

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
WADSWORTH CENTER  
ALBANY, NY

COUNCIL ON HUMAN BLOOD AND TRANSFUSION ON SERVICES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

MINUTES

Members Present: Rachel Elder, M.D.  
Timothy Hilbert, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.  
David Huskie, R.N.  
Jessica Jacobson, M.D.  
Philip McCarthy, M.D.  
Beverly Rauch, Commissioner's Designee  
Amy Schmidt, M.D., Ph.D.

DOH Staff Present: Maribeth Dooley  
Matthew Kohn, Ph.D.  
Alexa Nagy, J.D (via Webex)  
Jason Riegert, J.D. (via Webex)

Members of the Public:  
(via Webex) Belgira, Mary Catherine  
Cherny, Nelli  
Clifford, Celia  
Espinoza, Ruth  
Horan, Gina  
Keary, Joseph  
Kitograd, Scott  
Locher, Maria  
Pratt, Heather  
Sullivan, Gracemarie  
Ustin, Mark  
Zahra Yailaqi

**Meeting Called to Order**

Dr. Hilbert called the meeting to order at 9:15 and welcomed the participants. Council members introduced themselves, DOH staff introduced themselves and Dr. Kohn identified the additional registered observers. Council members attended from four publicly accessible sites in New York City, Albany, Buffalo and Syracuse. All members of the public attended virtually via Webex.

**Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2022 meeting**

Dr. Hilbert requested discussion of the minutes of the January 27, 2023, Council meeting, and as there was none, requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Elder motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Dr. Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Discussion of Blood Services Guidelines**

Dr. Hilbert opened discussion of the Blood Services Guidelines *Elective Out-of-Hospital Transfusion* and *“Possible Strategies for Reduction of Transfusion-related Errors.”* During the discussion of the *Elective Out-Of-Hospital Transfusion: Recommended Criteria And Guidelines For Transfusion of Blood Components* guideline, the Council came to a consensus that language should be added under “Patient Criteria” regarding how a patient’s informed consent is obtained and the length of time it can be considered valid. Under patient eligibility, language will be added to clarify the requirements for transfusion that can occur at a Limited Transfusion Service versus that can occur at a Transfusion Storage Only facility. Regarding staffing, the word “personnel” will be changed to “professional”, and the term “present at all times” will be defined. Requirements for the return and storage of blood will be specified. The possibility of a “virtual RN” in an in-hospital setting, assisting with patient and unit verification only, was discussed.

Regarding the “Possible Strategies for Reduction of Transfusion-related Errors,” Council members were in agreement that the Guideline required a complete overhaul, as opposed to updating.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Kohn invited public comments or questions, but with no members of the public in attendance at the three in-person sites, there were none.

### **Adjournment**

At approximately 10:50, Dr. Hilbert requested a motion to adjourn. Dr. Elder so motioned, Dr. Jacobson seconded the motion, and following a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.