

APPROVED
04.24.23



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Trauma Administrators Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

2:45 PM-3:45 PM

Chateau Elan

Braselton, Georgia

[Meeting Material](#)

MEETING ATTENDANCE	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	REPRESENTING
Dr. Michelle Wallace Patrice Walker April Dukes Christopher Ruiz Amy Watson Tifani Kinard Brian Delashmitt Ross Kemp Jeffrey Harden Ralph Castillo Angela Gary Becky Weidler Dee Burkett Jan Tidwell Bill Tustin Paula Butts Marty Wynn Frances Van Beek	Committee Chair , Grady Health System Atrium Health Navicent, Chief Medical Officer Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO VP PCS Doctors Hospital of Augusta, VP Trauma Service Effingham Health System, CNO Floyd Polk Medical Center, VP of Rural Health Hamilton Medical Center, EVP/CMO HCA, Fairview Park Hospital, COO Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, CNO Morgan Medical Center, CEO Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Exec Director Trauma/ED/Obs Northside Gwinnett, Director of Emergency and Trauma Services Piedmont Athens Regional, Executive Director, Patient Services Piedmont Cartersville, CNO Piedmont Columbus Regional, COO Piedmont Henry Hospital, CNO Piedmont Walton, Chief Financial Officer Wellstar Health System, AVP, Trauma, Neuro
APPOINTED DESIGNEES	REPRESENTING
Cindy Hoggard Mary Anne Nolan Rana Roberts Judean Guinn Stephen Shirlock David Hoffenberg Kim Anker	Advent Health Redmond Hospital, Director ER/Trauma Augusta University Medical Center, Admin Director Emergency and Critical Care Services Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Director, Trauma, Transport, Transfer Center Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Director of Critical Care Services & Respiratory Care Memorial Health University Medical Center, COO Northside Gwinnett, CNO
OTHER ATTENDEES	REPRESENTING
Marcus Lindsey Lori Wood	Air Methods - AirLife Georgia, Account Executive Grady Health System, Emergency Management Director

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Dr. Michelle Wallace, GTC Member Dr. Regina Medeiros, GTC Secretary/Treasurer	Elizabeth V. Atkins, GTC, Executive Director Gabriela Saye, GTC, Executive Assistant Katie Hamilton, GTC, Finance Operations Officer

Call to Order: (00:00:05 on the recording)

The meeting was called to order at 2:54 PM with seventeen committee members and seven committee member designees present. Dr. Wallace thanked everyone for joining the meeting and reviewed the agenda items.



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Approval of October 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes: (00:01:07)

Dr. Wallace asked for a motion to approve.

**[MOTION GTCNC TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE 2023-02-01:
Motion to approve October 24, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted.](#)**

MOTION BY: Ross Kemp

SECOND BY: David Hoffenberg

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Georgia Trauma Commission Updates: (00:01:26)

Presented by Liz Atkins

1. Grant Opportunities

The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) has eight stabilization grant awards coming up. Fifty-five hospitals qualify, and many of you are on the list. They will notify hospitals and provide a direct link to the posting on the Department of Community Health website.

2. American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Systems Consultation and Rural-Focused Visit

Thank you to all that participated. The ACS was impressed by the level of engagement from our stakeholders. We expect to have the report by early April. Copies of the report will be posted on the trauma.ga.gov website and distributed to stakeholders for review and feedback on possible solutions.

2. Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) Report

PTSF reported their findings from the level IV consult visits during the November Commission meeting. We found a lot of opportunities and are working on education for the level III and IV trauma centers, including mentor programs. Level I and II centers will be asked to contribute and serve as mentors and provide guidance and feedback on transfer cases.

4. March Commission Meeting

On March 1st, Dr. Etienne Pracht will present a Trauma System Analysis, which looks at Georgia's 2013-2022 discharge data set. Hopefully, this analysis will help us identify more candidate hospitals, particularly in underserved regions such as 8 and 9.

We still have many designated centers that are not part of Commission funding. Our funding stream remains constant, but we don't have extra funding to accommodate additional centers. We are trying to develop financial models to see the potential distribution of funds to all currently designated centers and bumping up level III and IV readiness funding. We need roughly 80 to 100 million to fund the trauma system. Tomorrow, the Commission will also vote on the FY2023 reallocation plan, in which we added \$25,000 for level IV centers and \$75,000 for level III centers.

All Commission meeting information and documents can be found on our website, trauma.ga.gov, under events and past events.



Georgia Coordinating Center (GCC): Trauma Transfer Diversion Update (00:14:00)

Presented by Dr. Michelle Wallace

Trauma transfer diversion is meant for trauma centers that cannot take transfers but still take ground or air traffic. In December, we had 11 centers participate in trauma transfer diversion education. To date, it has been used three times. If you have any questions or need to sign up for access, please contact Lori Wood. She will also distribute the education to the Trauma Program Managers and Directors.

A committee member asked about the implications of MTALA violations and the diversion status. It was advised that with transfers, as long as you have documentation to prove you are at capacity, you can state you cannot accept additional patients. It is different from ground traffic when patients are within 250 yards- that is another story. Each legal department has to make its own decisions they are comfortable with.

GCC met a couple of weeks ago, and we will bring an outside consultant to assist us with the scope of operations and look to create a new board. Currently, there are too many definitions for diversion and saturation. We will work with the Georgia Hospital Association, the Department of Public Health Office of EMS and Trauma, and a couple of trauma centers to create structure and decrease the number of definitions.

Please familiarize yourselves with the GCC platform and put your information on there. In about 30 days, we will move to a new ImageTrend platform, where we will be able to create groups for communication and messaging. We need this group to determine what the communication regions would look like. I will email to ask who is in your network and have consistent communication with. Who do you want to know that you are going on diversion?

Lori Wood stated ImageTrend would do the training and have a recording available to distribute. Your facility's administrator is able to build a custom dashboard. The Georgia Hospital Association and the Department of Public Health Office of EMS and Trauma will help develop a strategic plan and hospital engagement. We want to ensure we are engaging all participating hospitals, including non-trauma.

Finance Update (00:27:45)

Presented by Dr. Michelle Wallace

Dr. Regina Medeiros is leading the workgroup, and they are working on a couple of deliverables:

- Education and Training: What are your needs, and are you capturing the right charges?
- Funding Utilization: How are we using the Commission funds? Are they utilized how the Commission intended, or do they go to the bottom line?

Dr. Medeiros added that the Commission wants to assure legislators that funded centers are maximizing their opportunities for coding and billing and that the Commission is the payor of last resort. We need to understand your financial gaps and your opportunities for improvement.

Last year, we had a finance workshop at Barnsley. Liz Atkins advised we can facilitate another workshop if people are interested, but we need to know now to plan appropriately.



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Summary of Action Items and Adjournment (00:39:44)

Presented by Michelle Wallace

Before adjournment, Dr. Wallace discussed the importance of attending these meetings and listening to your team's ideas and how you can support them. Dr. Wallace ended the meeting by asking the committee members to introduce themselves.

- The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) has eight stabilization grant awards coming up. They will notify hospitals and provide a direct link to the posting on the Department of Community Health website.
- American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Systems Consultation and Rural-Focused Visit final report should be released by early April. It will be distributed to all stakeholders.
- Trauma transfer diversion education has been completed, and the status is live. Lori Wood will also distribute the education to Trauma Program Managers and Directors. If you have questions or need to sign up for GCC access, please contact Lori Wood, LWOOD@GMH.EDU.
- Please familiarize yourself with the GCC platform and input your information. The GCC will transition to Imagetrend in the next 30 days. Imagetrend will conduct the platform training, which will be recorded and distributed.
- The ImageTrend platform will have the ability to create communication groups. Dr. Michelle Wallace will email the committee to obtain feedback on who is part of your network and with whom you communicate consistently.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye