

APPROVED
04.20.23



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Called EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/it9AbzQAIZU>

Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

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

OTHERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gina Solomon	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Ryan Hollingsworth	OEMS/T, Regional Training Coordinator
Kelly Joiner	OEMS/T
Richard Rhodes	OEMS/T
Kim Littleton (via Zoom)	GEMSA
Cathy White	GEMSA
Tim Boone	AVLS

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM on Thursday, January 19, 2023, with eleven of thirteen members present. Vic Drawdy joined the meeting after the roll call.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes or discuss any changes.

[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-01-01:](#)

[Motion to approve October 20, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted](#)

MOTION BY: Pete Quinones

SECOND BY: Jeffrey Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

GTC UPDATE

Presented By Liz Atkins

Courtney Terwilliger asked Liz Atkins to update the committee on recent Georgia Trauma Commission initiatives. Liz Atkins reviewed **ATTACHMENT A** with the committee. We had some great recommendations from our ACS visit, and I wanted to review some highlights. The ACS gives you priority recommendations, which they feel would be the best time spent to maximize our efforts. In addition to the priority recommendations, there are a host of additional recommendations.

Once we receive the report, we will have a week to respond to any inaccuracies. Then, we will have the final report. Overall, we should have the final report in nine weeks, which we will post on our website.

Courtney Terwilliger asked the group who was able to attend the consult visit. I thought it was an excellent event. I perceived many differences between the needs and resources of north and south Georgia. One of the biggest issues is EMS workforce staffing. I will send you the Governor's Healthcare Workforce Task Force Report (**ATTACHMENT G and H**). We worked for a couple of weeks with physicians, nurses, Allied Health, EMS, and behavioral health and identified some definitive issues with EMS and the need for an increase in the workforce. They recognized most of the EMS agencies are doing their training instead of technical colleges, which becomes a different source of burden. The recommendations have gone to the Governor, and I encourage you to read them. We will also send the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation Level IV Trauma Center Consult Report.

Committee members discussed their experiences taking higher-level critical trauma patients to rural hospitals. There was a concern about public scrutiny and legal difficulties when medics take a patient to a certain hospital. A statute should protect a company, county, or municipality when making certain decisions. Georgia is the worst legal state, and our laws do not protect our people. We have to ensure the statute protects the actions we take. Kelly Joiner added that developing the regional protocols would hopefully ease public scrutiny and legal recourse issues. If a patient gets taken to a non-designated center, they still have the responsibility to take care of them, which also highlights the importance of an inclusive trauma system.

GIS EDUCATION COURSE MAPPING

Presented By Melissa Bemiller

Dr. Melissa Bemiller reviewed **ATTACHMENT B** with committee members, which maps out 2022 educational courses funded by the Georgia Trauma Commission. Dr. Bemiller advised that she is unfamiliar with the courses, so you may see some courses listed twice.

- Slide 3, counties in white indicate where at least one training occurred
- Slide 4 helps visualize where most trainings happened
- Slides 5-14, I received only zip code data, which only provides a large area overview rather than a detailed one. Street addresses work best for future mapping and obtaining an in-depth analysis. The colored counties show where the course was held, and the dots represent the zip codes of where the students are traveling from.
- Slide 15 demonstrates the virtual conference reached a wider audience, including out-of-state attendees
- Slide 16, the leadership course, had work and home addresses and provides an overview of how far the students travel to the course
- Slide 17 shows the most used job titles of attendees
- Slide 18 outlines the course attendee demographics
- Slide 19-23 provides examples of different mapping that can be utilized to visualize different data

Kim Littleton clarified that the reasoning behind why some maps may look skewed to certain locations is because:

- Classes are contractually set due to the partnership with Georgia Southern University
- For certain classes, we use locations that have the training capabilities due to training parameters to conduct those classes
- Some courses fall under NAEMT and have to be an established training site, which is why you don't see some courses in certain areas

Lee Oliver asked Richard Rhodes if the initial education data shows how many students that completed the EMR course became licensed. Richard Rhodes stated he could share the updated 2022 data. They have seen an improvement in numbers since COVID. Lee Oliver recommended combining the Georgia Trauma Commission-funded courses with the state data to better understand the course distribution.

GEMSA UPDATE

Presented By Cathy White

Cathy White reviewed **ATTACHMENT C** with committee members, which details FY2023 course progress and dates. Some notes:

- Gray bars are those who have declined the grants after acceptance. We try to input the date of decline so we know how much of the funds were held and the reason for declining
- Class minimum is 12 for the EMR-EMT Program. In south Georgia, we don't have as much attendance as in North Georgia.
- TECC classes have to be in particular areas because NAEMT has to approve the site before the class, which is why you see us returning to particular areas
- The leadership application deadline is January 31st, and we have received 35 applications for this year's class
- Region 6 has a trauma skills lab scheduled for February 20th, with only 33 people signed up. Cathy asked if they should cancel if the usual threshold of 80-90 participants is not met. The committee agreed to cancel if minimum is not met. Cathy White stated they would continue to push out the sign-up to ensure everyone is aware of the course.

- We are having some challenges with the cadaver lab scheduled in region 3. Cadaver labs need to meet specific criteria to facilitate them.

Kim Littleton advised the FY2023 Q2 invoice was submitted. We are doing our midpoint soft supply order. A lot of course equipment goes through wear and tear, so we try to refresh items at this point.

We are also working with a capital response team of a paramedic and an EMT that will be staffing the Capital during the session. We are shooting for the end of January 31st to have them in the capital with Grady. We hope to use this to gain more visibility to the association and trauma care.

AVLS UPDATE

Presented By Tim Boone

Dr. Tim Boone shared that the AVLS system could help provide data to support the need for more workforce. There are opportunities, but we would need permission to utilize the data and immunity from the state so it cannot be used against an agency.

Simtech has acquired Sierra Wireless. The cost of the chip is twenty dollars. Sierra Wireless chips, in comparison, were about one hundred dollars each. Dr. Boone added that the chip could also be utilized within an armband to track patients from scene to final destination.

There is new technology to replace the MG90s along with a new website. We need to consider when we want to start phasing it in and replacing it. There will be no impact on GEMA's tracking process. The chips will likely only work with the newer models, not the older ones. It also does the temperature. It is a one-time fee. Currently, there is no monthly charge.

Tim Boone referenced the FY 2023 Q2 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT D and E**) and reviewed the following:

1. Support Deliverables

Time spent troubleshooting with various agencies. Focus on ordering more units, there are a lot of new ambulances that have come in, in the last few months. We have received some requests to change carriers through the fiscal year; that period is closing soon. Agencies have become used to getting support from ITS, and Sierra Wireless, so more units are getting fixed quicker.

2. Total Unit Usage

- 1196/1415, 85% active

3. Current counties without AVLS

- Cherokee: Currently in discussion
- Camden: In discussion with Patrick Parson
- Chattahoochee/Muscogee: Not likely
- Dekalb: Meeting with AMR and Dekalb Fire
- Gwinnett: Have their own system
- Long: Opened discussion with Dr. Graham
- Lumpkin: Purchased Cradlepoint from FirstNet

4. Review of Airtime Log

5. AVLS Spending

- Q1 AVLS Gateways Purchased: \$101,894 of \$134,884 FY 2023 Budget
-

The new device is XR technology, which is a bit more expensive, but I don't have the exact price. It does require the same antenna configuration. I will have more information soon, and if the committee would like, we can have Sierra Wireless come into one of our meetings and do a deep dive. Huey Atkins recommended

they send a rep to one of our meetings. Liz Atkins advised inviting them to the April meeting.

Please review **ATTACHMENT E**, which breaks down units by the agency and what is being utilized. We have requested to get the state vehicle ID numbers put on the AMN, and people are starting to do that. Each agency can go in and put their numbers in. If they have any questions, they can call me. Some agencies utilize the AMN to track their vehicles. Others may use it as a WiFi hotspot. Many don't realize the value of the AVLS system.

EMS FUNDING

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

The Super Speeder and Fireworks money is now dedicated to the Commission. Around this time, we would typically see some amended funds, but it may not be as substantial as years prior. We did our full-year budget at the beginning of the fiscal year this year.

OLD BUSINESS

EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT SPECIAL EQUIPMENT REQUESTS

Presented By Katie Hamilton

Katie presented **ATTACHMENT F**, which outlines the special EMS equipment requests for Committee approval:

1. Hall County requested a deadline extension to February 13 due to limited BOC and work sessions.

There was a discussion about how county boards want to approve the grant before sending it for review. The committee agreed the Georgia Trauma Commission staff should send a save-the-date to advise of the EMS grant application timeframe so agencies can put it on their county's agenda for approval.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-01-02:

Motion to approve Hall County's request for a deadline extension

MOTION BY: Scott Roberts

SECOND BY: Jeffrey Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

2. South Georgia Medical Center requests a Level 3A Soft Body Armor for EMS & RTF to improve the safety of EMS providers working on violent trauma calls.

While the safety of EMS providers is important, the grant is for trauma equipment to care for patients.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-01-03:

Motion to approve South Georgia Medical Center request for Level 3A Soft Body Armor for EMS & RTF

MOTION BY: Duane Montgomery

SECOND BY: Scott Stephens

VOTING: All members are in opposition of the motion.

ACTION: The motion **FAILED** with majority votes in opposition.

3. **Clayton County Fire and EMS request for Pediatric/Infant IO Equipment (Needles) due to four major interstates and multiple major thoroughfares running through our response zone, there is an inherent risk to the pediatric population.**

Committee members noted IO needles were already on the approved equipment list but do indicate adult. Committee members discussed removing adult and pediatric language from the approved equipment list to avoid future confusion.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-01-04:

Motion to remove adult and pediatric language from the approved equipment list.

MOTION BY: Jim Adkins

SECOND BY: Jeffrey Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

4. **Rabun County EMS requests Lucas Charging Cables for potential traumatic arrest patients.**

Automatic Chest Compression is listed on the approved list, and the cables are a part of the system. Some committee members advised that there are Lucas devices that are contraindicated. Committee members agreed to add language to the approved list that the system is approved unless contraindicated for trauma.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-01-05:

Motion to add language to the approved equipment list that the Automatic Chest Compression System, unless contraindicated for trauma.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins

SECOND BY: Scott Stephens

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Equipment lists are posted with the application on the trauma.ga.gov website

Courtney Terwilliger mentioned he still has concerns about funding general transport trucks. We will discuss this again at a future meeting. Per the ACS report, we also need to focus on the rural areas.

Lee Oliver asked if we need to go back and talk with the services about the intention of the grant funds. Courtney advised that the goal is to have 911 trucks adequately funded and equipped to provide optimal care to trauma patients. Please share this within your region and share the information from our meetings. If they can come up with a better idea, please share them.

Duane Montgomery recommended making the grant pay-to-play process by looking at the service and ensuring they meet the criteria we set, such as: contributing to injury prevention or participating in the RTAC. Liz Atkins advised the committee can set the criteria, and we can make it happen.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

No Update

MARCH PAWS-RURAL INITIATIVE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

We are continuing to work on the training program. I have all the equipment for the course and hope

to have the first class in Emanuel County. It was previously canceled due to the delay in the equipment.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Courtney Terwilliger to share Governor's Healthcare Workforce Commission Report (ATTACHMENT G and H)
- Richard Rhodes to update initial education data and resend for review. Lee Oliver recommended combining both GEMSA and state data for a complete overview of courses
- Committee agreed GEMSA's region six trauma skills lab can be cancelled if less than 80 participants. Please distribute the class information within your regions
- Tim Boone to reach out to Sierra Wireless and attend April Committee Meeting to update Committee on the new AVLS technology
- Special Equipment Requests Outcomes:
 - Committee Approved: Hall County's request for a deadline extension
 - Committee Denied: South Georgia Medical Center request for Level 3A Soft Body Armor for EMS & RTF
 - Committee Approved: Hall County's request for a deadline extension
 - Committee Approved: Remove adult and pediatric language from approved equipment list
 - Committee Approved: Add language to the approved equipment to include Automatic Chest Compression System, unless contraindicated for trauma.
- Courtney Terwilliger would like to continue discussing the concerns of funding general transport trucks at next meeting
- Courtney Terwilliger would like to continue discussing the importance of focusing on rural per the ACS report

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-01-06:

Motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY: Lee Oliver

SECOND BY: Jim Adkins

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye