

APPROVED
01.19.23



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Called EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/NHg165iujGY>

Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chair, GTC Member	Blake Thompson, Region Six
Lee Oliver, Vice-Chair, Region Five	Duane Montgomery, Region Seven
Scott Stephens, Region One	
Jeff Adams, Region Two	
Pete Quinones, Region Three	
Sam Polk, Region Four	
Allen Owens, Region Eight	
Brian Hendrix, Region Nine	
Huey Atkins, Region Ten	
Jim Adkins, GTC Member	
Vic Drawdy, GTC Member	

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
Ryan Hollingsworth	OEMS/T, Regional Training Coordinator
Kelly Joiner	OEMS/T
Michael Johnson	OEMS/T, Director
Ryann Miller	Georgia Hospital Association
Farrah Parker	RTAC, R6
Crystal Shelnett	RTAC, R10

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM on Thursday, October 20, 2022, with ten

of thirteen members present. Pete Quinones joined the meeting after the review of standing agenda items.

Courtney Terwilliger stated there are new members to the committee and asked in-person members to introduce themselves. New committee members are:

- Scott Stephens will be the new Region One representative. Formerly Marty Robinson
- Scott Roberts will be the new Region Four representative. Formerly Sam Polk
- Allen Owens is the new Region Eight representative. Formerly David Edwards
- Brian Hendrix will be the new Region Nine representative. Formerly Vic Drawdy

APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes or discuss any changes.

[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-10-01:](#)

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

MOTION BY: Vic Drawdy

SECOND BY: Allen Owens

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

GTC UPDATE

Presented By Liz Atkins

Courtney Terwilliger asked Liz Atkins to update the committee on recent Georgia Trauma Commission initiatives. Liz Atkins provided the following updates:

1. Georgia Fund One

Georgia Fund One is the trauma trust fund that is set up. We are currently in the process of determining our budgeting process with receiving all our funds upfront.

2. LIII/IV Readiness Cost Survey

Dr. Ashley presented the survey at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), which was well received. We are working with the Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) to pilot our Level I and II survey with a limited number of centers across the country to compare our costs with national costs.

3. PTSF Level IV Consultations

The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) deployed two teams to facilitate the Level IV consultation the week of October 10th. Five centers were consulted: Polk, Effingham, Meadows, Emmanuel, and Morgan. The feedback has been tremendous, and the amount of education and information provided was priceless for our centers. The PTSF will attend our November 17th Commission Meeting to provide an aggregate summary of strengths, opportunities, and recommendations from those visits. To support Rural Health Day, we will also have presentations from the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center and the State Office of Rural Health.

The November Commission meeting information is posted on our website with an in-person and virtual option. Please let gabby@gtcnc.org know if you plan to attend in person. The virtual meeting link will be posted closer to the meeting date.

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

The ACS visit has added a full trauma systems consult in addition to the rural-focused visit to

understand how rural interacts with the full trauma system. They want to hear from you about the trauma system's challenges and barriers. We are partnering with the Office of EMS and Trauma to complete their Pre-Review Questionnaire. We have asked them to focus on these five areas:

1. EMS transportation system
2. Provider clinical and procedural competency, both initial and ongoing competency maintenance
3. Financial sustainability for recruitment and retention of staff providers and trauma centers into the system
4. Disassociation between rural Georgia and urban Georgia
5. Lack of outcomes data and process measures to guide targeted effects of intervention

The tentative schedule is as follows:

- **Monday, January 9, 2022**
 - Georgia Full Trauma System Review
 - Location: Lake Blackshear in Cordele, GA (Virtual Option Available)
 - Full Day
 - Identified Trauma Care Stakeholders to be invited for in-person attendance. Others are welcome to join a virtual meeting.
- **Tuesday, January 10, 2022**
 - Southern Georgia Rural-Focused Trauma System Review
 - Location: Lake Blackshear in Cordele, GA (In-Person Only)
 - 8 am-12 noon
 - Region 5-9 Trauma Care Stakeholders
- **Wednesday, January 11, 2022**
 - Northern Georgia Rural-Focused Trauma System Review
 - Location: Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville, GA (In-Person Only)
 - 10 am-2 pm
 - Region 1-4, 10 Trauma Care Stakeholders

Please plan to join your respective region's Rural-Focused Review. Please share this information with your councils. More information will be posted on our website as we finalize plans.

Before moving on to the AVLS update, Courtney Terwilliger provided a brief background of the connection between the EMS Committee and the Georgia Trauma Commission. The Georgia Trauma Commission receives funding from Super Speeder Funds and Fireworks Excise Tax. The funding is allocated to business operations to run the Commission. Then the remainder is split 80% to hospitals and 20% to EMS. We allocate the EMS funds to education through GEMSA, AVLS equipment/Maintenance/airtime, and EMS equipment grants.

AVLS UPDATE

Presented By Tim Boone

Tim Boone referenced the FY 2023 Q1 AVLS Report (ATTACHMENT A and B) and reviewed the following:

- 1. Support Deliverables**
 - Time spent troubleshooting with various agencies
- 2. Total Unit Usage**
 - 1211/1420, 85% active
- 3. Current counties without AVLS**

- Cherokee: Sheriff's system
- Camden: In discussion with Patrick Parson
- Chattahoochee/Muscogee: In Discussions DeKalb Meeting with AMR and Dekalb Fire
- Gwinnett: Have their own system
- Long: Opened discussion with Dr. Graham
- Lumpkin: Purchased Cradlepoint from FirstNet

4. Review of Airtime Log

5. AVLS Spending

- Q1 AVLS Gateways Purchased: \$63,805 of \$100,000 FY 2023 Budget

6. Review of FY2023 AVLS Budget

7. AVLS Enrollment

Courtney Terwilliger reminded the committee members that we will have an open enrollment period for agencies to choose which service they want to commit to. Enrollment will start December 1st and ends February 28th. If they want to switch providers after enrollment, they will need to wait until the next enrollment period. Tim Boone to send out communications to the agencies.

Lee Oliver asked if there was a map of service coverage. Tim stated he had not done a coverage map but could start working on one. Sam Polk added with MG90s, there is a place for two to three cards, and an agency can add another provider to maintain better coverage. Please note the EMS Committee funding only includes the purchase of one card per unit.

8. Remaining AVLS Funds

Katie Hamilton advised there is \$34,884 leftover to allocate. Courtney Terwilliger asked for a motion to allocate the leftover funds to replace AVLS equipment.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-10-02:

Motion to allocate leftover AVLS funds of \$34,884 to replace AVLS equipment.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins

SECOND BY: Lee Oliver

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

OLD BUSINESS

EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT: 911 V. GENERAL TRANSPORT

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger stated we have not set up a smaller committee and will discuss this as a whole group. We have about 1.1 million for EMS equipment grants this year. Discussion points were:

- Agencies can apply, and we can vet them to a certain extent.
- Difficult to differentiate between 911 trucks from general transport. Georgia licenses all trucks as ambulances.
- Suggestion for a competitive grant, but difficult to come up with scoring and validation process.
 - There was concern regarding the capability of smaller agencies to apply for competitive grants when limited on staffing and time. The purpose of the grants is to help small rural communities purchase these items.
- The number of 911 coverage is not equal across the whole state.
- Interfacility trauma transfer trucks are not a part of the EMS equipment grant.

- Suggest changing the grant documents (application and affidavit) to specifically state the grant's intent is for 911 trucks, "the number of ambulances dedicated to the 911 zone." We can create a list of concerning agencies and see if anything changes.

Courtney Terwilliger asked for a motion to edit the current EMS equipment grant documents to add additional clarification and keep the rest of the EMS equipment grant process the same.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-10-03:

Motion to change the EMS equipment grant application letter to include the grant intends to fund ambulances dedicated to the 911 zone.

MOTION BY: Vic Drawdy

SECOND BY: Huey Atkins

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

IMMEDIATE TRANSPORT FROM NON-TRAUMA HOSPITALS

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger expressed his concern about EMS providers not transporting critical trauma patients. Some discussion points between committee members included:

- We are still having ongoing discussions with the Georgia Hospital Association to facilitate meetings between hospital leadership and EMS to determine the issues or miscommunication. It is time to redesign the EMS system.
- Proposals regularly from the county governments for startup enhancement services.
- For years we had mutual aid agreements with other counties, but now people don't have the resources they used to.
- Anticipate the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Systems Consultation and Rural Focused Visit will help address these transport issues.
- Many try to do as many scheduled transports as possible, and often they may not be available for emergent transport. Ambulances responding to non-emergent requests is a concern. The UK is starting to differentiate their calls between emergent and non-emergent and a response time based on the kind of call.
- The Georgia Trauma Commission Time to Definitive Care Initiative may be able to provide the data needed to support the transport time challenge

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

No Update

MARCH PAWS-RURAL INITIATIVE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

We have a tentative date for our first class on November 9th at Emanuel. We've ordered about \$54,000 of training materials. The first class will be more of a development class with targeted participants. The second class will take place in Cordele. The third class will be the last draft in Thomasville. We have met with Casey Bridges, an instructional expert at Mercer Rural Health Innovative Center, to work on the MARCH PAWS presentation material.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 MEETING CADENCE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Everyone should have received next year's meeting dates through email (ATTACHMENT C). We will need the motion to approve.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-10-03:

Motion to approve 2023 meeting dates

MOTION BY: Jim Adkins

SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Welcome new EMS Committee Members:
 - Scott Stephens will be the new Region One representative. Formerly Marty Robinson
 - Scott Roberts will be the new Region Four representative. Formerly Sam Polk
 - Allen Owens is the new Region Eight representative. Formerly David Edwards
 - Brian Hendrix will be the new Region Nine representative. Formerly Vic Drawdy
- If you are interested in attending the November 17th Commission meeting in person, please let gabby@gtcnc.org know. The virtual meeting link will be posted on the trauma.ga.gov website closer to the meeting date.
- Please share the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Systems Consultation and Rural-Focused Visit dates with your regions, specifically the rural-focused dates.
- AVLS Enrollment Period to start December 1, 2022, and end February 28, 2023. Communication is to be sent out by Tim Boone.
- Committee Approved: Allocated remaining AVLS funds of \$34,884 to replace AVLS equipment.
- Committee Approved: Change the EMS equipment grant application letter to include the grant intends to fund ambulances dedicated to the 911 zone.
- MARCH PAWS tentative date for the first class will be November 9, 2022, at Emanuel.
- Committee Approved: 2023 meeting dates. Calendar invites to follow.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-10-04:

Motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY: Vic Drawdy

SECOND BY: Scott Roberts

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Minutes by G. Saye