



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

APPROVED
07.18.25

Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 25, 2025

8:30-9:30 A.M.

Zoom

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

Committee Members Present*	Representing
Cindy Hoggard	AdventHealth Redmond, Director ER/trauma
Amy Jordon	AdventHealth Redmond, CNO
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond, TPM
Kelli Vaughn	Archbold, TPM
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, TPM
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional, TPM
Alicia Register	Crisp Regional, TMD
Charly Ussery	Crisp Regional, Registrar
April Dukes	Crisp Regional, CNO, VP PCS
Francesca Minehart	Effingham Health System, TPM
Olalekan Akinyokunbo	Emanuel Medical Center, TMD
Damien Scott	Emanuel Medical Center, CEO
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, TPD
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, TPM
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM
Amy Stephens	Piedmont Cartersville, PI Coordinator
Jan Tidwell	Piedmont Cartersville, CNO
Karen Barrett	Piedmont Cartersville, TPM
Jay Connelly	Piedmont Henry Hospital, Dir Trauma and Neurology
Justin Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital, TPM
Mark Benak	Piedmont Walton, TMD
James Polston	Piedmont Walton, TPM
Stevanie Reynolds	Piedmont Walton, CNO
Emily Brown	SGMC Health, Director of EMS and Trauma
Chelsea Carter	SGMC Health, TPM
Alicia Allen	Wellstar, Director of Nursing
Kerry Carter	Wellstar Paulding, TPM



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Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, TPM
Tracy Gynther	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, CNO
Cameron Grimes-Ayres	Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center, Trauma Registrar
Courtney Terwilliger	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member

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

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Gabriela Saye Crystal Shelnett Brett Buehner Nita Ham Adalynn Rath	Georgia Trauma Commission, Business Operations Manager Georgia Trauma Commission, System Planner Piedmont Augusta, TPM State Office of Rural Health, Executive Director Wellstar Douglas, Trauma Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., with 35 in attendance. Dr. Register welcomed everyone, expressing gratitude for continued participation and dedication over the last five years. She highlighted the collective efforts in trauma system development and gave special thanks to Gabby for her organizational support.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Presented by Dr. Register

Dr. Register requested a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.

MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2025-04-01:

Motion to approve January 17, 2025, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: Kelli Vaughn

SECOND BY: Christie Mathis

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion **PASSED** with no objections or abstentions.

GTC Update

Presented by Gabby Saye

PBP Requirements Update:

- The NTDS submission requirement was removed for Level IV centers beginning in FY26.
- Registrar participation in TQIP added for Level III centers – virtual attendance encouraged; 0% at risk for FY26.

Next steps:



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- The Finance Committee reviews the criteria on May 5.
- Trauma Commission review on May 15.
- Contracts will be issued in June.

MARCH PAWS UPDATE

Presented by Courtney Terwilliger and Damien Scott

- A partnership was established with Augusta University and a videographer.
- Slide decks are expected to be finalized by the end of the month.
- The plan includes 10 classes statewide with support from Crystal Shelnutt.
- The goal is practical rural education using facility resources, not introducing unfamiliar equipment.

Action Planning for PTSF Consult Visit and ACS System Consult

Presented by Dr Register

- Dawn Truett shared PTSF follow-up visits are scheduled for June 10–12.
- Visits include 3 of the original 5 centers.
- Dr. Register expressed appreciation for GTC funding this initiative as a supplement to ACS system consults for Level IVs.

Trauma Connections Group Update

Presented by Christie Mathis

- Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday at 11:00 AM.
- Key updates on ESO support, QCentrix start, report writer issues, and injury prevention programs (Bingocize vs. Matter of Balance).
- Justin Keeton offered report writing support and PRQ clarification.

NEW BUSINESS

Presented by Dr. Register and Kelli Vaughn

- A PowerPoint presentation on a summary provided at the WAVE ESO Conference will be shared (**ATTACHMENT A**) with the group. Kelli identified ongoing rural challenges and goals and suggested brainstorming to address unmet ACS rural recommendations. She provided an overview of that presentation, specifically highlighting six projects from this committee.
 - Trauma Readiness Cost
 - ACS Trauma Systems Rural Focused Review
 - TPM Mentorship Program
 - Inter-rater Reliability Validity Program for Level IV centers
 - External Level IV Trauma Center Consultative Visits Advocacy
 - Rural Center Comprehensive Needs Assessment



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- Dr. Register led a conversation about the next steps for the committee. This discussion included EMS collaboration, MARCH PAWS. Asks the group for ideas on 1, 3, and 5-year goals for moving forward. Request support from others for leadership on the committee and support from other trauma medical directors.
- The group discussed the concept of rescue stops as a potential policy to support EMS stabilization during transport. They also noted the need for legal and EMTALA guidance and expressed interest in revisiting mutual aid agreements.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Create and distribute a survey to gather input on future priorities (within 1 month)
- Small group to develop survey questions
- Compile survey results for presentation at the July 18th meeting
- Explore the concept of "rescue stops" for rural trauma care
- Continue discussions on mutual aid agreements and EMS collaboration
- Share Justin's statistical report screenshot for PRQ reporting

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Crystal Shelnut