

APPROVED
07.20.23



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Called EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: https://youtu.be/k53IBU7Y_tk

Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chair, GTC Member	Pete Quinones, Region Three
Lee Oliver, Vice-Chair, Region Five	Allen Owens, Region Eight
Scott Stephens, Region One (via Zoom)	Jim Adkins, GTC Member
Jeff Adams, Region Two	
Scott Roberts, Region Four	
Duane Montgomery, Region Seven	
Brian Hendrix, Region Nine (via Zoom)	
Huey Atkins, Region Ten	
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
Kelly Joiner	OEMS/T
Richard Rhodes	OEMS/T
Kim Littleton	GEMSA
Tim Boone	AVLS
Dan Robinson	Sierra Wireless
Danielle Johnson	RTAC Region 3
Farrah Parker	RTAC Region 6
Kristal Smith	RTAC Region 5

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 20, 2023, with nine of the twelve members present. Region 6 representative is currently vacant and pending an appointment.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger referenced bottom of page 2: “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” and stated if EMS takes a patient to a local hospital, then we don’t have an inclusive trauma system and does not relieve EMS of the responsibility.

No amendments were instructed for the meeting minutes. Courtney Terwilliger requested a motion to approve the January meeting minutes or advise of any changes.

[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-04-01:](#)

[Motion to approve January 19, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted](#)

MOTION BY: Scott Roberts

SECOND BY: Lee Oliver

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

GTC UPDATE

Presented By Liz Atkins

- Our FY2024 budget was approved during the last day of the session. There was an attempt to pull 692,000 from the Commission, but thankfully it was not removed. We currently have 35 trauma centers, some not yet included in the Commission funding. The Commission needs additional funding, around 80-100 million, to bring all the current and future trauma centers into our funding. If we attain additional funding, Dr. Ashley has asked the EMS committee to devise a plan for utilizing the additional EMS funds.
- We are engaging with UGA to help with our time to definitive care project and possibly help us determine the readiness and uncompensated costs for EMS. UGA would like some EMS contacts to discuss billing codes. Jeff Adams and Courtney Terwilliger advised they could provide some helpful contact information to Liz.
- The ACS Consultative report draft has been submitted to us for review. We discussed some edits on a call with them Monday, and we are expecting the final report within a week.
- There is a new Region 4 RTAC Coordinator, Jay Connelly, with Piedmont Henry. Next week, we will be interviewing some Region 9 RTAC Coordinator candidates.
- We have contracted a Stop the Bleed Coordinator, Greg Nickel, to assist the Commission and Kristal Smith, Committee on Trauma Stop the Bleed Champion, with the program. The Stop the Bleed Kit Application will reopen on May 1st.
- The Commission and the Office of EMS and Trauma are working together to develop a statewide trauma dashboard with metrics accessible to the public. We are hoping to unveil the dashboard around August.

Courtney Terwilliger opened the floor to discuss what we would do with additional EMS funding to improve the performance of EMS caring for trauma patients. Some discussion points:

- There is a need to quantify the delay in care in specific areas and the reasons it may occur. Recommendation to use UGA or another research organization to review EMS data to validate reasons for the delay.
- We have some data from trauma centers, like the time for decision to transfer, but we don't have any data for trauma patients seen at non-trauma centers.
- There was a suggestion to create a simple hospital report to address the reason for the delay.
- Recommendation to develop best practices for agencies, which they must follow to receive Commission funding or grants.
- In our system, not everyone needs to go to a trauma center. We have to get non-trauma centers comfortable with managing patients under their care. We have had discussions about leveraging telemedicine to avoid unnecessary transfers.
- Wall times in 911 areas are creeping back up, and high call volume, in combination with the shortage of EMS staff, are all issues that need to be addressed.
- Recommendation to review patient cases and dig into the reason for the delay before the next meeting.

Courtney Terwilliger advised the Commission is looking to work with Dr. Eileen Bulger to consult on our prehospital system.

AVLS UPDATE

Presented By Tim Boone

Dr. Tim Boone advised committee members can review the Gateway Report (**ATTACHMENT A**), which shows all units across all agencies in the state. You can now view detail by region, and more agencies are starting to enter vehicle ID numbers.

Tim Boone referenced the FY 2023 Q3 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT B**) 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

- 1181/1410, 84% active

3. Current counties without AVLS

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

4. MG90 Quick Reference Guide

- We are in process of revising maps and will have a new version out in the next couple of months

5. Review of Airtime Log

- More agencies are switching over to SouthernLinc
- Open enrollment to switch carriers in FY2024 ended in March. Email communication regarding the enrollment period was sent to system administrators, region directors, and the RTAC. The switch will take place in July. The next open enrollment period to change service providers will be in December and will occur every year.

6. AVLS Spending

- Q3 AVLS Gateways Purchased: \$117,321 of \$134,884 FY 2023 Budget
- Some upcoming AVLS funding options:
 - \$170,000 could be paid in advance for annual maintenance for the next fiscal year.
 - \$150,000 to replace equipment in the next year.

Dr. Tim Boone introduced Dan Robinson with Sierra Wireless to review the future of AVLS, the technological changes, and what is next for AVLS (**ATTACHMENT C**). The full presentation can be reviewed on the recording (1:01:07). Answered questions below:

- The price difference between the XR versus the MG is within a hundred dollars. XR80 is a little bit less.
- The MG will be in the same cloud location but different software. There is no way for the XR and the MG to talk to each other, but there may be a bridge eventually. Both platforms have an open API system in the back. From a mapping standpoint, we can merge it.
- To move a device from XR to MG for the bolt-on cartridge is about 500 to 600 dollars.
- Dan advised if a couple of volunteers are interested, the Commission can have four devices to test out in different locations over the next year to review the MG capabilities.

Dan Robinson encourages committee members to contact him with any additional questions.

GEMSA UPDATE

Presented By Kim Littleton

Kim Littleton reviewed **ATTACHMENT D** with committee members, which details the FY2023 course progress and dates. Some notes:

- There has been a challenge with instructor response to provide rosters for the EMR/EMT courses.
- Color codes: Green – Classes Completed; Pink – Awaiting Instructor; White – On Going; Gray – Declined
 - Agencies decline courses for various reasons: schedule conflicts, unable to find an instructor, or falling off their radar. We try to award declined grants to other agencies.
- Axioms of Leadership courses were held in Morgan County due to the ease of working with the venue.
- TECC courses must be held at specific training sites that meet their requirements, which is why you see repeat counties. We are actively working on adding and checking off different training sites.
- There have been some issues with EMR/EMT services contracting with a 911 service.
- Programs currently not funded by the Commission:
 - Jr. Leadership Class
 - Ropes for EMS
 - Instructor Workshop GEMSA
 - EMS Instructor Conference – 1 day
 - Peer Counseling
 - Arbinger
 - Trauma Equipment Program
 - Additional Trauma Skills Labs
- There is a barrier with EVOC courses. The current curriculum is underwritten by McNeal, and we have added content to it. NFDA standards wants us to separate ambulances and fire apparatus, which causes issues with fire-based ambulance services. We are talking to another company to underwrite the EVOC curriculum. We request to use the current EVOC course funds

for other programs, such as trauma courses, or to add a trauma skills lab.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-04-02:

Motion to allow GEMSA to utilize EVOC course funds for another education course

MOTION BY: Jeff Adams

SECOND BY: Scott Roberts

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Courtney Terwilliger requested a summary slide with how many courses have been awarded for future GEMSA reports.

Liz Atkins asked what the amount of the leftover EVOC courses was. Kim stated she did not know off hand and clarified GEMSA is not removing EVOC. The course is on hold until we can get the underwriting resolved. The remaining EVOC funds would be used on trauma card courses.

Courtney Terwilliger revisited the ambulance services barriers by contracting 911 services for EMT/EMR classes. The ambulance service goes to the county government to accept the grant through the county government and hire an instructor. I suggest allowing any service that has been awarded a grant for a class to sign an agreement with an instructor school and bill GEMSA directly for that course if they want to. It would have to be approved by their local 911 service, and they would still be responsible for the quality of that course. The 911 service and the school will have a contractual arrangement, and it will be notarized to send to GEMSA.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-04-03:

Motion to allow individual services awarded education grants to subcontract with a qualified school or vendor to perform the education and bill GEMSA directly.

MOTION BY: Duane Montgomery

SECOND BY: Jeff Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Courtney Terwilliger advised some providers would like to take the 50-hour EMR class instead of the 80-hour EMT/R with the grant. Providers can take the EMT/R course for state licensure. The EMR course does not meet the national standards for licensure. Richard Rhodes will work with the committee to review the EMR course curriculum.

EMS FUNDING

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

We have \$316,669.50 from fireworks revenue and leftover EMS equipment grant funds. The committee discussed two proposals for fund allocations:

- GEMSA provided the committee with some funding proposals for review (**ATTACHMENT E**):
 - The rollout of the public service announcement video will be completed in May. It will encourage citizens to join the workforce and educate the appropriate use of EMS. The rollout cost is estimated to be \$80,000-\$150,000 depending on the length of time. GEMSA is working with Kelly Napier for the video rollout.

- Facilitate an online virtual conference to help providers access continuing education and training opportunities. The cost for the virtual conference is \$60,000.
 - Lee Oliver advised to start planning for next year to upload the education content to the TRAIN Georgia website for an unlimited amount of time. Nick Adams estimates the cost would be around \$5,000.
- Kristal Smith, Region 5 RTAC Coordinator, proposed funding for:
 - Region 9 ATV initiative support
 - Medical Reserve Corp support to develop a specialized team to help with interfacility transport.
 - Support more training and information about the management of cardiac arrest. Ensuring EMS agencies are up to date with the new guidelines and equipment.
- Liz Atkins advised Region 2 would like support for their annual symposium.
- Courtney Terwilliger stated AVLS is another funding option:
 - \$170,000 could be paid in advance for annual maintenance for the next fiscal year.
 - \$150,000 to replace equipment in the next year.

There was a brief discussion regarding the workforce barrier regions are facing. Kim Littleton can provide more details on the digital marketing cost and video review for discussion at the next called meeting. Kristal Smith recommended using free social media pages, facilitating a watch party, and then a social media blitz.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-04-04:

Motion to use \$170,000 of the 316,669.50 firework revenue and leftover EMS equipment grant funds for AVLS maintenance; the remaining amount will be used to replace AVLS equipment.

MOTION BY: Lee Oliver

SECOND BY: Scott Roberts

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Dr. Tim Boone stated we would test the new gateways before transitioning all gateways over. I would suggest phasing them over one at a time when that time comes.

OLD BUSINESS

IMMEDIATE TRANSFER TO HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

No Update

JULY MEETING LOCATION

Presented By Liz Atkins

We are looking for alternative locations for the July meeting: Athens Technical, alternate Madison space, or GPSTC in Forsyth. Athens may be a little too far for some members. Once a location is confirmed, we will advise committee members.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Courtney Terwilliger and Jeff Adams to provide Liz Atkins EMS billing code contacts for UGA EMS readiness and uncompensated care discussion.

- Dan Robinson with Sierra Wireless advised if a couple of volunteers are interested, the Commission can have four devices to test out in different locations over the next year to review the MG capabilities.
- The committee approved: allow GEMSA to utilize EVOG course funds for another education course.
- The committee approved: allow individual services awarded education grants to subcontract with a qualified school or vendor to perform the education and bill GEMSA directly.
- Courtney Terwilliger requested a summary slide with how many courses have been awarded for future GEMSA reports.
- Richard Rhodes to work with the committee to review the EMR course curriculum.
- The committee approved: to use of \$170,000 of the \$316,669.50 firework revenue and leftover EMS equipment grant funds for AVLS maintenance; the remaining amount will be used to replace AVLS equipment.
- Kim Littleton can provide more details on the digital marketing cost and video review for discussion at the next meeting.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-04-05:

Motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY: Lee Oliver

SECOND BY: Jeff Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye