



Medical PI Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Via Zoom  
9:00 am

Those present were:

#### **FACILITATORS**

- Craig French, Inova Health System EMS Liaison
- Kate Kramer, PA-C, Arlington County Fire Department

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Kate Kramer called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approval of minutes from the July 10, 2024, meeting
  - Reed Smith made a motion to approve the minutes
  - Kate Kramer seconded the motion
    - ***The motion was unanimously approved***

#### **ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA**

- ***Dr. Jennifer Pauldurai, Cognitive and Behavioral Neurologist, Inova Health System***  
Cognitive neurology is the science of memory and thinking. Thinking can change if you have a bad headache, a tumor, or even Multiple Sclerosis. How much memory loss is due to a primary memory disorder instead of trauma?
  - Discussion
    - Dr. Smith – as a resource, what is your clinic, and how do we get them to you? Alexandria & Fairfax, Dr. Rogers, and Ospina. Inova Memory, they can call the clinic number. If there are social work emergencies, someone needing a home or not paying bills, etc., or acute social emergencies, look at Alzheimer's Association for a caregiver's resource. Local nonprofit organizations such as Insight Memory Care have support, social work, etc., great resources for both of them. Call alz assoc for anything, great
      - Inova memory center 703-845-1500 Fairfax 571-472-4200 or ask for other local neuro centers (Georgetown, VHC). Inova or Georgetown does infusion therapies
    - Kate – see repeat patients on the floor, confused. Recognizing the changes in their cognition and how to interact with them.
    - Recent legislation for FD training for those communicating with people with dementia
      - Dr. P – if you want formal training TEEPA SNOW (teepasnow.com) has a positive approach to dementia program. Puts you in their shoes. If someone with dementia, they don't know they have dementia. Just trying to survive. Dementia is an attack on the brain; fluid, stroke, and blood buildup cause the worst kind of panic. We have to think like that when we approach a patient. They are just trying to survive, and in their head, they are doing a great job. Think like them;

don't say, "Don't you remember?" Say, "Let me help you because this is getting more difficult." Show me, don't demean me; show me respect and that I can trust you because my brain is under attack. It's a survival mechanism. The brain picks up on signalling, picks up on body language. Folding arms, being frustrated with them breaks the positive experience for someone with cognitive experience.

- Craig French – Rexulti, what does it do
  - Go first with stress medicines like Lexapro or Zoloft, which is the first line for stress response. If it goes further, they can use anti-psychotics like Seroquel, ability, and Zyprexa as needed, but they can turn into zombies, this isn't the point, but they need to be safe.
  - Rexulti is an antipsychotic without sedative effects. It can remove the internal speech loops that keep people in certain patterns.
  - None of these are cure; they help with the symptoms.
- Kate – has anyone addressed the new HB related to fire & EMS training of dementia training?
  - Leddyanne – attempted to do training in a CME about a year ago. They brought people with Alzheimer's and dementia to teach the class, and it was not the educational experience they expected. Would recommend another direction.
  - Al Pacifico – will roll out in January and again with BLS programs in CE. Dispatchers are also involved in dementia training. Rolling it forward. Combination of developing their own program and using RAFT and social services, the agency on aging. Combined with autism and other behavioral health/mental health patients.
  - Kate - Arlington has a program for missing/wandering individuals. Leddyanne says alexa has one like Fairfax, and Fairfax has one with Fairfax 1 with a transponder for those with a transponder bracelet/anklet. If someone calls 911 and claims "critical missing" and launches Fairfax 1, who can pick up the transponder? Arlington PD has the same thing with an anklet; they can use a transponder to find the wandering person.
  - How do you find a caretaker if the patient doesn't know they ave a caretaker?
    - Leddyanne—For frequent callers who can't sign a refusal, they transport, and when they find family or a caregiver, they suggest a necklace or bracelet with caregiver information or AirTag in a jacket/wallet, etc. that they'd always have. They suggest this to those who don't have large resources.
    - Becca Wilson Manassas—can they go through dispatch for an individual who has a history of this? Alex has a program that the family can fill out, and it goes to CAD. It's similar to RAPID SOS, but CAD will say the patient has medical information loaded into CAD, and they can click on the tab and see it en route. Jeff Woolsey is the expert on that for Alexandria.

#### **RAFT – Verniecia Bell**

- Northern Virginia Regional Older Adult Facilities Mental Health Support Team
  - Discussion- Reed wants MIH to have contact information for assessment or resources. Vernieceia will share.
  - Kate – important that RAFT helps keep people out of hospitals and in the community and also respite care and the caregiver training.

#### **TOPICS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS IN 2025**

- Neonatal resuscitation – doctor out of UVA who does training with manikins
- Sepsis, sepsis scores, what hospitals are doing with sepsis alerts, etc., are we changing protocols for fluids since they were out?

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

*January 15, 2025*

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am.*

CERTIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL MEDICAL PI COMMITTEE MEETING

Northern Virginia EMS Council, Inc.  
PO Box 648  
Gainesville, VA 20156

I, Laura Vandegrift, Interim Executive Director of the Northern Virginia EMS Council, certify that the above minutes are a true and correct transcript of the meeting minutes of the Medical PI Committee held on October 9, 2024. The minutes were officially approved on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Vandegrift, Interim ED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date