

STROKE TASK FORCE MEETING

December 1, 2020

Attending: Christine Greff, JuLann Wiseman, Jamie Neinhuis, Chris Price, Mary Waldo, Jerilyn Alexander, Jessi Nicola, Dr. Henzler, Dr. Jeffrey Sather, Megan Carlblom, Tim Meyer, Mindy Cook, Holly Nissen, Jana Pietrzak, Sam Richter, Brad Hawk, Sandi Gruhot, Dr. Gautam Sachdeva and Linda Zahn.

Approval of minutes from March 3, 2020 meeting – Jamie moved to approve, and Mindy seconded.

Update from Christine on Department of Health

- 3.5-million-dollar grant for EMS agencies
- \$2.9 million Coronavirus relief grant distributed to all EMS agencies.
- Dept of health reimbursing Ambulance services for costs occurred for assisting with Coronavirus testing.
- ND will be getting 120 nurses to help with COVID response
- New Trauma Coordinator Mary Waldo starts today, replacing Nicole Brunelle.
- \$4.3 million Helmsley grant. 1700 AED's distributed throughout the state. There will be a training portion.
- This will be Janna's' last Stroke Task Force meeting.
- How to keep positive progress going:
 - Stroke data is important at this time (Mindy)
 - Since an increase in stroke there should be an education piece at this time (Jody)
 - There will be a stroke education video done at the Health Dept once COVID is over. We will be looking for actors for the video.
 - More education on stroke is needed even more now.
- Cardiac System – Working on designation criteria, Acute Cardiac Ready Hospital, awaiting for things to settle down for feedback from Critical Access Hospitals
- Cardiac Ready Community – Bismarck-Mandan is official designated Cardiac Ready, they will decide how to share this publicly, Fargo/West Fargo and Billings/Medora Co. working toward CRC designation.
- Moving to virtual site visits is on hold due to pandemic. Probably use zoom.

Hospital Updates

Megan – New program manager. Had an increase in strokes. Lots of hard work from nurses.

Holly – Been very busy. Working on end of year education, had to cancel one class. Have seen the COVID numbers go up. Had help with traveling nurses and National Guard. Had critical Access and Primary care from Minnesota.

Sam – Have had a lot of hemorrhagic and ischemic strokes. Struggle with bed availability. Have extra beds at the new center for COVID. Doing ASLS classes. Created workflow for patients.

Jerilyn – Working on TIA. Developed endovascular program. Working on getting ASLS classes. October was very busy with lots of patients.

JuLann - October had record level for stroke patients. Trying to delegate.

Jessi-SIM ND-Still providing education.

Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals - If there are any changes to coordinators please let Christine Know. Also need to know who the coordinator for Carrington is.

Coronavirus and Stroke – Dr Sachdeva Sanford Health Fargo

- Trend with strokes during COVID
- Went over some cases with power point -
 - 5 patients younger than 50 years admitted for ischemic stroke and they all tested positive for SARS – COV2.
 - Seven- fold increase in LVO in younger age group
 - SARS-COV2 is more likely to cause thrombotic vascular events.
 - 7.6% increase in the odds of stroke compared to influenza.
 - WHO panel review- Risk of ischemic stroke during COVID-19 5%
 - Higher frequency of ischemic stroke in young subjects with COVID. No vascular risk factors, raises possibility of mechanism.
 - Ischemic stroke more common than hemorrhagic stroke.
 - Males and African Americans primary affected.
 - Stroke is more common in patients with risk factors.
 - Have protected stroke code – AHA.
 - Take home points-
 - Stroke has been seen as presenting symptoms in some patients with COVID.
 - It can affect young without risk factors and old with risk factors.
 - Most ischemic strokes are cryptogenic with underlying COVID infections.

Update from Janna and Sandy - AHA Mission Lifeline

- Thanks to all who participated in the virtual focus group.
- ND Stroke Survivor to Survivor Program
 - Benefitted volunteers and survivors.
 - Brain injury network has been involved and provided education and help with support groups.
 - Four people have signed up to make calls.
 - Zoom meeting will be held on Friday at 1:00 pm to share ideas. Janna will send invite.
 - Grant is ending. Will need data from hospitals by December 13.
 - There is a ND Brain Injury network resource guide. Can find it at info@rdbin.org.
 - Webinar Wednesdays are still going on
 - Public Awareness Campaign – FAST
 - Did stroke awareness survey – 400 phone interviews. Found an increase in knowledge of FAST.
 - Amanda Cahill will be serving as ND Advocacy Director
 - Looking to engage key advocates and volunteers.

- ND Stroke Guidelines are on their web page.
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria for IV alteplase still being finalized.
- ESO Health Data Exchange – 6 tertiary hospitals signed on and 30 EMS agencies.

Education

- 500 people attended (virtually) the October 20th conference. Recordings are on web page.
- Complete education recordings with EMS division.
- Posters and checklists being done.
- Contact list of DON's, coordinators, and EMS managers.
- Transport guidelines.

MINDY AHA -Went over the GWTG stroke data.

- West region rural hospital measures update 10/2020
- EMS Measures – ND hospitals did a good job.
- Stroke Severity screen improved.
- Dysphagia screening is back up.
- IV Alteplase picked up by end of year.
- Rate of Substantial reperfusion – great compliance numbers
- Stroke and COVID data – active COVID higher in ischemic stroke
- ND total strokes 1145
- Fourteen ND hospitals opt in to submit GWTG data.
- Guidelines for CPR are updated.
- International virtual conference will be held March 17 -19.

Next meeting will be virtual on March 2, 2021

Site Visits

#1. Review done in March. 1 year designation with plan for them to submit action plan. Reviewed the report. Went over their new plan. Should add alteplase education and complete NIH. EKG ok. Add IV TPA education regularly. Anyone in stroke care should be NIH certified.

#2. Done March 2020. Reviewed report. They had a lot of strengths and recommendations. Protocols weren't very good. Not meeting quality metrics. Have a lot of locums so documentation was not the best. Need to be more put together. Gave them some guidance while there.

Janna motioned for 1 year designation with review in March 2021, Jerilyn seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion held on onboard training for new coordinators. Jody would be willing to help. Jerilyn and others have been doing some outreach to CAHS. Suggestion was made to have state wide webinars for coordinators. A mentorship was also suggested. Discussion on what regions coordinators should be doing. Site visits have been set by state but for outreach coordinators can go any where they want.

