



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

APPROVED
07.14.23

Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 21, 2023

7:00 am to 8:00 am

Zoom

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT*	REPRESENTING
Greg Patterson	Committee Chair/ John D Archbold Memorial, TMD
Courtney Terwilliger	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member
Cindy Hoggard	AdventHealth Redmond Regional Medical Center, ED Director/Trauma Director
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond Regional Medical Center, Trauma Program Manager
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Polk Medical Center, TPM
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional Hospital, TPM
April Dukes	Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO, VP PCS
Lindsey Lewis	Effingham Health System, Trauma Coordinator
Amy Watson	Effingham Health System, TPM
Brooke Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center, TPM
Gail Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center, Trauma Registrar
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, Trauma Manager
Brian Delashmitt	Hamilton Medical Center, EVP-CMO
Steve Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center, TMD
Mary Beth Goodwin	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Trauma PI Coordinator
Kelli Vaughn	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TPM
Jeffrey Harden	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, CNO
Karrie Page	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, Trauma Coordinator
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM
Paula Butts	Piedmont Henry, CNO
Karen Hust	Piedmont Walton, TPM
Richard Jacob	Piedmont Walton, TMD
Susan Baldrige	Wellstar Spalding Medical Center, Trauma Program Manager
Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, Trauma Program Manager

*Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins	GTC, Executive Director
Gabriela Saye	GTC, Executive Assistant
Gina Solomon	GTC, GQIP Director
Cheryle Ward	Georgia Trauma Foundation
Becca Hallum	Georgia Hospital Association, Associate General Counsel and Compliance Officer
April Moss	DPH OEMST, Deputy Director, Systems of Care



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am with 23 committee members present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

Dr. Patterson asked for a motion to approve the February 28, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2023-04-01:

Motion to approve February 28, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: Rachel Hand

SECOND BY: Jeffrey Harden

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

MARCH PAWS

Presented by Courtney Terwilliger

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

- The course date has been pushed back, but looking to confirm a new date. We have some volunteers interested in helping with the course.
- We have an agreement to work with a trainer, John Ryan, at Augusta University and meeting with him next week. Working on the practical sessions to ensure PHTLS pre-hospital assessment doesn't differ from the Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum assessment.
- Interested in looking into practice guidelines and bringing those into MARCH PAWS as a resource for course participants to take back to their hospitals as templates.

We are working with Nita Ham at the State Office of Rural Health to develop a resource survey to determine what equipment centers have available. Dr. Patterson added that we are interested in doing a similar survey to assess equipment availability, center capability, and personnel available to provide guidance.

Courtney added the EMS committee is working on obtaining data to determine the barriers rural hospitals have getting patients transferred.

WEB-BASED REGISTRY & CONTRACTED ABSTRACTION SERVICES

Presented by Kelli Vaughn

The web-based registry was in the contract for level III and IV centers. A survey was sent to them to review the progress of establishing the web-based registry. Some centers are tied up with the legal process. Another barrier is the registry turnover and closing records within the 60-day window. There isn't a way for the state to provide a contracted abstraction service.

Liz recommended removing abstraction services from the agenda. The Commission cannot pay for the abstraction service directly. We could consider reimbursing centers if they contract with the service themselves. If you are attending the summer GQIP meeting, we can discuss the need in person there.



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

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

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

The PTSF report has been sent out, and the ACS preliminary report was distributed for edits and review.

Meeting Edit: The ACS report will be distributed to all stakeholders once finalized.

Kelli Vaughn stated there were 14 priority rural-focused ACS recommendations. In discussions with Liz, we think the best way to address them is by having a day for a workgroup to meet in person, provide input, and determine the next steps.

Dr. Patterson advised picking out the most essential and low-hanging fruit. It will take a core group to push forward and keep the momentum going. With everybody's schedule, a one to two-hour Zoom meeting will be needed to brainstorm what we need to do and develop an action plan.

There was frustration with the ACS report with the lack of suggestions or clear direction on some of the items. They are unable to provide us with guidance or provide reference documents.

Dr. Patterson will get together with Liz and Kelli to schedule a brainstorming meeting in early June to develop an action plan before the following July committee meeting and present it at the August Commission meeting. Gail Thronton and Rachel Hand advised they were interested in joining the workgroup.

GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION UPDATES

Presented by Liz Atkins

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

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

We had a call with the ACS for edits. The ACS is working on providing more guidance on the needs assessment and cost methodology.

2. FY2024 Budget

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 did not go through. The commission needs around 80-100 million additional funding to fund the current system. There will be a call for partners to get together and discuss establishing a sustainable funding source.

3. Grant Opportunity

The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) has eight stabilization grant awards, and the application is open.

4. Web-Hosted Registry

The funds to support the web-hosted registry with the PI module were included in the FY2022 amended budget. Only one center has moved forward with the registry. We need to understand what the barriers are for the other centers. We are planning on upgrading your funding to match your web hosting costs. We will reach out to each center individual to determine your current status and next steps.



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4. May Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting will be May 25th at the City of Madison Meeting Hall. In-person capacity and parking are limited. If you are interested in attending in person, RSVP to gctcbusinessops@gtc.ga.gov.

All meeting information and Zoom link are located on the trauma.ga.gov website.

5. GQIP Summer Meeting

The GQIP summer meeting will take place in Savannah, Georgia. Still, the same days, August 10-11, and close to St. Simons if you need to attend the GSACS meeting that weekend.

Gina Solomon reminded the committee the next GQIP quarterly meeting is May 16th via Zoom.

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 into developing it into a phone application.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Please review PTSF and ACS reports. Dr. Patterson will get together with Liz and Kelli to schedule a brainstorming meeting in early June to develop an action plan before the next July committee meeting and present it at the August Commission meeting. Gail Thronton and Rachel Hand advised they were interested in joining the workgroup.
- Liz will contact trauma centers individually to determine their web-hosted registry status and next steps.
- The next Commission meeting will be May 25th at the City of Madison Meeting Hall. In-person capacity and parking are limited. If you are interested in attending in person, RSVP to gctcbusinessops@gtc.ga.gov. All meeting information and Zoom link are on the trauma.ga.gov website under events.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye