



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Georgia Trauma Commission Rehab Committee

### Meeting Minutes

[Link to Meeting Documents and Attachments](#)

January 25, 2024

Microsoft Teams

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Vox, Ford, Chair	Shepherd Center
Braun, Carrie	Atrium Health Navicent
Kidwell, Susannah	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Tipton, Gina	Encompass Health
Gohman, Kevin	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Raeda Anderson	Shepherd Center
Abigail Thompson	Shepherd Center

OTHERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Atkins, Elizabeth	Georgia Trauma Commission
Saye, Gabriela	Georgia Trauma Commission
Solomon, Gina	Georgia Trauma Commission
Becca Hallum	Georgia Hospital Association
Marie Probst	DPH Office of EMS and Trauma

## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Ford Vox called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, with seven members present. Dr. Vox started the meeting by introducing Dr. Raeda Anderson, who was invited to assist and discuss the rehab data analysis.

### DATA ANALYSIS DISCUSSION

*Presented By Dr. Ford Vox*

Dr. Anderson expressed excitement regarding the project and outlined two main areas of analysis: descriptive statistics and inferential analysis. Dr. Anderson highlighted the potential to address patients' needs and identify strategic opportunities through geospatial analysis and social determinants of health. Dr. Vox emphasized the importance of starting somewhere and discussed potential analyses related to access and disparities in rehab based on trauma center levels. The discussion touched on topics like analyzing zip code data and assessing patient travel distances.

Dr. Vox discussed the need to prioritize questions for analysis, and Dr. Anderson acknowledged the challenge of selecting key questions and the importance of addressing them concisely and

meaningfully.

Dr. Susannah Kidwell suggested exploring patient destinations and gaps in care. Dr. Vox added analyzing disparities in rehab based on insurance status. The conversation continued into discharge destinations, focusing on a home without services, skilled nursing, and acute rehab.

Concerns were raised about the challenges in tracking patients discharged to long-term care hospitals and potential improvements to the database. Dr. Kidwell touched on the concept of cracks in care, where patients do not go to a rehab facility and the lack of coordinated care and resources. The discussion included school reentry and the importance of organized pathways. Dr. Anderson sought more clarification on identifying gaps and understanding where the system may be falling short.

Elizabeth Atkins shared an overview of the American College of Surgeons(ACS) Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) collaborative report. The report compares discharge dispositions of level one and two trauma centers in Georgia to national averages. Georgia underperforms overall within discharge disposition compared to the national average. Elizabeth Atkins proposed a collaboration with TQIP to address the issue of patients slipping through the cracks and for risk-adjusted benchmarking to provide more real-time insights into patient outcomes.

The committee discussed potential insurance and Medicaid issues influencing rehabilitation rates. Dr. Vox expressed interest in immediate pre-approval for trauma patients on Medicaid to facilitate a smoother transition to rehabilitation.

Elizabeth Atkins mentioned that the Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) has launched its risk-adjusted benchmarking platform. Further discussions are needed to determine what data can be shared with the Committee for analysis.

Dr. Vox outlined plans to survey rehab hospitals on capacities and trauma centers on barriers. Elizabeth Atkins agreed to support the Committee in distributing surveys to trauma centers through the Commission contacts through email and mail.

Dr. Anderson will contact Gina Solomon to discuss data access and the next steps.

#### **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Vox thanked the committee for their time, acknowledged their work, and opened the floor for final comments.

- The committee welcomed Dr. Raeda Anderson to assist with rehab data analysis. and Dr. Anderson acknowledged the challenge of selecting key questions and the importance of addressing them concisely and meaningfully.
- Liz Atkins reviewed a portion of the American College of Surgeons(ACS) Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) collaborative report (**ATTACHMENT A**), which reveals Georgia underperforms in discharge disposition compared to the national average. Liz proposed a collaboration with TQIP to address the issue of patients slipping through the cracks.
- Liz Atkins and Gina Solomon will discuss data access offline to determine what data can be shared with the Committee.
- Dr. Vox outlined plans to survey rehab hospitals and trauma centers. Liz Atkins agreed to support the Committee by distributing the survey via email and mail.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

Minutes by Gabriela Saye