



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 11, 2022

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

King and Prince Resort

St. Simons, Georgia

Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/vgzeDalutNQ>

Meeting Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Dennis Ashley, Chairman
Dr. James Dunne, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Regina Medeiros, Secretary /Treasurer
Dr. John Bleacher via Zoom
Mr. Courtney Terwilliger
Dr. Michelle Wallace
Mr. Victor Drawdy
Mr. Jim Adkins via Zoom
Dr. James Smith

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth Atkins	GTC, Executive Director
Gina Solomon	GTC, GQIP Director
Katie Hamilton	GTC, Finance Operations Officer
Gabriela Saye	GTC, Executive Assistant
Cheryle Ward	Georgia Trauma Foundation, Interim Executive Director
Gregory Patterson	Archbold Trauma Center, Trauma Medical Director
Kelli Vaughn	Archbold Trauma Center, Trauma Program Manager
Alicia Register	Crisp Regional, TMD
Christopher Ruiz	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, VP Trauma Services
Farrah Parker	Doctors Hospital/Region 6 RTAC, Burn Program Coordinator
David Kiefer	Effingham Health System, TMD
Amy Watson	Effingham Health System, TPM
Lindsey Lewis	Effingham Health System, Trauma Coordinator
Becca Hallum	Georgia Hospital Association, Associate General Counsel
Anita Matherley	Region VIII RTAC
S. Rob Todd	Grady Health System, Chief, Acute Care Surgery
Sarah Parker	Grady Memorial Hospital, Trauma Program Director
Brian Delashmitt	Hamilton Health Care System, EVP-CMO
Steve Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center, TMD
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO
Tracy Johns	Navicent, Trauma Program Manager
Jesse Gibson	Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Trauma Program Manager
Jackie Payne	Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Trauma Outreach and Injury Prevention Coord.

Naila Avery	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, TMD
Rayma Stephens	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, Trauma PI Coordinator
Nadirah Burgess	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, Trauma Program Manager
Becky Weidler	Northside, Director of Emergency and Trauma Services
Michael Johnson	OEMST, Director
Jonathan Lieupo	OEMST, Region 8, Regional Training Coordinator
Renee Morgan	OEMST, Trauma program director
Heather Morgan	Piedmont Athens Regional, TPM
Crystal Shelnutt	Region 10 RTAC, Coordinator
Katherine Kohler	Wellstar AMC, Trauma Medical Director
Pamela Vanderberg	Wellstar AMC, Trauma Program Director
Tammie Skinner	WellStar Cobb Hospital, RN Trauma Coordinator
Kristy Ruiz	Wellstar Cobb, TPM
Danielle Johnson	Wellstar Kennestone, Outreach & Injury Prevention Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER (00:00:03 ON THE RECORDING)

Dr. Dennis Ashley called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM with all nine Commission members present.

CHAIRMAN REPORT (00:00:50)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley started his report by thanking all the committees for all their hard work. I am very excited about what is going to happen in the next six months:

- Level IV's will have their consultative visit by the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation this October.
- ACS Rural-Focused Trauma Systems Consultative Visit will take place January 9th-13th, 2023.
- We submitted the manuscript for the Level III and IV Readiness Cost Survey two weeks ago with the help of Liz Atkins, Kelli Vaughn, Dr. Patterson, Dr. Register, and Dr. Medeiros. It was accepted for podium presentation for AAST this fall (9/23) in Chicago.
- In closing, Dr. Ashley shared a few words about the recent passing of Dr. Walt Ingram, the Director of Grady Burns, and asked for a moment of silence.

Dr. Ashley requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes before continuing to the Executive Director Report. Courtney Terwilliger asked for an amendment to the meeting minutes; top of page 6, remove the top bullet.

MOTION GTCNC 2022-08-01:

Motion to approve May 19, 2022, meeting minutes with amendments.

MOTION BY: Courtney Terwilliger

SECOND BY: Dr. James Dunne

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion PASSED with no objections nor abstentions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (00:07:43)

Presented by Liz Atkins

Liz Atkins began her report by advising that the full meeting package can be found on our website and is available a week before the meeting. She referenced pages 12-14, which provide a high-level overview of significant initiatives. Some highlights during the report:

- Georgia Fund One is our trust fund which our super speeder funds will go directly into. It was established about a week ago, and we are continuing calls with our finance partners, DPH, and the Georgia Treasury.
- The November Commission meeting will coincide with Rural Health Day. We will have the Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation report on their Level IV consult visits.
- ACS Rural-Focused Trauma Systems Consultation will occur January 9-13, 2023. We will have much more information to push out through email and post on our website. They plan to do a couple of stakeholder meetings around the rural areas of Georgia. The informational flyer is located on pages 31-32.
- Winter Meeting is planned to be at Chateau Elan, and we are currently in the contract process with them.
- Trauma System Analysis is ready for review; the dataset has been completed. After we review the analysis, we plan to have Dr. Pracht provide an overview to the Commission on the findings.
- Liz Atkins referenced the updated Georgia Trauma Commission Strategic Plan on pages 32-33, which provides us with goal objectives and an action plan to keep us on track
- Welcome to the new RTAC Coordinators, Benjamin Harbin for region 1 and Anita Matherly for region 8. We are in the process of recruiting replacements for regions 3 and 9.
- FY 2023 Budget was approved in April. Please review the budget items located on pages 20-29.

COMMITTEE AND WORKGROUP REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT (00:16:01)

Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros

Dr. Regina Medeiros stated we closed out FY 2022 and will have more details within the report. The first item is the FY 2024 Proposed Budget for approval on page 35. The proposal is in the same format used in the past with large categories of expenditures, budget areas to the left, and then the anticipated amounts. This will be the first year we will distribute the full 21 million.

MOTION BY: GTC Budget Committee

MOTION GTCNC 2022-08-02:

Motion to approve the FY 2024 Proposed Budget Plan as submitted

MOTION BY: Budget Subcommittee

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion PASSED with no objections nor abstentions

Next, Katie Hamilton reviewed page 36, which details the FY 2022 Budget Closeout Summary.

- In the far right column are the remaining funds left within each budget area: Operations, System Development, EMS Stakeholders, and Trauma Centers.
- We reallocated the remaining funds to EMS and Trauma Centers
- We returned a total of \$418 to the state.

- Returning a small amount to the state is not typical; state agencies return thousands to millions. We vote on every dollar spent and have developed trust with DPH. We watch the funds very closely and ensure we are being fiscally responsible.

Liz Atkins continued the report:

- The FY 2022 Budget Summary on pages 37-46 provides a detailed breakdown of the fund distribution, where the dollars go, and what the operating budgets are.
- FY 2022 and FY 2023 Performance Based Payment (PBP) Summary on pages 47-65 details where the Trauma Centers lost dollars due to unmet criteria. We want to run the PBP criteria through our committees to review and determine if we need to adjust our targets. For FY 2023, more dollars are at risk due to more money upfront. We aim to change our invoicing from quarterly to bi-annual by FY 2024.
- Three-Year Open Purchase Order Summary is on pages 66-71. There was tremendous work done through Katie to clean up old open purchase orders. When the pandemic hit, the Governor's office came looking for unspent money with no activity. We were able to work on our invoice tracking and contractual deadlines to help clean up the number of open purchase orders and repurpose the funds if needed. To date, we still have old purchase orders open for our multi-year projects, but significantly less open than years prior.

EMS COMMITTEE REPORT (00:44:45)

Presented by Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger referenced the report on page 72 for the EMS Committee.

- We continue to do a lot of EMS training with GEMSA. We are on track to complete 113,000 hours of CEU hours for EMS providers this current fiscal year.
- The education funding plan was approved July 21st meeting. The committee has increased the initial education (EMT-R, EMT, and AEMT) course offerings. We also have funding for Public Service Announcements to attract people to the EMS profession.
- We have two new EMS Committee members, Jeff Adams for region 2 and Allen Owens for region 8.
- We have had several meetings for MARCH PAWS and were able to meet yesterday. We are working closely with Rural Innovation Center at Mercer University to help design the curriculum. This course is designed to have EMS, ER nurses, and physicians train together. We plan to have a hybrid course; the students will complete a portion online and then do a skills checkoff in person. We are also working with Dr. Sergey to utilize their simulation lab to facilitate the hands-on training. After we hammer out the curriculum at Mercer, we will do three pilots at Swainsboro, Cordele, and Archbold. Our goal is to do a course before our November Commission meeting.

LIII/IV COMMITTEE REPORT (01:01:00)

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

Dr. Greg Patterson referenced the report on page 74.

- Yesterday, during our MARCH PAWS discussion, we discussed using it as a way to build a network across the state.
- ACS Rural-Focused Trauma Systems Consultation is occurring the week of January 9th through the 13th. We plan to have two stakeholder meetings in Cartersville and Cordele. We have also identified five major areas on the PRQ we'd like them to focus on during their visit: EMS transportation, provider clinical procedural competency, initial and ongoing financial sustainability, recruitment and retention of staff providers, and lack of outcomes data and process measures. Both rural and urban stakeholders must attend these meetings and voice their concerns.

- We may require more funding to plan the logistics of the stakeholder meetings. The ACS has advised us that we will be responsible for covering meeting logistics: room, catering, AV, etc. We request a motion to set aside \$10,000 to cover logistics.

MOTION GTCNC 2022-08-03:

Motion to approve an additional \$10,000 to cover logistics for the ACS Rural-Focused Trauma System Consultative Visit.

MOTION BY: Dr. James Dunne

SECOND BY: Courtney Terwilliger

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

- Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation Level IV consult visits are occurring in October. We'll have their initial report during the November Commission meeting.
- We are updating our Access to Specialty Care resource document. It provides trauma center capabilities and important contact information across the state. We'd like to eventually have this as an app where the user can easily locate the information.
- We'd like to thank the Commission for the approved Level III/IV funding for the web-based registry and ESO software.

GEORGIA COMMITTEE FOR TRAUMA EXCELLENCE (GCTE) REPORT (01:12:40)

Presented by Jesse Gibson

Jesse Gibson referenced the report on page 78 for the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence

- We have five subcommittees focusing on initiatives supporting the overall trauma system: decrease time to definitive care, decrease the incidence of AKI, and increase trauma awareness. Each subcommittee has developed goals around those initiatives and has completed a lot of great work. Some examples:
 - The Registry Subcommittee is working on a registry report that will help us sort of get a better view of the actual time to definitive care.
 - The Education Subcommittee is educating our trauma centers on what is time to definitive care. They're also working on a similar PowerPoint for acute kidney injury and trying to provide high-level tips for any user.
 - Our Injury Prevention Subcommittee has greatly increased awareness of trauma to healthcare providers throughout the state and our community. All their accomplishments are listed within our report.
- We have revamped our GCTE Executive Committee meeting to discuss our initiative and have high-level conversations.
- We are seeking out our next GCTE vice-chair. Tracy Johns will take over as GCTE Chair in January.

TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE REPORT (01:18:24)

Presented by Michelle Wallace

- Our last committee meeting was July 18th, and we had a fairly good representation of the Trauma Administrators group.
- Some updates on the workgroups:
 - Finance: We are looking for a co-chair replacement. In the meantime, we are working to develop some dashboards with the help of Dr. Medeiros and her team.

- Education: Damien has sent information to the education workgroup.
- Diversion: We must get information out before Fall with anticipated flu and COVID season.
- The GCC trauma status with the trauma transfer closure and trauma diversion option is built but not released yet. We need the trauma admin workgroup to make final decisions and determine what the education and communication will look like before it goes live. We will also have some time with our GHA partners to understand how the non-trauma centers can use that information.
- Our next meeting will be virtual in October, and our in-person meeting will be at Chateau Elan for the first quarter of spring.

TRAUMA SYSTEM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (01:23:03)

Presented by Dr. James Dunne

- The Office of EMS and Trauma is migrating to ImageTrend central site. We have not been able to pull any additional data for 2022 and will be unable to do so until the migration is complete.
- The armband project was started to connect all the data from a patient's first EMS to the definitive care with an armband. We are finally to the point where the pilot will be started in the next month or two to see how effective the process is.

TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE REPORT (01:25:50)

Presented by Dr. Katherine Kohler

Dr. Kohler, Chair of the Trauma Medical Directors Committee and Trauma Medical Director of Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center, introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the committee's history. The committee was restarted to initiate the collaboration between all the Trauma Medical Directors throughout the state. Some committee highlights:

- Meeting cadence was established to coincide with the GQIP Collaborative Meetings
- We established surge capacity as a standing agenda item to discuss how we can we do to handle the load of locations in Georgia.
- We are developing a resource document to ensure everyone has updated contact information with location capabilities.
- We will be working on a letter to the hospitals in Georgia from our committee that details what we see and how we can be a resource for the different hospitals throughout the state.
- Established operational issues as an agenda item to discuss the different resources available and how to handle problems at their centers.

Dr. Kohler asked to please let her know if there were any topics the Commission would like the committee to address. The next committee meeting is set for November.

SYSTEM PARTNER REPORTS

GEORGIA TRAUMA FOUNDATION REPORT (01:28:34)

Presented by Cheryle Ward

Cheryle Ward referenced the report on page 84.

- We mentioned in our last report that we have engaged Alexander Hass as a fundraising council to help build our fundraising infrastructure. We're in the initial phase and currently assessing our internal operations. Alexander Hass will then advise what we need to do to build a strong foundation to bring money in. Dr. Dunne asked what the timeline is to start the fundraising process. Right now, there are small events planned, but we are waiting until we have a solid message to communicate to plan larger events.

Dr. Bleacher added that the Foundation is not set up from a structural, organizational standpoint for success, so we must first focus on building that foundation. In the future, we want to engage organizations and corporations outside the trauma network. We'll have a better idea of a timeline by November.

- We are continuing our work with the continuing education database project, which is an online director for trauma educators. It is a free resource and password protected, and the educators that want to have their information displayed will have to opt-in.

After the report, Cheryle Ward reviewed the Welcome Reception's activities, location, and time.

GEORGIA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT (01:43:51)

Presented by Gina Solomon

Gina Solomon referenced her report on pages 85-88 of the meeting packet.

- Workgroup Updates
 - AKI: Plan to proceed with second data pull.
 - TBI: Data analysis completed & will be presented at the summer meeting.
 - Opioids: Refining multiple modal guidelines.
 - VAP Guideline Review: Update complete and will relaunch at the summer meeting.
- Great work being done with the advisory council and bringing in the required policies needed for our Patient Safety Organization designation. It will provide us with some broader federal protections for our peer review processes.
- GQIP Committee meeting monthly. Reviewing mission, vision & values for GQIP (required for PSO). Winter meeting planning to start.
- Benchmarking platform and central site contracts completed, and projects launched on July 1. See attached documents for current timelines (page 86). We will be engaging stakeholders for input on the project build.
- We have a new research fellow, Dr. Eli Mlaver, who started on July 1, 2022.

Dr. Rob Todd finished the GQIP report by briefly reviewing the agenda and presentation items for the Day of Trauma.

OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA REPORT (01:51:22)

Presented by Renee Morgan

Renee Morgan referenced the report on page 89 and gave a couple of highlights:

- The new Trauma and Specialty Care Center map is included on page 90. There was a concern for the centers indicated in Augusta and missing the Level I Center icon. Renee will send the map for modification.
- We have two new Level IVs in region 4: West GA Medical Center in LaGrange and Wellstar Spalding in Griffin. Emory is on the radar for a Level III.
- David Newton is no longer with our office. Our new State EMS Director is Michael Johnson, who was previously over our Cardiac Care and Systems of Care. Michael Johnson introduced himself and looking forward to our continuing partnership.
- OEMST is still looking to fill the Director of Health Protection position (Dr. O'Neil's previous role).

Before moving on to new business, Liz asked how to report GCC on future agendas. Dr. Michelle Wallace indicated she could provide an update for the November Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

RTAC COORDINATOR'S STOP THE BLEED PROGRAM PROPOSAL (01:58:53)

Presented by Crystal Shelnett

Crystal Shelnett, Region 10 RTAC Coordinator, presented the proposal on behalf of all RTAC Coordinators (pages 94-100) to add new beneficiaries to the STOP THE BLEED initiative funded by the Georgia Trauma Commission. The initiative started in 2017 by supporting training and kits for K-12 schools. 98% of schools and 80% of school buses have been completed. Most regions have completed the original initiative and would like to include kit distribution to public education institutions, law enforcement, and government agencies. The request from the coordinators is that these will be regional decisions, so they will be made by the RTAC committees and then coordinated individually by each region to decide the needs for those kits and training. The formal proposal was referenced on page 96.

It was suggested to look into the rural emergency departments to ensure they have the training and provide kits if needed. There was concern about supplying kits to law enforcement based on past conversations with the previous Governor that law enforcement agencies should have their own budgets for training and kits. Vic Drawdy stated he could check with Governor Kemp to receive his feedback. It was also recommended the RTAC Coordinators reach out to legislators in the regions that have not completed the school program.

MOTION GTCNC 2022-08-04:

Motion to accept RTAC proposal outlined on page 96 to include public education institutions, law enforcement, and government agencies in the Georgia Trauma Commission STOP THE BLEED initiative.

MOTION BY: Dr. James Smith

SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Dr. Dennis Ashley thanked all the RTAC Coordinators for all their hard work.

GCEP RURAL EM COURSE COLLABORATION (02:08:58)

Presented by Dr. James Smith

Dr. James Smith brought to the Commission's attention that the Georgia College of Emergency Physicians has a very robust rural course that they are doing annually. It is up to 200 attendees yearly and rotates between Macon, Augusta, and Savannah. I spoke with the coordinator and discussed how we are in parallel with our current rural initiatives. They are happy to adapt some of the existing courses to incorporate nursing and EMS and make them more robust. They have added conduits in several places with sims and cadavers. It could be significant cost savings for the Commission, and they are willing to expand into regions that don't have significant representation. It is specifically geared at the EM in rural areas that don't necessarily do certain airway procedures, put in chest tubes, or cracks. I'd like to request to explore the course given the potential; the course could get us to our goal quicker and possibly save some funds in the process. Dr. Dunne agreed the course was a great idea, and Dr. Ashley demonstrated support. Courtney Terwilliger stated he would reach out to the coordinator to discuss the course further.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- FY 2024 Proposed Budget Plan approved by Commission
- Additional funds to support ACS Rural-Focused Trauma System Consultative Visit meeting logistics approved by Commission
- Dr. Kohler asked to please advise if there were any topics the Commission would like the Trauma Medical Directors Committee to address
- There are two new Level IVs in region four: West GA Medical Center in LaGrange and Wellstar Spalding in Griffin. Emory is on the radar for a Level III
- Renee Morgan to send 2022 Trauma Center and Specialty Care map for modification
- Welcome Michael Johnson as the Office of EMS and Trauma State EMS Director
- Dr. Michelle Wallace to provide GCC update in November Commission Meeting
- RTAC Coordinator's STOP THE BLEED updated kit distribution plan approved by the Commission
- Vic Drawdy to check with Governor Kemp for feedback on kit distribution to law enforcement
- Dr. James Smith discussed the GCEP Rural EM Course offering and its potential impact on rural education. Courtney Terwilliger to reach out to the course coordinator to discuss further

MOTION GTCNC 2022-08-05:

Motion to adjourn

MOTION BY: Courtney Terwilliger

SECOND BY: Dr. James Smith

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye