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TO: Statewide Trauma Advisory Council
Regional Trauma Advisory Councils
Statewide Trauma System Participants

FROM: Diane Christen
Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
Director, Bureau of Communicable Disease and Emergency Response

SUBJECT: Statewide Trauma Advisory Council Membership

Wisconsin Act 154 (1997) created the language for Chapter 15.197(25) and the creation of the Statewide Trauma Advisory Council. Chapter 15.197(25) authorizes an advisory council with 13 members appointed by the Secretary of the Department. The 13 members are identified with specific representation for rural and urban physicians, rural and urban hospitals, Registered Nurses and pre-hospital emergency medical services providers. It should be noted that DHS 118.03(39) provides the definition for rural as a city, village or town with a population of less than 14,000.

In 2004, DHS 118 articulated the responsibilities for the Statewide Trauma Advisory Council as advising the Department on issues related to the development, implementation and evaluation of the statewide trauma care system, reviewing and approving the department's proposed format and content of RTAC Trauma plans and reviewing and recommending components of the department's trauma data submission manual.

Chapter 15.197(25) and DHS 118 do not provide language related to length of service for council members – frequently referred to appointment terms and/or term limits.

In November of 2002, prior to appointing members to the STAC, the department generated a document titled "Wisconsin State Trauma Advisory Council Procedures and Guidelines". The document outlined the general duties of STAC members (consistent with DHS 118) and includes a list of membership consistent with 15.197(25).

The 2002 document indicated the terms of STAC membership as three years, with the option for reapplication and reappointment for a second 3 year term. It stated that membership should be staggered with an expectation of 60% attendance at meetings. The chair was appointed by the Department, and a co-chair elected by STAC, who served in the chair's absence.

The Department of Health Services continues to support and endorse its 2002 document titled "Wisconsin State Trauma Advisory Council Procedures and Guidelines" including the criteria for terms, term limits, expectations of attendance and appointment of the chair by the Department. The program will contact members whose term limits are about to expire and will appoint new members consistent with this departmental procedure, Chapter 15 and DHS 118.