

**APPROVED**  
**02.28.23**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Trauma Administrators Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 24, 2022

12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

[Meeting Material](#)

COMMITTEE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIRS	REPRESENTING
Dr. Michelle Wallace To Be Assigned Frances Van Beek Amy Watson Damien Scott	Committee Chair, Grady Health System LI Co-Chair/Finance Workgroup LII/III Co-Chair/Diversion Workgroup, Wellstar Health System LIV Co-Chair/Diversion Workgroup, Effingham Health System LIV Co-Chair/Education Workgroup, Emanuel Medical Center

MEETING ATTENDANCE	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	REPRESENTING
Julie Barnes Patrice Walker Mark Schreiber Stacey DeWeese April Dukes Brian Griffin Christopher Ruiz C. Brian Delashmitt Judean Guinn Amy Griffin Angela Gary Dee Burkett Marty Wynn Tifani Kinard Pamela Vanderberg Frances van Beek	AdventHealth Redmond, CMO Atrium Health Navicent, CMO Augusta University Medical Center, CNO Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, SVP, System Operations Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO, VP PCS Doctors Hospital of Augusta, Chief Operating Officer Doctors Hospital of Augusta, VP Trauma Service Hamilton Medical Center, EVP-CMO Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, CNO Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Executive Director Trauma, ED, OBS Piedmont Athens Regional, Exec Director, Patient Services Piedmont Walton Hospital, Chief Financial Officer Polk Medical, VP of Rural Health Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center, Trauma Program Director Wellstar Health System, AVP, Neuro & Trauma Services
APPOINTED DESIGNEES	REPRESENTING
Cindy Hoggard Amy Watson David Hoffenberg Becky Weidler	AdventHealth Redmond, Director of ER Effingham Health System, Clinical Lead/TPM/ED Director HCA - Memorial Health University Medical Center, COO Northside Gwinnett, Director
OTHER ATTENDEES	REPRESENTING
Karen Young	Morgan Medical Center, Director of Nursing and Risk Management

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Dr. Michelle Wallace, GTC Member Dr. Regina Medeiros, GTC Secretary /Treasurer	Elizabeth V. Atkins, GTC, Executive Director Gabriela Saye, GTC, Executive Assistant



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## **Call to Order: (00:00:07 on the recording)**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM with eighteen committee members and three committee member designees present. Dr. Wallace thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

## **Approval of July 18, Meeting Minutes: (00:00:20)**

Dr. Wallace asked for a motion to approve.

**[MOTION GTCNC TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE 2022-10-01:](#)**  
**Motion to approve July 18, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted.**

**MOTION BY:** Dee Burkett

**SECOND BY:** Marty Wynn

**VOTING:** All members are in favor of the motion.

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

## **Georgia Trauma Commission Updates: (00:01:03)**

*Presented by Liz Atkins*

### **1. PTSF Level IV Consultations**

The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) deployed two teams to facilitate the Level IV consultations 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gabby@gtcnc.org) know if you plan to attend in person.

### **2. 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. Before Monday, January 9th, the ACS will prepare a pre-recorded welcome message with an overview of what the process will entail, in addition to presentations from us.

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



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- 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 [click here](#) to view an interactive map if you need help locating which region you belong.

### 3. **Level III/IV Readiness Cost Survey**

Dr. Ashley presented the survey at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), which was well received. We anticipate we will need to facilitate a re-evaluation of current readiness costs. It will be interesting to see the costs once Level III's complete their ACS verifications.

### **Co-Chair Updates: (00:09:08)**

*Presented by Dr. Michelle Wallace*

#### **1. Finance: Co-Chair To Be Assigned**

We are still waiting to assign a co-chair for the Level I centers. Dr. Wallace asked Dr. Regina Medeiros if there were any updates for the Finance group. Dr. Medeiros stated via Zoom chat that we have continued the work Katrina started. We have established a finance PI committee and have met twice since the last Administrators call. We are working on a draft dashboard to share with the group.

#### **2. Diversion: Led by: Amy Watson and France Van Beek**

We have met twice with the intent of establishing our purpose. We have specifically isolated trauma transfer diversion. We shared best practices from around the state and would like to draft them and add suggestions of things we can do during spikes.

During the last meeting, we reviewed the Regional Coordinating Center option to have trauma transfer diversion status open. The request from our group is if more than fifty trauma centers go on diversion, there needs to be a communication of when they will be coming out of diversion or working on getting some of those off diversion.

Dr. Wallace added that there is a Georgia Trauma Commission request to create a trauma transfer diversion status on the Georgia Coordinating Center (GCC) website. It would be used to communicate only with trauma centers and other centers that would need to transfer a patient. It is a statewide website mainly utilized in Metro Atlanta but can be used across the state. The request arose due to the impact of hospitals during the height of COVID when trying to transfer a patient with everyone on diversion. If we have an effective communication plan, we could regionalize it so that within each region, you can communicate the status of trauma centers and what they can take.

The Georgia Trauma Commission GCC request was approved. We need to develop an education plan before the rollout with the help of Lori Wood at Grady. We also need to work on some definitions because, right now, there are a lot of variabilities. We can plan for the trauma transfer diversion to go live by December 1<sup>st</sup> to give centers access and time to understand how to use it. Frances Van Beek strongly suggested that within the communication of the trauma transfer diversion launch, we also include best



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practices throughout the state during spikes. It would feel like a miss if I didn't use that opportunity to educate about possibilities for patient movement. Dr. Wallace agreed and stated we need to ensure everybody is on the same page and understands best practices.

Liz Atkins asked if any of the adult centers are having any issues with the RSV problem and the age limits. Committee members shared their recent experiences having to transfer children out of state to Greenville, Birmingham, or Erlanger. Finding an appropriate level of care is one thing, but finding an appropriate level of transport is another issue.

Stacey DeWeese from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta stated they are experiencing high ED volumes - they have hit 1000 on some days for a total of all EDs. We have had to transfer out to other PICUs or decline at times. We are exploring ways to care for higher acuity patients on floors to alleviate the PICUs.

### **3. Education: Led by Damien Scott**

No updates

### **AMC Closure Discussion: (00:24:30)**

#### ***Presented by Dr. Michelle Wallace***

We wanted to add the AMC closure to the agenda to ask if anyone had any questions. At Grady, we have been in crisis mode planning since the announcement. We have seen a significant increase in trauma volume by ground and air and some transfer. Volume increased by about twenty to thirty percent a day. We're still able to function and opened up a twenty-nine-bed unit that was already pending opening. We are still working with the state to get the twenty-four-bed temporary medical units by the end of the year. Grady received additional funding for new beds, but that will not happen until early next fall. Wellstar was accommodating with sharing data, so we did have an idea of what to expect.

### **2023 Meeting Dates: (00:30:33)**

#### ***Presented by Liz Atkins***

We understand meeting in person can be challenging with this group, so we will have only one in-person meeting at Chateau Elan during the Winter Meeting. The rest of the quarterly meetings will be virtual. Please note that contracted centers have an attendance requirement tied to PBP funding. The proposed meeting dates (ATTACHMENT A) are:

- February 28<sup>th</sup>: In Person at Chateau Elan-Meeting time to be determined once the Winter Meeting schedule is finalized
- April 24<sup>th</sup>-Virtual-10:00 AM-11:00 AM
- July 24<sup>th</sup>-Virtual-10:00 AM-11:00 AM
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>-Virtual-10:00 AM-11:00 AM

### **MOTION GTCNC TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE 2022-10-02:**

#### **Motion to approve 2023 proposed meeting dates**

**MOTION BY:** Amy Watson

**SECOND BY:** Becky Wielder

**VOTING:** All members are in favor of the motion.

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



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## **Summary of Action Items and Adjournment (00:38:48)**

### ***Presented by Michelle Wallace***

Dr. Wallace closed the meeting by summarizing action items and encouraged committee members to bring forward any issues or reach out to her so we could support you and the system

- Dr. Wallace will work with Frances Van Beek, Amy Watson, and Lori Wood on the GCC best practices and training sessions. We will also send out a list of your organization's assigned GCC contact.
- If possible, the GCC trauma transfer diversion status will go live by 12/01/22.
- The November 17<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting information is posted on our website with an in-person and virtual option. Please let [gabby@gtcnc.org](mailto:gabby@gtcnc.org) know if you plan to attend in person.
- The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Systems Consultation and Rural-Focused Visit will take place January 9-11, 2023. Please plan to join your respective region's Rural-Focused Review.
- Committee Approved: 2023 Meeting Dates
- The next Trauma Administrators Committee Meeting will be in-person at Chateau Elan.

Before adjourning, Chris Ruiz introduced the group to Doctor's Hospital's new Chief Operating Officer, Brad Griffith.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye*