



Scientific Assembly
PHILADELPHIA, PA 23



THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE SECTION CHAIR AND ARE PENDING APPROVAL BY THE RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE SECTION AT THEIR ACEP24 MEETING. ANY CHANGES WILL APPEAR IN THE MINUTES OF THAT MEETING.

Rural Emergency Medicine Section

Annual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

4:30 PM-6:00 PM EDT

Marriot Philadelphia Downtown, Philadelphia, PA

Attendees: 19 section members in person, 6 attendees via Zoom

Section officers in attendance: Viktoria Koskenoja, MD, Steve Haywood, MD, FACEP, (Secretary, 2022-2024), Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP (ACEP Board Liaison) Kelly Peasley, ACEP Staff Liaison.

Welcome / Chair's Report – Viktoria Koskenoja, MD

Dr. Koskenoja welcomed attendees and provided a summary of the resolution the Section sponsored at the 2023 Council meeting:

Resolution 27, Addressing Interhospital Transfer Challenges for Rural EDS.

This resolution directs ACEP to work with state and federal agencies to create state and regional transfer coordination centers; advocate for state and federal requirements for tertiary centers to have a regional process for the rapid acceptance of patients from rural hospitals; advocate for regional dashboards with updated information on hospital specialty service availability including procedural interventions and other treatment modalities; support research to strengthen evidence-based rural hospital transfer processes; and create a task force to examine current models and existing research yielding detailed recommendations for ACEP advocacy efforts.

Dr. Koskenoja shared a summary of the issues the Section is focused on:

- Scope of practice issues
- Mental health boarding
- Corporate practice of medicine
- Noncompetes
- Telemed
- Violence



- Nursing shortage

Additional potential areas of focus, suggested by meeting attendees:

- Loss of skillset in rural hospitals – as skill levels drop, tertiary care facilities can be overloaded.
- Physician staffing outside of an RVU-based compensation model
 - Physician competency through rotating physicians through partner Academic Medical Centers and Academic Medical Center physicians through rural sites + robust education programs (such as high acuity low occurrence (HALO) procedures
 - Augment care with telehealth services
- Mental Health Boarding (also related to transfer issue) – in WI, physicians can't decide to hold mental health patients. No central repository of available beds is available. Getting patients with mental health illnesses placed is challenging.
- Bed capacity issues – even in locations with a repository, the number of available beds shown may not reflect the actual number of open beds due to staffing issues.
- Shared anecdote: “We kept a female 17yr 9mo in the ED for 3 months: pediatrics refused “too old” and the adult psych facilities “too young” We could not obtain a psych consult because no one came to town, and if sent for consult she could not be returned to “lower level of care.” MN state referral system was paralyzed.
- A (current) regional dashboard could also be applicable when getting patients to the right site for complicated issues. If deciding where to transfer, a specialist should be involved.

Board Update – Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP

Dr. Stanton provided an overview of the 2023 Council meeting. Noted:

- ED accreditation was a significant conversation at the Council meeting. ED Accreditation Program will help improve patient care and promote fair, productive, and safe working environments for emergency physicians and other members of the emergency care team through the implementation of evidence-based policies and practices across all practice settings and all staffing models. The program is anticipated to go live in January 2024.
- Council passed a balanced budget this year, but finances continue to be tight.
- Other resolutions of note: Addressing the Growing Epidemic of Pediatric Cannabis Exposure. This resolution calls for the College to push for changes in cannabis product packaging to avoid any resemblance to non-cannabis products, particularly those marketed towards children. Additionally, the resolution directs the College to appeal to regulatory bodies and public health agencies to implement labeling regulations to reduce the likelihood of accidental ingestion of cannabis products by young children and clearly communicate dosing information as well as the potential risks associated with cannabis products.
- Several resolutions focused on reproductive health care
- Protection of resident procedures



Update on Section Resolutions, Steven Haywood, MD, FACEP

Dr. Haywood noted that Dr. Rick Carlton served as the 2023 Rural Section Councillor but was unable to attend the section meeting.

The most applicable issue on the agenda was the transfer issue, outlined above. Also of note, a resolution which advocated for sufficient reimbursement of physicians in rural EDs was adopted.

Dr. Haywood, the current Section Secretary, reported that the Section produced two podcasts this year, discussing some of the challenges in rural EDs. The clip of the podcast featuring Dr. Koskenoja was posted to ACEP’s Instagram and was the most viewed reel in ACEP’s feed.

Dr. Haywood noted that ACEP is advocating for their members, and encouraged the storytelling via social media can have a huge reach. He shared that the next podcast may focus on myth busting about rural EM.

Invited Speaker, Alana Arnold, MD, MBA

Dr. Arnold is the Network Medical Director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Services for St. Luke’s University Health Network. Her presentation focused on transforming kids’ care in the emergency room.

Dr. Koskenoja thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

2023-2024 Rural EM Section Officers & Staff

Chair	Viktoria Koskenoja, MD
Chair-Elect	Rick Carlton, MD, FACEP
Secretary	Steven Haywood, MD, FACEP
Immediate Past Chair	Steve Jameson, MD, FACEP
ACEP Councillor	Ben Knutson, MD
ACEP Councillor Alternate	Rick Carlton, MD, FACEP
ACEP Board Liaison	Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP
ACEP Staff Liaison	Kelly Peasley