? Let me -- wait. Who --

17
18 DR. YOUNG: Yeah, this --

19
20 DR. GOODE: Who said it's a
21 problem? Like now.

22
23 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah, yeah. Who
24 said it's a problem?

1 DR. GOODE: Who -- who is -- who
2 are the people that -- that came together
3 and said, hey, you got a problem here, you
4 got a problem here.

5 Or is this like a -- a
6 historical gathering of problems that
7 people, as we've gone through meetings, just
8 written out on a piece of paper somewhere.

9
10 MR. ERSKINE: Yes.

11
12 DR. YOUNG: Heather.

13
14 MS. DAVIS: This is Heather Davis
15 from Chippenham. I can tell you that
16 leading up to a site visit we had just this
17 week, there was a lot of interpretation that
18 I pinged Cam and Tim to death about.

19 And I'm sure that they see
20 repeat patterns in the types of things they
21 get pinged about.

22
23 DR. YOUNG: And -- I mean, there's
24 -- when -- when there's -- when I read it in
25 coordinating the site visits --

MS. DAVIS: Yeah.

DR. YOUNG: -- you know, I look at it and think, how are we going to hold them to this standard? It says, you've got to be really good at surgery. You know, something as vague as that.

MS. DAVIS: No, they're qualifying.

DR. YOUNG: You know, how -- how are we going to do that? You know, diversion can't be more than five percent. Five percent of what?

It's 72 minutes of the day or 18 days of the year. You know, there's -- there's a lot of stuff that is not clear.

MR. ERSKINE: I'm going to let you speak in a second, but let me just say something. A lot of this is people not being terribly familiar with what goes on at the College level.

DR. YOUNG: Because the College --

1 MR. ERSKINE: But -- but there's
2 one person at this table that's very
3 familiar with the College process. And they
4 are very -- a lot of these things that you
5 just talked about, five percent, 10% --
6 blah, blah, blah -- they are getting rid of.

7 Because they -- if -- when we
8 did this revision, we said, where is the
9 evidence to support that you need to be
10 there 10% of the time. There is no
11 evidence. We're not going to do it any
12 more.

13 So you know, I'm not saying
14 it's perfect. But they are very amenable to
15 that. Now we have -- I'm sorry. We have a
16 really good test case here. You've been ACS
17 visited in the past year?

18
19 MS. DAVIS: No. Our ACS was in
20 2017.

21
22 MR. ERSKINE: Okay.

23
24 MS. DAVIS: Our verification. We
25 had a consultative in '16 and a verification

1 in '17.

2
3 MR. ERSKINE: So can I just ask,
4 what are your comments about the differences
5 between --

6
7 MS. DAVIS: So it's slightly
8 different for -- for Chippenham because we
9 were Level II, designated by the State.
10 Provisional for a year, and then fully
11 designated.

12 Then went for ACS designation.
13 So that seemed like a pretty solid process
14 between the two. We obviously chose --
15 whichever way it went -- the higher
16 standard.

17 So if ACS had the higher
18 standard, we went the ACS route. If the
19 State standard was the higher standard, we
20 went the State route.

21 With this recent visit, it was
22 working towards going -- building up to the
23 next designation level. So it was -- it was
24 very different in interpretation between the
25 College and the State.

1 DR. YOUNG: Yeah, I would say the
2 way you still have to do that would make it
3 very confusing going forward, which I guess
4 is the basis of the whole issue that we're
5 talking about. You, yes.

6
7 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I did. So --
8 and this might be a little bit further
9 thinking than we're ready for. But the
10 changes that you're referring to that ACS is
11 getting ready to make, is that because of
12 the overall ACS philosophy of moving towards
13 outcomes --

14
15 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

16
17 COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- and TQIP data
18 and -- and less focus on the resources?

19
20 DR. YOUNG: It's -- it's -- it's
21 more focused on being more evidence-based
22 and getting rid of arbitrary criteria that
23 just five people sitting around the room
24 decide what we needed to do, like CME.
25 Which has no evidentiary basis. So -- you

1 know, so it's that sort of thing. And there
2 are a lot of them that are being revised.
3 Radiology, response time, IR response time.
4 It's going to go more towards, did you have
5 any delays in getting rapid angiography?

6 Did you have any delays in
7 getting a neurosurgery patient for a
8 craniotomy? And I think that's the right
9 way to do it. It's -- you know, the only
10 problem with that is, at least for us, we
11 only look at 20 charts.

12 So you could know which is
13 where -- why the State way of pulling charts
14 might be better is that you can -- you can
15 hide a lot of damage when you only looking
16 at 20 charts.

17
18 MS. DAVIS: Yeah. Because they
19 send us MRN's and --
20

21 DR. YOUNG: Yeah. So that's a --
22 so that makes -- you know, I'm -- it may be
23 a better system. It may be a better system
24 to tell me it's a yet.
25

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: But it's not --
2 this is Mike. This is not TQIP-based.

3
4 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Oh, yeah. That
5 sort of -- that direction now.

6
7 DR. YOUNG: Yeah. The latest TQIP
8 report have obviated us using TQIP as a way
9 of designated centers.

10
11 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay. All
12 right.

13
14 DR. YOUNG: That's not happening.

15
16 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay. I mean, I
17 think that -- I don't want to harp on ACS.
18 I think that the ACS process of selecting
19 charts and the State -- the difference is
20 ACS says you need to have all your deaths.

21 You know, you need to have,
22 you know, your deaths with opportunity, your
23 unanticipated. And then they say you got to
24 have your -- you got to have 20 major
25 pelvis, lower extremity.

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

2
3 COMMITTEE MEMBER: You got to have
4 major chest. You got to have major head,
5 and non-surgical admissions. And they want
6 to see which is -- you've got to have
7 immediate surgical care [inaudible].

8 That's how you demonstrate
9 that versus you have an IR response time of
10 30 minutes. And so, you know, I don't know
11 what the formula for the State is.

12 But I do think that the ACS
13 gives -- affords centers the opportunity to
14 highlight -- you can hide a lot.

15 But you can also highlight
16 good care, too. So it's a -- it's two ways,
17 you know. And then whatever formula you
18 have for the State, I'm not 100% sure.

19
20 COMMITTEE MEMBER: It's random.

21
22 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah.

23
24 DR. YOUNG: It's -- it's -- we have
25 categories.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: But if it gets
2 off center you could -- you could get
3 nothing at all, you know. You could get
4 really good cases to look at from
5 performance improvement and operative
6 management.

7
8 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Get a good mix
9 of --

10
11 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Or you could get
12 -- you could get nothing at all. So...

13
14 DR. YOUNG: All right. So do we
15 think the next step is to finish --

16
17 COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think we'll
18 keep working on -- it actually might --
19 Terral, it might be really good to have you
20 maybe weigh in a little bit from a surgical
21 -- from a non-ACS verified, you know, kind
22 of philosophy of looking at it and giving
23 some ideas. And certainly, I can bounce
24 some things off Dr. Aboutanos -- you know,
25 bounce some things off Dr. Aboutanos and

1 Dr. Young. Just to kind of think through,
2 you know, a different perspective of, think
3 about it this way instead of that. And --

4
5 DR. GOODE: Sure.

6
7 MS. CRITTENDEN: And when you all
8 schedule that meeting, you need to alert the
9 Office --

10
11 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay.

12
13 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- and we need to
14 follow all of our meeting requirements --

15
16 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay.

17
18 MS. CRITTENDEN: --
19 announcements --

20
21 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

22
23 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- all that stuff
24 that you're doing work on behalf of an
25 Advisory Board committee now. These are

1 official meetings, so --

2
3 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay.

4
5 DR. YOUNG: Yeah.

6
7 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- I believe
8 that's what y'all are --

9
10 DR. YOUNG: So can I ask you, what
11 is the warning? Like let's say they wanted
12 to do this tomorrow.

13
14 MS. CRITTENDEN: You have to have
15 10-day notice --

16
17 DR. YOUNG: 10 days, okay.

18
19 MS. CRITTENDEN: -- on the
20 Townhall, yeah. And we have to get space
21 and all that. So -- I mean, there's -- and
22 we'll support you administratively, but we
23 just have to be able to work it in. It is a
24 --

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay.

MS. CRITTENDEN: It is a real meeting now.

COMMITTEE MEMBER: If we formally, okay. All right.

DR. YOUNG: So that was the action plan. That was 3-D. Anything else -- I think we've beaten this. Public comment period. There's been a lot of public comments. Any hopes? Okay. Unfinished business.

MR. ERSKINE: Item and item.

DR. YOUNG: Yeah. Item and item. Any new business? Anyone wants to bring up -- so let me just tell you what I -- my idea of this, of all the things that this committee is supposed to do. The way we're set up with only being able to meet -- you know, that our meetings are restricted, I think it was probably better to not get five

1 percent done of 10 things. To try to get
2 30% done of one thing. So -- I mean, that's
3 my idea unless anybody wants to make a more
4 varied agenda.

5 But we figured -- I mean, the
6 next meeting we may have to do this thing at
7 phase two of this discussion. And I think
8 that's just what we have to do.

9
10 MS. CRITTENDEN: I mean, these
11 meetings -- this is your work for 50 years
12 from now. The Advisory Board committee -- I
13 was talking to Dr. Aboutanos last night.

14 The Advisory Board committee
15 has a need for 30 years. So I'll be left --
16 dead and gone and I'll still be working on
17 the work. So yeah, I mean, it's always
18 going to be there.

19 Pulling through, there's
20 always stuff to work on. And so I know we
21 want to as, you know, physicians and nurses,
22 you want to get it done and get it done.
23 And -- but this is ongoing work --

24
25 DR. YOUNG: Set a trauma series.

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: All right. So
2 here's -- here's my comment. My comment is
3 that what I -- what I am suggesting for this
4 committee to do is because we're short.
5 We're going to be asking from every
6 committee to do is step back.

7 You say now we have a trauma
8 system plan. What does it mean, you know,
9 into overall -- you know, from a system
10 aspect. What's getting Virginians from
11 trauma? What are we at?

12 What is this committee in this
13 trauma system plan? What kind of data does
14 it need to figure out where to go forward?
15 What are the -- the three [unintelligible]
16 we need to be at?

17 And not be stuck into a --
18 what we were before, which was the number
19 one criticism of the TSOMC, this triage
20 designation manual. Those are the two
21 things.

22 And then we said, that that's
23 not a trauma -- that's not a system. And --
24 so my -- my only recommendation is -- I'm
25 speaking as a -- kind of a -- from the TAG

1 and from driving the system with everybody
2 else, is that we wanted really Acute Care,
3 not simply to be a substitution for TSOMC.

4 But truly to kind of look at
5 the other committees, the other systems as a
6 -- as a committee representing the Acute
7 Care phase. How do we interact with the
8 other thing?

9 Did we hear what happened from
10 the Post Acute? Did we hear what happened
11 from the Pre-Hospital? What are the system,
12 what are the data management? We're -- this
13 is very important for us to kind of re-jump
14 right into the -- into the weeds of this.

15 And then I think this is going
16 to be one aspect -- and I will bring it up
17 tomorrow -- is for the TAG, especially with
18 the Chairs, to bring back and just say,
19 okay.

20 As a system, where are we and
21 redirect every committee toward us. At the
22 end of a year, where are we going to be at?
23 What are the main things so that the
24 committee can still work on important
25 aspect, but can also be cognizant of what

1 everybody else is working on. So we could,
2 as a system, get somewhere. So I think
3 that's -- that's a big challenge for us, to
4 be able to do that.

5
6 DR. YOUNG: We've been -- we've
7 been trying to look at inner hospital versus
8 direct scene transfer, major trauma patients
9 for quite a while.

10 I mean, to me, there's in some
11 ways no better indication of the proper
12 functioning of your system than to know
13 whether that is harming patients or not.

14
15 DR. ABOUTANOS: Sure.

16
17 DR. YOUNG: And so, at the -- do we
18 have data robust enough --

19
20 DR. ABOUTANOS: Pre-hospital --

21
22 DR. YOUNG: -- from the State to
23 look at that? Because the problem with TQIP
24 is it's only going to be from six hospitals.

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

2
3 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Every hospital
4 in Virginia, it's going to state --

5
6 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

7
8 COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- on a
9 registry. Not the smaller data set for the
10 non-trauma centers, but we have transfer
11 data.

12
13 DR. YOUNG: So we could --

14
15 MR. ERSKINE: We can -- we can look
16 at, you know, how long did they stay at that
17 non-designated facility before they got sent
18 over. And --

19
20 DR. YOUNG: But we don't have risk
21 stratification.

22
23 MR. ERSKINE: Not yet.

24
25 MS. CRITTENDEN: Right now, we're

1 just starting baseline on some data now and
2 looking at the patients that didn't -- that
3 met step one, step two triage criteria.

4
5 DR. YOUNG: Oh, okay. That's a
6 good start.

7
8 MS. CRITTENDEN: Taken to a
9 non-trauma center, what happened to them?
10 How many of them were discharged from the
11 ED? How many of them were admitted at that
12 hospital? If they were at that hospital,
13 were they admitted home?

14
15 DR. YOUNG: So in the data set, if
16 we got a query, it would have a column that
17 said met step one, met step two?

18
19 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yeah.

20
21 DR. YOUNG: Oh, okay.

22
23 MS. CRITTENDEN: I mean, we -- we
24 can do all this quickly looking at -- out of
25 those hospice patients that got taken to

1 non-trauma center, how many of them were
2 transferred to a trauma center? How many
3 didn't get transferred? And the ones that
4 didn't get transferred, did they live or
5 they die? So I'm going to look at --

6
7 MR. ERSKINE: All right. Here's
8 the --

9
10 DR. YOUNG: And how many of the
11 transfers in got sent home?

12
13 MS. CRITTENDEN: You link them from
14 the first hospital to the second hospital,
15 so you can get a --

16
17 DR. YOUNG: This was the problem we
18 discussed 20 years ago.

19
20 MR. ERSKINE: Actually it is --
21 it's -- it is -- it has -- we have the
22 potential to do that. It's the -- the
23 problem will be the -- the personnel and the
24 time. That is an extraordinarily time-
25 consuming process. We did it in Ohio a

1 couple of times and that's just park that
2 person over in the corner for a couple
3 weeks. So we'll have to, you know, there's
4 -- there's plenty of software out there that
5 can do that.

6
7 DR. YOUNG: Let me ask another
8 question. So Cam and Tim, so with the rules
9 about what we can do, one person on this
10 committee could not get that data set and
11 work on it --

12
13 MR. ERSKINE: Sure.

14
15 DR. YOUNG: -- in preparation for a
16 meeting.

17
18 DR. ABOUTANOS: Yes, they can.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: They can or they can't?

21
22 MS. CRITTENDEN: Well, I know one
23 or two epidemiologists, so you could just
24 give us -- send us a request and we could
25 pull the data and work on it that way, too,

1 and then share it. But no, one person -- I
2 mean, any person sitting right there could
3 request data and we get do it. I mean,
4 that's --

5
6 DR. YOUNG: Oh.

7
8 DR. ABOUTANOS: You could assign to
9 each -- each person, say, okay. I want you
10 to work on this. I want you to work on
11 this, work on that.

12 And then they send it to you
13 as the Chair. As long as they're not
14 meeting as a group. And you could redirect
15 back.

16
17 MR. ERSKINE: All right. Let me
18 talk to you afterwards about what the -- the
19 output of those files are and what are the
20 -- all right.

21
22 MS. CRITTENDEN: All right.

23
24 MR. ERSKINE: Any other questions?
25

1 DR. ABOUTANOS: I think that was
2 kind of the one -- one aspect was is that so
3 is the care -- is the care in our trauma
4 centers, no matter whether it's the same or
5 not, are the protocols the same?

6 Is that -- those, I think, are
7 kind of the bigger picture we want to
8 addressed yet. You know, eventually we have
9 to be able to address those.

10
11 DR. YOUNG: Okay.

12
13 DR. ABOUTANOS: Because that was
14 one of the -- that was one of the criticism
15 of the trauma system plan. If -- if I am --
16 I have no idea what the care is in Norfolk.
17 I have no idea what the care is in UVa.

18 And you have no idea what the
19 care is at VCU, except we trust each other's
20 care is very good. But are the policies the
21 same?

22 Is a person that goes to UVa
23 with this injury get admitted to the ICU,
24 but not at VCU. Why? And they -- so a --
25 there were a lot of -- there were like small

1 nuances, but the whole idea of policies and
2 protocol. So the designation was one aspect
3 to guarantee the minimum resources that you
4 need. But the management is not dictated in
5 a designation manual.

6 Designation manual does not
7 talk about -- it only talks processes and
8 resources. And assumes -- all it wants to
9 know do you have a protocol for this.

10 Because -- so this is one
11 thing that was going to identify -- because
12 we're not outcome-driven, that -- at least,
13 not the State was.

14
15 DR. GOODE: This is Terral. I may
16 be -- could be, you know, it needs a little
17 bit here with this. But that's -- the
18 answer's yes, obviously. I mean, it's
19 inherently yes.

20 Especially in a place like
21 Virginia where our -- our -- our system --
22 our regions are so absolutely different.
23 Living in Richmond is nothing like living in
24 Fairfax. It's nothing like living in
25 Winchester. You know, our mechanisms for

1 transfer and moving patients, it's -- each
2 one of us has our own set of challenges.
3 For example, when we're talking about
4 transfers and how long it takes to transfer
5 somebody.

6 You know, I often have to
7 transfer somebody by ground because I can
8 not transfer them by air. It happens all
9 the time.

10
11 DR. ABOUTANOS: Sure.

12
13 DR. GOODE: And there is going to
14 be a delay. And that could actually lead to
15 -- to a decreased outcome. Do we have the
16 -- the capability to really dive down into
17 that -- into those kind of situations,
18 really.

19
20 DR. YOUNG: So we do, but I -- I do
21 not know the state of the State Registry at
22 this point. I just don't know. I mean, I
23 know what it was 20 years ago. So we -- we
24 probably could with our own registries to do
25 a collaborative, to look at it.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah.

2
3 DR. YOUNG: Because I think with
4 probability of survival, it's not the
5 greatest thing on Earth. But it would give
6 us something that you would have two
7 patients with roughly the same GCS-ISS and
8 physiologic signs, and one had to go by
9 ground and one can go out by air.

10 And you'd probably have a
11 bunch of those. And we can probably compare
12 them. I don't know if the State registry
13 has that capability.
14

15 DR. ABOUTANOS: The whole point was
16 that we don't work in silos. So -- so
17 tomorrow, the System Improvement Committee
18 is going to be meeting. Their whole aspect is
19 what do other committees need to drive their
20 processes?

21 And so, for us to -- to look
22 and just say, okay, do we have the data on
23 this? How robust is the data? But we
24 identify what we need, and then ask these
25 questions, you know. So I think that that's

1 the -- the whole -- you know, like -- you
2 know, the -- so transfer was one -- one
3 aspect, mortality's not. I mean, just --
4 we just haven't asked in those manners yet.
5 We'll get there. I mean, this is --

6
7 DR. YOUNG: So what time is that
8 meeting?

9
10 DR. ABOUTANOS: Tomorrow at --
11 what, first meeting?

12
13 MR. ERSKINE: First meeting is 8:00
14 o'clock.

15
16 DR. ABOUTANOS: 8:00 o'clock.

17
18 DR. YOUNG: All right.

19
20 DR. ABOUTANOS: Who is the liaison?
21 Is there a liaison for the System -- from
22 this committee or no?

23
24 MS. ARNOLD: It's me.
25

1 DR. YOUNG: Shelly. All right.
2 Anything else? All right, thank you. And
3 we're adjourned.
4

5 (The Acute Care Committee meeting
6 concluded.)
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 CERTIFICATE OF THE COURT REPORTER
2

3 I, Debroah Carter, do hereby certify that I
4 transcribed the foregoing ACUTE CARE COMMITTEE
5 MEETING heard on May 2, 2019, from digital media, and
6 that the foregoing is a full and complete transcript
7 of the said ACUTE CARE COMMITTEE MEETING to the best
8 of my ability.

9 Given under my hand this 16th day of June,
10 2019.
11

12
13 
14

15 Debroah Carter, CMRS, CCR
16 Virginia Certified
17 Court Reporter

18 My certification expires June 30, 2020.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25