



Meeting Minutes of:
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Levels of Care: Levels III and IV (LOC)

October 26th, 2017
 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

IDPH Offices 122 S. Michigan Ave, 7th Floor Chicago, IL	IDPH Offices 535 West Jefferson, 5th Floor Springfield, IL
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Attendees

Members in Attendance	Guests and IDPH
Beau Batton William Grobman (Phone) Don Houchins Jessica Kandel Kim Kocur Stephen Locher Nicole Niwa Kousiki Patra	Tanya Dworkin, IDPH Trishna Harris, IDPH Shannon Lightner, IDPH Andrea Palmer, IDPH Alexander Smith, IDPH Natasha Goodrich Robyn Gude Sandra Sullivan Fiona Springman Myra Sabini Rita Brennan Shirley Scott
	Members Not In Attendance

Motions

1. **Motion to approve the minutes from September 25th with minor changes.**
 - 1st Kousiki Patra, 2nd Jessica Kandel, Unanimous Yes

2. **Motion to adjourn.**
 - 1st Stephen Locher, 2nd Jessica Kandel, Unanimous yes.

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Introductions and Welcome

- Beau Batton, Chair of the committee, ask everyone in the room and on the phone to introduce themselves.

Agenda Items

1. IDPH Update

- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) staff was on hand to talk about the two new groups being added to the Levels of Care groups.
- IDPH staff also discussed the cross group meeting that took place on October 19th. Some discussion points were data from the Vermont Oxford Network, QI activity, and site visits.

2. Level III Requirements

- Discussed whether Level III NICUs need to have a medical school affiliation.
 - Agreed that this could continue to be loosely interpreted similar to the current code. There was some discussion around the how to define affiliation.
 - The code right now says it must be affiliated with an academic medical center. An academic medical center only needs to have a residency (or be a medical school) to be considered academic
 - LOC Group recommended level NICUs not be required to have an affiliation with a university or medical center – partly because affiliations could be dissolve due to extenuating circumstances beyond the NICU’s control.
- IDPH Staff explained that the Administrative Perinatal Center sites, responsibilities, and expectations will be determined by the Department, but IDPH welcomes any feedback on the topic.
- Discussion on Minimal Volumes for Hospitals
 - Minimal # NICU beds
 - What is the critical minimal number required to maintain skills sufficiently to be able to care for critically ill infants
 - Is there a minimal # of Very low birth weight (VLBW) infants required
 - What is the data relating VLBW volumes to infant outcomes?

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- **Action Item:** IDPH and B. Batton to determine what VLBW data is be available.
- **Public Comment:** Be careful not to be too strict with the number required and to be mindful of geographic location of NICUs
- **Action Item:** Will work to organize decisions similar to the spreadsheet shared by levels I and II group.
- No recommendations made pending further discussion at the next meeting
- Physical Requirements for NICU's
 - AAP Recommendations might be sufficient for this topic.
 - Discussed having minimal elements and then leaving it up to each hospital to come up with a policy on the topic.
- Measuring Quality Measures and Improvements
 - Deferring this discussion to the newly formed level of care quality team.
- Expectations for staffing on experienced nurses
 - Current code is 50% nursing with two years' experience.
 - It was suggested that consideration should be given for hospitals that advance in Level of Care (e.g. from a level IIe to a level III) to have sufficient time for their staff to obtain appropriate training and experience.
 - Group Recommendation: Keep the language similar to current code with additional language that allows for a transition period during the first few years of the revised code being implemented.
- Nursing Staff Ratios Discussion
 - To keep the language vague or narrow?
 - **Action Item:** Kim and Don will develop recommendations to bring before the committee.
 - No recommendations pending further discussion at a follow-up meeting.

3. Next Steps

- VLBW Data and Outcomes from IDPH
- Surgery data update from IDPH after receiving ICD codes
- Nurse Staffing Discussion Update: Don and Kim to bring recommendations.
- Public Comment: None at this time of the end of the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 1st Stephen Locher, 2nd Jessica Kandel, Unanimous yes.