



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

APPROVED
04.21.23

Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

7:30 am to 8:30 am

Chateau Elan

Braselton, Ga

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT*	REPRESENTING
Greg Patterson	Committee Chair/ John D Archbold Memorial, TMD
Alicia Register	Committee Vice-Chair/ Crisp Regional, TMD
Courtney Terwilliger	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member
Cindy Hoggard	AdventHealth Redmond, Director ER/Trauma
J Kelly Mayfield	AdventHealth Redmond, TMD
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond, Trauma Program Manager
Tifani Kinard	Atrium Health Floyd, VP of Rural Health
Catherine Martin	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, Trauma Medical Director
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, Trauma Program Manager
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional, TPM
April Dukes	Crisp Regional, CNO, VP PCS
April Moss	DPH Office of EMS and Trauma, Deputy Director, Systems of Care
David Kiefer	Effingham Hospital, TMD
Lindsey Lewis	Effingham Hospital, Trauma Program Manager
Brooke Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center, TPM
Gail Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center, Trauma Registrar /Trauma Coordinator
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, Trauma Program Director
Ross Kemp	Fairview Park Hospital, COO
John Polhill	Fairview Park Hospital, TMD
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, Trauma Manager
Brian Delashmitt	Hamilton Medical Center, Exec VP/CMO admin
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP/ CNO
Steven Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center, Trauma Medical Director
Mary Beth Goodwin	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Rn Pi Coordinator
Kelli Vaughn	Atrium Health Floyd, VP of Rural Health
Jeffrey Harden	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, CNO
Ralph Castillo	Morgan Medical Center, CEO
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM
John Pope	Piedmont Cartersville, TPM
Paula Butts	Piedmont Henry Hospital, CNO
Karen Hust	Piedmont Walton, TPM
Richard Jacob	Piedmont Walton, TMD
Kimberly Reusmann	Piedmont Walton, Trauma Registrar
Marty Wynn	Piedmont Walton, Chief Financial Officer
Winston Charles	Wellstar Cobb Hospital, TPM



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Kerry Carter Susan Baldrige Rachel Hand	Wellstar Paulding Hospital, TPM Wellstar Spalding Regional Hospital, Trauma Program Manager Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, TPM
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***Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code**

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins Gabriela Saye Cheryle Ward	GTC, Executive Director GTC, Executive Assistant Georgia Trauma Foundation

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 am with 38 committee members present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

Dr. Patterson asked for a motion to approve the October 21, 2022, meeting minutes.

[MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2023-02-28:](#)

[Motion to approve October 21, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted.](#)

MOTION BY: Alicia Register

SECOND BY: David Kiefer

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION UPDATES

Presented by Liz Atkins

Dr. Patterson asked Liz Atkins to provide Georgia Trauma Commission updates.

1. Welcome, April Moss

Welcome, April Moss, to the committee. She is the new DPH Office of EMS and Trauma Deputy Director for Systems of Care. She oversees trauma, stroke, and STEMI center designations.

2. Grant Opportunities

The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) has eight stabilization grant award upcoming opportunities. Fifty-five hospitals qualify, and many of you are on the list. I understand the grants open Wednesday, March 1st, and will be open for 60 days.

Update from Nita Ham from SORH after the committee adjourned: “the Request for Grant Application (RFGA) for the Rural Hospital Stabilization Grant Program for 2023 won’t be posted this week as we had hoped. While we are currently working with the Commissioner’s office and Grants Administration within DCH, it will likely be a couple more weeks before the RFGA is posted. Once the RFGA has been posted, we will notify eligible hospitals and provide the direct link to the posting on the DCH website.”



3. 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.

You have already been sent the Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation Level IV Consultation Report (**ATTACHMENT A**). It is not posted on the website since it is a peer-reviewed document. Please keep the report to yourselves and do not distribute it.

By the April committee meeting, you should have been able to read both reports. We will dedicate some time to the April meeting to develop work plans and address recommendations. We may send out a feedback survey on what we want to do.

4. March Commission Meeting

On March 1st, we will have Dr. Etienne Pracht present a Trauma System Analysis, which looks at the discharge data set in Georgia. The last trauma system analysis helped identify Phoebe Putney and Northeast Georgia as centers we needed to bring on board.

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. We are also going to match your registry costs.

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

MARCH PAWS

Presented by Courtney Terwilliger

Dr. Patterson asked Courtney Terwilliger to provide any updates on MARCH PAWS.

We are looking to have the first session on April 28th at Emanuel Medical Center. It will be a work in progress, and we will try to learn how to present the material to the students. We are also working on developing a standardized protocol visual for hospitals.

I am also working with the State Office of Rural Health to send out a survey to the rural hospitals and determine what equipment they have available. We need to know if they don't have the necessary equipment to care for trauma patients. If not, we need to see how we can obtain funding for equipment.

If you are interested in helping with MARCH PAWS, please contact me.

ACCESS TO SPECIALTY CARE

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

We will update the Access to Specialty Care document in August and try to publish a few QR codes. The access to Specialty Care concept is to come with a system where a center has contact options for certain services. The intent is to speed up the process for transfer and decrease the time to definitive care. We are still looking to possibly develop and obtain funding for a phone application.



WEB-BASED REGISTRY & CONTRACTED ABSTRACTION SERVICES

Presented by Greg Patterson

Level III and IV centers have already received funding to start a web-hosted registry with the outcomes module. Some centers are having issues with their legal department and need a BAA to continue. Please update us if you encounter any barriers to starting the web-based registry.

ACTION PLANNING PTSF CONSULT VISITS AND ACS SYSTEM CONSULT/RURAL FOCUSED REVIEW

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

We need to move forward and create a one to five-year action plan of what we plan to do as a committee. I met with the GQIP Trauma Advisory Council, and the first two projects we want to roll out to our committee are: 1) time to definitive care 2) hip fractures.

We are looking to create a center resources and demographic survey to send out to the committee over the next five to six months to see what we all have available such as blood availability, availability of providers in the ER, and who are your referring facilities. We would like to report this by the August meeting.

The survey will help us start planning some data points for the time to definitive care project. We will need to ensure you are providing the data to your referring centers, such as when the patient arrived at your facility, when they were accepted, when you determined they needed to be transferred, and when the patient left your facility. The survey's outcome may help us obtain funding to help centers obtain the missing resources.

Kelli Vaughn added the survey could help receiving centers understand why a patient is being transferred to them and increase awareness of what capabilities are around them.

Courtney Terwilliger recommended combining the State Office of Rural Health resource survey and the committee's center resources and demographic survey to send out in one go. Kelli Vaughn asked if Nita Ham could facilitate and create the resource list. Courtney Terwilliger advised she has tasked us with coming up with the questions for the survey.

Sending out the survey is not difficult, but having the right questions to get the true answer is the difficult part. Sometimes we don't get the truth because centers may fear letting someone know they can't do certain things.

Some additional recommendations and comments for the survey:

- Add transport resources to the survey
- Encourage centers to report true and reliable data
- Blood bank availability
- ER sizes and resources
- What triage criteria are they using
- Under and over-triage rates

Please submit any data point ideas you want to include in the survey as soon as possible. We have figured out our basic costs and need to figure out our resources. Ultimately in five years, we can redo all our surveys to see where we're at and advise the Commission of the funding needed for our centers.



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OTHER DISCUSSIONS

- Dr. Patterson advised GCTE has a mentor program to match lower-level centers with higher-level centers and two centers at the same level. Committee members shared their experiences with the GCTE mentor program and its benefits. The GCTE level III/IV group will discuss PI process in the upcoming meetings.
- We discussed tele-trauma last year at Barnsley. We need to develop a collaborative process for higher and lower-level trauma centers and how to set up a system. Hopefully, we can breach this subject again in the next upcoming meetings.
- We are looking to present four cases, one case from each trauma level, with unblinded data at the next summer meeting. If interested, you would have to agree to present it yourself. The case does not have to be a death; it can be where you encountered a problem with transport, acceptance, or any other barrier. We are looking to return the summer meeting to a closed meeting, invitation only, for the review of the cases.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) has eight stabilization grant awards upcoming. Fifty-five hospitals qualify, and many of you are on the list. I understand the grants open Wednesday, March 1st, and will be open for 60 days.

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- American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Systems Consultation and Rural-Focused Visit report should be released by early April. Please review the PTSF and ACS reports prior to the next committee meeting. We will dedicate some time to develop work plans and address recommendations. We may send out a feedback survey on what we want to do. **Reminder:** the PTSF report is a peer-reviewed document, please do not distribute.
- The first MARCH PAWS is scheduled for April 28th at Emanuel Medical Center. If you are interested in assisting with the MARCH PAWS course, please reach out to Courtney Terwilliger, cterwilliger@emanuelmedical.org.
- Please advise Liz Atkins, liz@gtcnc.org, if you are encountering any barriers with starting the web-based registry.
- Please advise Greg Patterson, gpatterson@archbold.org, of any data points to be included in the center resources and demographic survey.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye