

APPROVED
10.21.24



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/dOnuZW-NN9k>

Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chair, GTC Member	John Smith, Region Six (via Zoom)
Lee Oliver, Vice-Chair, Region Five	Jim Adkins, GTC Member
Pete Quinones, Region Three GTC Member (via Zoom)	
Scott Stephens, Region One	
Jeff Adams, Region Two	
Scott Roberts, Region Four	
Duane Montgomery, Region Seven (via Zoom)	
Allen Owens, Region Eight	
Brian Hendrix, Region Nine	
Huey Atkins, Region Ten	
Terry Cobb, GTC Member	

STAFF & OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission
Gina Solomon	Georgia Trauma Commission
Crystal Shelnutt	Georgia Trauma Commission
Tim Boone (via Zoom)	AVLS Administrator
Michael Carr (via Zoom)	Emory University
Nathan Stanaway	Emory University
Kim Littleton (via Zoom)	GEMSA
Cathy White	GEMSA
Becca Hallum (via Zoom)	Georgia Hospital Association
Michelle Archer (via Zoom)	OEMS/T
Ryan Hollinsworth	OEMS/T
Richard Rhodes	OEMS/T
Brian Dorreity (via Zoom)	Region 7

STAFF & OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Danielle Johnson (via Zoom)	Region 3
Kristal Smith (via Zoom)	Region 5
Tetra Jenkins (via Zoom)	Washington County Regional Medical Center

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, with eleven members present.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2024 AND JUNE 21, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

After the call to order, Courtney Terwilliger requested a motion to approve the April and June meeting minutes or advise of any changes.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-08-01:

Motion to approve April 11, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted

MOTION BY: Jeff Adams

SECOND BY: Huey Atkins

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-08-02:

Motion to approve June 21, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted

MOTION BY: Scott Roberts

SECOND BY: Jeff Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION UPDATE

Presented By Elizabeth Atkins

Elizabeth Atkins provided the following updates:

- The EMS pilot was disregarded despite the governor signing the budget. The pilot is anticipated to be reviewed again during the amended budget for reconsideration. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.
- Recent data from a survey conducted in collaboration with Mercer and the Office of Rural Health suggests that hospital transportation issues may not be as severe as previously thought. Specific areas with significant issues are being identified for further analysis.

AVLS UPDATE

Presented By Tim Boone

Dr. Tim Boone referenced the FY 2024 Q4 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT A**) and reviewed the following:

1. Support Deliverables

Time spent troubleshooting with various agencies: adding units, activating SIMS, CAD

integration for the AMN, getting units online, renaming gateways, etc.

2. Total Unit Usage

- 1085/1271, 89% active

3. Current counties without AVLS

- Cherokee
- Camden
- DeKalb
- Gwinnett
- Long
- Lumpkin
- Clayton

4. MG90 Quick Reference Guide

- The latest edition is posted on the trauma.ga.gov website.

5. Review of Airtime Log

- The current airtime log was reviewed. Southern Linc was noted as the leader in current airtime.

6. AVLS Spending

- Q4 AVLS Gateways Purchased: \$114,209 of \$206,335.64 FY 2024 Budget. We have \$92,126.64 remaining.

Courtney mentioned that the committee approved the purchase of temperature probes with reallocated funds. There is uncertainty about whether the services are aware of this approval. Dr. Tim Boone mentioned ongoing work to determine if the equipment will function with blood, although the current status is unclear. Courtney advised that temperature probes are also important for temperature-sensitive medications. Courtney requested an update be provided to the services about the temperature probe availability and capabilities. Dr. Tim Boone will develop detailed information and distribute it through the regional directors.

PREHOSPITAL & AMBULATORY VIRTUAL EMERGENCY SERVICES (PAVES) PRESENTATION

Presented By Nathan Stanway and Dr. Michael Carr

Dr. Michael Carr and Nathan Stanway presented on the PAVES program (**ATTACHMENT B**), which aims to expand virtual medical oversight for pre-hospital care. They discussed the program's mission, history, services provided, and geographic footprint. They also highlighted how PAVES aligns with the Georgia Trauma Commission's goals and requested consideration for funding to continue program expansion.

Pete Quinones requested a rural county breakout of the \$3 million proposed operating expense budget, excluding urban. Nathan advised they can certainly provide that information. Huey Atkins emphasized the importance of keeping patients in local hospitals when feasible. He highlighted a project involving software to enhance communication between local hospitals and ambulances to provide better patient care and reduce unnecessary transfers. The initiative sought to increase the use of telehealth solutions to allow physicians to assess patients directly from the ambulance, ensuring the appropriate level of care and increasing familiarity and comfort with the technology among emergency crews. Dr. Carr supported Huey's points and emphasized the importance of regularly using new systems to maintain proficiency and integration into daily practice.

Dr. Carr and Nathan thanked the committee for their time and encouraged members to reach out with any questions.

GEMSA UPDATE

Presented By Kim Littleton

Kim Littleton began the GEMSA update by reporting the recent completion of the Workforce Public Safety Announcement (PSA). She outlined the campaign's goals, methods, and successes, noting a significant increase in website visits and form submissions over the last three months. She referenced the March PSA Report (**ATTACHMENT C**) and the final June Report (**ATTACHMENT D**). She encouraged members to review the detailed reports.

Courtney inquired if the resource link for EMT courses had been integrated into the PSA campaign. Kim confirmed a meeting with the public relations contact, Mary, is scheduled to review the survey tool designed to assess the campaign's effectiveness in connecting individuals to EMS programs. Courtney requested an update following the meeting.

Pete Quinones pointed out that Atlanta is absent from the top 25 zip codes for campaign clicks and impressions, raising concerns about the campaign's reach within key areas. There is a noticeable gap in data from the Atlanta Metropolitan Area and surrounding counties. Kim reiterated that a detailed analysis was required to address these concerns and promised to follow up after consulting with Mary.

Discussion shifted to the GEMSA Q4 Education Report (**ATTACHMENT E**); Cathy White highlighted the completion and success of various EMS training classes. She mentioned ongoing efforts to finalize the EVOC training program and expressed satisfaction in exceeding delivery expectations in most areas. Cathy mentioned detailed updates and metrics on the educational campaigns would be provided in the next meeting.

FY 2025 GEMSA COURSE ALLOCATION

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney referenced the approved GEMSA budget (**ATTACHMENT F**), which amounts to \$ 1,890,375.26. Today's discussions aim to allocate the number of courses within the budget and ensure the final budget number remains the same or decreases by the end of the meeting.

Lee Oliver inquired why the Auto Extrication course costs three times more than Farm Medic. Cathy explained that Auto Extrication involves more equipment, five instructors, and a three-day class. Farm Medic utilizes the same equipment, which is a two-day class.

Courtney shared there have been discussions outside this meeting on whether the PSAs should be part of the education budget or funded through a different mechanism. Scott Roberts expressed frustrations about removing the PSA from the education budget, explaining the initiative was funded last year and that efforts would be wasted if it could no longer continue. Liz Atkins explained that the committee must comply with state rules regarding marketing campaigns and public education funding. Budget items over \$25,000, excluding professional education, are subject to the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. It was confirmed that the Georgia Trauma Commission owns and can continue distributing the PSA video. Further discussions are needed to delineate roles and funding streams for education versus marketing activities. Due to their specialized expertise, the committee has used GEMSA as a sole source vendor, necessitating compliance with state procurement rules. It was acknowledged that some of the issues may stem from legacy processes that haven't been thoroughly reviewed in recent years.

The committee proceeded to review training program allocations. Terry Cobb emphasized the need to fund the instructional costs of EMT and AEMT courses adequately. He proposed increasing the course reimbursement rates by reallocating the \$75,000 PSA budget to cover instructor costs, ensuring the reimbursement aligns with the required training hours. The goal is to increase the EMT and AEMT per hour rate. Terry clarified the funding would only apply to the FY 2025 EMT/AEMT allotted courses.

The committee discussed the need to differentiate between EMR and EMT classes due to their varying course lengths and costs. Separating funding for EMR and EMT/AEMT was proposed to ensure each type of training receives appropriate financial support. It was noted that 5 EMR courses were held last year.

The discussion shifted to the mental health course allocations; Brian Hendrix proposed increasing the number of mental health courses from five to ten, resulting in hosting one course in each region. The course cost was adjusted to \$4166, as noted in the GEMSA State of Work (**ATTACHMENT G**).

Lee Oliver asked who the vendor was for the mental health class. Pete Quinones requested a vendor or 1099 list of every vendor paid out of the GEMSA funding to determine the fees and who was paid for classes. It should equal out at the end of the year. Katie Vaughan will work to gather the vendor list from the GEMSA quarterly invoices. Pete noted a spreadsheet like QuickBooks would be sufficient. He clarified a vendor list with payments will help with accounting and improve transparency, alleviating concerns about bidding processes and allocation of funds. Allen Owens stated that the administrative fee should be adjusted if more work is created for GEMSA. Courtney proposed Katie and Liz could work to provide the committee with a list of the current information provided by GEMSA.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-08-02:

Motion to use the \$75,000 not spent on the PSA to increase the number of mental health classes to 10, one per region, and use the remaining funds to support EMT and AEMT instructor fees.

MOTION BY: Terry Cobb

SECOND BY: Brian Hendrix

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Lee Oliver asked if there was any progress on the analysis of attendees per course. Crystal Shelnett advised that the FY 2023 and the first half of the FY 2024 analysis are complete. Lee Oliver requested a breakdown of the distribution of participants across funded courses. Crystal added that she categorized the participants as either EMS or other and can provide that breakdown once finalized. Lee explained that we have the data on where the students are coming from, but we also need to know about the professional background of students participating in the Georgia Trauma Commission-funded courses.

Courtney asked committee members if there were any other items for consideration with course allocations. Terry Cobb presented another proposal regarding allocating the \$42.50 jump bag waiver fee for EMT and AEMT classes. He suggested that the entire fee should be tied to the instructional entity responsible for teaching the class rather than based on the ending roster of students. The proposal aims to align the fee with the actual instructional costs and close the funding gap. The existing ending roster system sometimes leaves a surplus of funds if fewer students complete the course. With the proposal, the beginning roster would be used to determine the fee distribution.

Concerns were raised about how the proposed change might affect the overall budget, resulting in fewer funded classes if the fee is paid upfront. An approved motion has already allocated additional money to support instructors, which would increase the instructor funding. Courtney suggested holding the motion and discussion for the next meeting. Kim raised concerns about finalizing the course details to begin their contract process.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-08-03:

Motion to use the beginning roster rather than the ending roster for the \$160 per student jump bag waiver fee for EMT and AEMT classes.

MOTION BY: Terry Cobb

SECOND BY: Lee Oliver

VOTING: Terry Cobb and Lee Oliver in favor. Courtney Terwilliger, Scott Stephens, Jeff Adams, Pete Quinones, Scott Roberts, Duane Montgomery, Allen Owens, Brian Hendrix, Huey Atkins against.

ACTION: The motion **FAILED** with the majority in opposition

With no further discussions, the GEMSA course allocations were finalized (**ATTACHMENT H**).

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

- Crystal Shelnett advised there is currently no new information on freeze-dried plasma utilization. Further details will be sought at the upcoming NHTSA Symposium. It may also be discussed during the EMS World Expo in September.
- The EMS equipment grant peak number utilization is still being evaluated. A called meeting may need to be scheduled to finalize the grant process. Efforts have been made to confirm the peak numbers in question and reach out to agencies that have not applied in the previous cycles.
- The MARCH PAWS project has obtained a vendor to execute the videos, and we are hoping to start them in August.
- There have been no recent developments for Advanced Burn Life Support courses. However, some regions have contacted Grady for burn education.
- The five-module exams in the MedEdPrep platform have been built. The instructors are aware of this, and the module test requirement is noted in the instructor contracts.

Before adjournment, Cathy White asked if the course allocations were finalized and whether they could start scheduling classes. Courtney confirmed preliminary scheduling can begin pending the final contract approval.

ACTION ITEMS

- Courtney requested an update be provided to the services about the temperature probe availability and capabilities. Dr. Tim Boone will develop detailed information and distribute it through the regional directors.
- Kim Littleton will meet with the PSA Public Relations contact, Mary, to discuss PSA impact, metrics, the gap of Atlanta zip codes, and glossary development of marketing terms.
- Pete Quinones requested a vendor or 1099 list of every vendor paid out of the GEMSA funding to determine the fees and who was paid for classes. It should equal out at the end of the year. Katie Vaughan and Liz Atkins will work to gather the vendor list from the GEMSA quarterly invoices.
- Lee Oliver requested a breakdown of the distribution of participants across funded courses. Crystal added that she categorized the participants as either EMS or other and can provide that breakdown once finalized.

SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT

- Dr. Tim Boone provided an AVLS Q4 Update (**ATTACHMENT A**).
- Dr. Michael Carr and Nathan Stanway presented on the PAVES program, which aims to expand virtual medical oversight for pre-hospital care (**ATTACHMENT B**).
- Kim Littleton shared PSA reports from March (**ATTACHMENT C**) and June (**ATTACHMENT D**)
- Cathy White reviewed the GEMSA Q4 Education Updated (**ATTACHMENT E**)
- Committee members reviewed the GEMSA course allocation proposal (**ATTACHMENT F**) and detailed course budgets noted in the GEMSA Statement of Work (**ATTACHMENT G**).
 - The PSA line item was discussed at length and ultimately removed from the education budget as it is considered a marketing item and subject to a Request for Proposal (RFP).
 - Committee members approved the use of the \$75,000 not spent on the PSA to increase the number of mental health classes to 10, one per region, and use the remaining funds to support EMT and AEMT instructor fees.
 - The committee discussed the need to differentiate between EMR and EMT classes due to their varying lengths and costs. Separate funding for EMR and EMT/AEMT was proposed to ensure each type of training receives appropriate financial support.
 - The motion to use the beginning rather than the ending roster for the \$160 per student jump bag waiver fee for EMT and AEMT classes failed with the majority opposition.
- Without further discussions, the GEMSA course allocations were finalized (**ATTACHMENT H**).
- A called meeting may need to be scheduled to finalize the EMS Equipment Grant FY 2025 process.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-08-05:

Motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins

SECOND BY: Scott Roberts

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye