



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

APPROVED
04.25.25

Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 17, 2025

8:30-9:30 A.M.

Zoom

[Link to Meeting Recording and Meeting Material](#)

Committee Members Present*	Representing
Courtney Terwilliger	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member
Amy Jordon	AdventHealth Redmond, CNO
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond, Trauma Program Manager
Kelli Vaughn	Archbold, TPM
Tifani Kinard	Atrium Health Floyd, Vice President of Rural Health
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, TPM
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional, TPM
Charly Ussery	Crisp Regional, Registrar
April Dukes	Crisp Regional, CNO, VP PCS
David Kiefer	Effingham Hospital, TMD
Brooke Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center, RN TPM and ED Manager
Damien Scott	Emanuel Medical Center, CEO
Gail Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center, Trauma Registrar
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, Trauma Program Director
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, Trauma Manager
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO
William Hardeman	Hamilton Medical Center, Trauma Medical Director
Susan Jackson	Morgan Medical Center, Director of Quality and Safety
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM
Kristen Gentry	Piedmont Cartersville, Director Inpatient Services
Jan Tidwell	Piedmont Cartersville, CNO
Karen Barrett	Piedmont Cartersville, TPM
Jay Connelly	Piedmont Henry Hospital, Dir Trauma and Stroke
Paula Butts	Piedmont Henry Hospital, CNO
Justin Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital, TPM
Stevanie Reynolds	Piedmont Walton Hospital, CNO
Mark Benak	Piedmont Walton Hospital, TMD
James Polston	Piedmont Walton Hospital, TPM
Chelsea Carter	SGMC Health, TPM
William Briggs	Wellstar Cobb Hospital, TPM



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Kerry Carter	Wellstar Paulding, Tpm
Kevin Hord	Wellstar Paulding, Trauma Medical Director
Ezaldeen Numur	Wellstar Spalding Medical Center, TMD
Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, Trauma Program Manager
Ashley Orr	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, TMD

***Attendance is pulled from the committee meeting QR code.**

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth Atkins Gabriela Saye Crystal Shelnett Gina Solomon Becca Hallum Cheryle Ward Nita Ham Tetra Jenkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director Georgia Trauma Commission, Business Operations Manager Georgia Trauma Commission, System Planner Georgia Trauma Commission, GQIP Director Georgia Hospital Association Georgia Trauma Foundation State Office of Rural Health Washington County Regional Medical

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., with 35 in attendance. Kelli Vaughn welcomed everyone and started the meeting by approving the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Presented by Kelli Vaughn

Kelli Vaughn requested a motion to approve the November meeting minutes.

MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2025-01-01:

Motion to approve November 21, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: Damien Scott

SECOND BY: Brooke Marsh

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion **PASSED** with no objections nor abstentions.

GTC Update

Presented by Liz Atkins

Legislative session updates:

- Entering the legislative session, there are no major changes for the commission this year.
- Updates planned for Senate Health and Human Services and House Public Health Committees.
- Appropriations for FY26: no surprises expected due to predictable trust fund management.

Inter-rater reliability (IRR) program:



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- Contracts with Q Centrix are progressing; implementation is delayed but moving forward.
- GTC funding implementation fees; scope of work finalized, pending sole source approval.
- Amendments clarified: First Amendment: one-year term for IRR funding with auto-renewal to maintain system access if continued. Second Amendment: funding for clinical data validation and re-abstraction services was added to contracts.
- IRR implementation starts once all contracts are executed; the goal is January start, pending contract finalizations.

Consultative visits for level 4 centers:

- Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation to offer performance improvement consultations in June.
- Visits to address prior findings and provide feedback on progress.
- Commission-approved funding placeholder; centers must confirm participation.

IRR clarifications:

- Program limited to data validation, abstraction accuracy, and performance improvement.
- Q Centrix provides detailed accuracy feedback for timeliness, coding, and abstraction errors.
- Data is exported in Excel for analysis; there is potential for targeted education and aggregate reporting.

Opportunities for aggregate data sharing:

- Potential to align level 4 findings with level 1-3 processes for shared education and benchmarking.
- Goal: improve data quality for meaningful comparisons and build tailored level 4 education programs.
- GTC and ArborMetrix are working to integrate level 4 data into broader reporting frameworks.

MARCH PAWS UPDATE

Presented by Courtney Terwilliger

No significant updates to report. Courtney is working to get back in touch with the vendor for filming the courses. He requests additional information from the group on what equipment is needed for the training.

Action Planning for PTSF Consult Visit and ACS System Consult

Presented by Liz Atkins

This topic was covered during Liz Atkins's update.

Trauma Connections Group Update

Presented by Rachel Hand

- Monthly calls continue on the 3rd Wednesday.
- Discussed Trauma Flowsheets, validation reports, TQIP data submissions
- Some centers found including all activations (vs. just inclusion criteria cases) skewed TQIP results. Registry subcommittee to inquire with higher-level centers on registry data entry practices and TQIP discrepancies
- Requesting clarification on Q Centrix role: IRR only vs IRR + data entry + data submissions.

NEW BUSINESS | PERFORMANCE BASED PAY

Presented by Gabby Saye

- PBP Workgroup Overview (**ATTACHMENT A**): Gabby outlined updates from the PBP workgroup, including edits to criteria, changes to percentages, reformat, and new measures added for FY2026. The group includes eight stakeholders, including Kelly and Rachel.



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- FY2026 Additions: Two new outcome measures will be added for Level 3 trauma centers: timely VTE prophylaxis and timely surgical repair for geriatric hip fractures. Level 4 centers are excluded. Gina highlighted these measures align with MTQIP and TQIP reports, with efforts underway to implement metrics in the next 3-4 months.
- VTE Prophylaxis Workgroup: A statewide guideline is in progress, along with data analysis by the GQIP scholar to assess current compliance. The group aims to assist centers struggling with implementation while maintaining low initial thresholds to account for exclusions.
- Level 4 Criteria Update: Trauma registry professionals must demonstrate completion of specific courses (AIS 2015, Trauma Registry, or ICD-10) or eight hours of continuing education.
- Participation Tiers: Meeting attendance criteria now have tiered percentages for senior executives and key trauma program personnel. This replaces the all-or-nothing scoring system to minimize penalization for partial attendance.
- Scorecard Timing: Discussions are ongoing about transitioning PBP scorecards from the calendar year to the fiscal year and potentially deferring submission to August.
- Upcoming Steps: A finalized PBP draft will undergo an open comment period before committee review. The PBP workgroup will meet again on February 5 to finalize the criteria for Level 1 and 2 trauma centers and address the scorecard cadence.

Trauma Awareness Day Update from Cheryl Ward with the Georgia Trauma Foundation

- Being rescheduled from Jan 28 due to conflict with State of Judiciary
- The new date is TBD, likely in the first half of the legislative session
- Will recognize 4 state lawmakers for supporting trauma care

Addendum (additional context): Trauma Awareness Day at the Capitol was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- PBP work group meeting Feb 5 to finalize revisions. An open comment period on PBP changes coming soon
- Trauma Awareness Day new date to be announced. **Addendum:** Trauma Awareness Day at the Capitol was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025.
- Book rooms for the GQIP Winter Meeting (room block closed 01/17/25). Meeting registration will close on February 7th.
- Registry committee to discuss TQIP data submission issues

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Crystal Shelnett