



**RI Stroke Task Force Meeting  
November 14, 2012  
HEALTH, Directors Conference Room  
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM**

**Present:** Caryn Amedee, Barbara Bird, Arshad Iqbal, MD, Chair, Elaine Jones, MD, Eric Loucks, PhD, Susan Moore, John Potvin, Jason Rhodes, Brain Silver, MD, Jo-Ann Sarafin, Pat Affleck and Michelle Barron

- 1. Membership Update-** The RISTF welcomed new member Barbara Bird, MSN. Barbara is a nurse educator at Kent Hospital.
- 2. Approval of September meeting minutes**
- 3. GWTG, Stroke Data Presentation, Eric Loucks, Epidemiologist, HDSP Program**
- 4. Alternative Data Collection Systems for Primary Stroke Centers-** Due to the higher cost of GWTG, some Primary Stroke Centers were looking into working with an alternate vendor to report their stroke data. Although, GWTG may cost hospitals more money, it offers quality improvement checks for hospitals. Also, having all PSC use GWTG allows for all stroke data to be housed under one umbrella. This is helpful to HEALTH, due to the fact that they use many different variables. After much discussion, members of the RISTF voted to continue with GWTG as the statewide stroke database/registry.
- 5. RI Stroke Coordinators Network (RISCN) Jo-Ann Sarafin, MSN-** In keeping in line with the RISCN's mission to educate the public on stroke, they have partnered with the Pawtucket Red Sox to host a "Strike out Stroke" event during the summer of 2013. It is hoped that all Primary Stroke Centers in RI will participate as a unified group in order to have a greater impact. Some of the offerings to those who attend this event will include: education on the signs and symptoms of stroke, blood pressure screenings, and information on CPR training. The RISCN is currently working to get assistance from various vendors. The RISCN has recently received a RI tax identification number. This will enable this group to apply for grants to continue their work within the community. Finally, the RISCN has been meeting monthly since late summer, to plan the third annual RI Stroke Conference scheduled for May of 2013.

6. **The EMS Work Group, John Potvin, Chair-** At this time, the EMS Work Group is supporting Coventry and Barrington in their efforts to become designated as HeartSafe. The City of Pawtucket has also reached out to HEALTH and the AHA to express their interest in becoming HeartSafe and a meeting was held to discuss the application process. This work group offers assistance to cities/towns during the time in which they are applying to HEALTH for HeartSafe designation. The EMS Work Group may suggest making some changes to the stroke protocol under the blood sugar screening section. This work group will be seeking input on this subject from the RISTF at their next meeting in February 2013. There appears to be a lack of consistency with some EMS services not leaving their reports as they leave hospitals after patient drop offs. The reason for this may be that some services in RI are still using paper reports, which can often be misplaced. There is also the issue of hospitals not having one central location for EMS services to leave reports as they exit the hospital. HEALTH's Division of EMS will be looking into which services are having difficulty submitting their reports to hospitals.
7. **HEALTH, Division of EMS, Jason Rhodes-** The contract to purchase the new patient care reporting system is currently at the RI Department of Administration, awaiting the appropriate approval signatures. This system will be up and functioning by the end of 2013. Once this new system is in place, EMS services will be able to do patient care reporting right away. There will be the opportunity to capture 40 data points. The data reporting will be of no cost to EMS services as long as they have the appropriate hardware. The future goal is to get this EMS data into the patient electronic health records system.
8. **Northeast Cerebrovascular Consortium (NECC) 2012, Caryn Amedee, RN-**Over 300 people from the Northeast states attended this years NECC on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Some of the conference topics included; improving acute care for stroke, atrial fibrillation management, and EMS management of stroke patients. **Save the Date! The NECC 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit will be October 17-18, 2013 at the Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston MA.**
9. **World Diabetes Day-**The HDSP Program joined the Diabetes Control Program to celebrate and support World Diabetes Day on November 14, 2012 at the RI State House. The HDSP Program distributed information on heart disease and stroke.

#### **10. 2013 RISTF Meeting Schedule**

*All meetings will be held at HEALTH, Directors Conference Room, 4-5:30 PM*

**February 20, 2013**

**May 15, 2013**

**August 21, 2013**

**November 20, 2013**

