

APPROVED
02.15.24



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2023

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

State Office of Rural Health

Cordele, Georgia

Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/U00xbHsTOKc>

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
Mr. Courtney Terwilliger
Dr. S. Rob Todd
Mr. Jim Adkins via Zoom
Pete Quinones via Zoom

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING	ATTENDING
Elizabeth Atkins	GTC, Executive Director	In person
Katie Hamilton	GTC, Finance Operations Officer	In person
Gina Solomon	GTC, GQIP Director	In person
Gabriela Saye	GTC, Business Operations Manager	In person
Cheryle Ward	Georgia Trauma Foundation, Executive Director	In person
Gabriel Carter	ACCG, Government Affairs Associate	In person
Suzanne Gardner	Adventhealth Redmond, Registrar	Virtual
Nicole Sundholm	Adventhealth Redmond, TPM	Virtual
Donald Mixon	Air Evac, Sr PD	In person
Marcus Lindsey	Air Methods AirLife Georgia, Account Executive	In person
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, TPM	Virtual
Patrice Walker	Atrium Health Navicent, CMO Chair, Trauma Administrators Committee	Virtual
Kristal Smith	Atrium Health Navicent, Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator	In person
Tracy Johns	Atrium Health Navicent, TPM	Virtual
Alicia Register	Crisp Regional, TMD	In person
Christopher Ruiz	Doctor's Hospital of Augusta, VP of Trauma Service	In person
Michael Johnson	DPH/OEMST, Director	In person
Peki Prince	DPH/OEMST, Emergency Preparedness EMS Liaison	Virtual
Danlin Luo	DPH/OEMST, Epidemiologist	Virtual
Vincent Harris	DPH/OEMST, Region 4 Regional Director	Virtual
Michelle Archer	DPH/OEMST, Region 5 Regional Director	Virtual

Daniel Warren	DPH/OEMST, Region 8 Regional Director	In person
Stacey Smith	DPH/OEMST, State Trauma Program Coordinator	In person
Shehzad Muhamed	DPH/OEMST, Systems of Care Medical Director	Virtual
Amy Davis	Effingham Health System, Trauma Admin	In person
Gail Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center, Registrar / Trauma Coordinator	Virtual
Brooke Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center, TPM	In person
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, TPD	In person
Becca Hallum	Georgia Hospital Association, Associate General Counsel	Virtual
Elizabeth Benjamin	Grady, TMD	In person
Pamela Vanderberg	Grady, VP Trauma Services	In person
Allen Owens	Hope EMS, Chief	In person
Mary Beth Goodwin	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, PI Coordinator	Virtual
Gregory Patterson	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TMD	In person
Kelli Vaughn	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TPM	In person
Jessica Davis	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Trauma Registrar	Virtual
Tammie Russell	Liberty Regional Medical Center, TPM	In person
Karrie Page	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, Trauma Coordinator	Virtual
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM	In person
Matthew Vassy	Northeast Georgia Medical Center, TMD	Virtual
Jane Gray	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Chief Operating Officer	Virtual
Brandi Fitzgerald	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, TPM	In person
Heather Morgan	Piedmont Athens, TPM	Virtual
Jay Connelly	Piedmont Henry, Dir Trauma and Stroke	Virtual
Richard Jacob	Piedmont Walton, TMD	In person
Karen Hust	Piedmont Walton, TPM	In person
Crystal Shelnutt	Region 10 RTAC, Coordinator	In person
Duane Montgomery	Region 7 RTAC, Chair	In person
Brian Dorriety	Region 7 RTAC, Coordinator	In person
Jolleen Thies	South Georgia Medical Center, Interim TPM	Virtual
Hannah Irvin	Troutman, Manager	Virtual
Danielle Johnson	Wellstar Kennestone / RTAC 3, Outreach/IP Coordinator	Virtual
Alicia Allen	Wellstar Paulding, Director of Nursing	Virtual
Kerry Carter	Wellstar Paulding, TPM	Virtual
Andrea McCarson	Wellstar Paulding, Trauma Nurse Coordinator	Virtual
Michele Evans	Winn Army Community Hospital, ER Chief Nurse & TPM	Virtual

CALL TO ORDER (00:00:05)

Dr. Dennis Ashley called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, with eight Commission members present.

CHAIRMAN REPORT (00:00:48)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley expressed gratitude for all the attendees present at today's meeting. A special thanks to the State Office of Rural Health for hosting the meeting, which aligns with National Rural Health Day.

- Nita Ham, the Senior Director of the State Office of Rural Health, was recognized and thanked for her dedication and support of trauma initiatives. A plaque was presented to her in honor of National Rural Health Day.
- Leading the Level III/IV Rural Committee, Dr. Greg Patterson was also acknowledged for his significant contributions. A plaque was presented to him in honor of National Rural Health Day.
- Commissioner Russell Carlson and Dr. Dean Burkner were welcomed and acknowledged for their support. Dr. Burkner expressed his passion for rural trauma and offered support wherever needed.
- Dr. Dunne has been reappointed to the Georgia Trauma Commission.
- Welcome Dr. S. Rob Todd as the newest Commission member. Dr. Todd replaces the seat formerly held by Dr. Michelle Wallace. As many of you know, Dr. Todd is also the Medical Director for GQIP.

The Chairman's report concluded by highlighting the abundance of data available after various assessments and studies: the 2022 NHTSA EMS System Assessment, the 2023 ACS Trauma System Consult, the 2022 Level IV PTSF Consults, the 2023 Pracht Study, the 2022 Level III/IV Readiness Costs, and the Trauma Center Stabilization Plan. Stakeholders were encouraged to get involved, analyze the data, and contribute to finding solutions. Gratitude was expressed to all volunteers.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (00:16:37)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley requested a motion to approve the August 10 meeting minutes, p. 3-13, in the meeting packet (ATTACHMENT A).

MOTION GTCNC 2023-11-01:

Motion to approve August 10, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted

MOTION BY: Jim Adkins

SECOND BY: Pete Quinones

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

BYLAWS AMENDMENT | ELECTION OF OFFICERS (00:17:18)

Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros

Dr. Medeiros recognized a missed officer renomination session per the current Bylaws and proposed a temporary resolution to retain all current officers until the February meeting. A possible recommendation is to change the term of officers from two years to three.

MOTION GTCNC 2023-11-02:

Motion to retain all current Georgia Trauma Commission elected officers until the February 2024 meeting

MOTION BY: Regina Medeiros

SECOND BY: James Dunne

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

There was discussion about the necessity of bringing up the motion twice to adhere to Roberts's Rules. Dr. Medeiros clarified that the resolution was temporary and that the final recommendation would be made in February after further discussion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (00:043:56)

Presented by Liz Atkins

Liz Atkins referenced the full report on pages 19-25, which provides a high-level overview of the last quarter's progression of our key initiatives.

- Congratulations to Gabby Saye and Katie Hamilton for their well-deserved promotions. Gabby Saye has been promoted to Business Operations Manager. Katie Hamilton has ascended in the state financial structure by completing a rigorous state government budget and finance management certification program.
- The Georgia Trauma Commission email migration has been completed. Please update our email contacts to the new gtc.ga.gov domain.
- Recruitment for the Regional Trauma System Development Manager position is in progress, with a panel interview scheduled for December 7, 2023. The expectation is to have someone in the role by early February.
- We have been participating in the Senate Rural Provider Study Committee. Liz Atkins emphasized the importance of addressing subspecialist recruitment and filling gaps in anesthesia, especially for level III trauma centers.
- There is an ongoing collaboration with the Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) to create a national trauma survey, building on Georgia's Readiness Costs Survey. The goal is to present the survey at a national webinar, allowing trauma centers across the county to participate in assessing their readiness costs.

COMMITTEE AND WORKGROUP REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT (00:32:44)

Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros and Katie Hamilton

Dr. Regina Medeiros referenced the report on pages 26-42:

- We have added two new committee members: Jesse Gibson and Pete Quinones.
- Based on the new Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) instructions, we considered a 1% reduction for a one-time 3% increase for the FY 2025 budget. The proposed reduction would focus on the MAG MRC and the GQIP NSQIP budgets, as they are less than 100% aligned with the long-term Georgia Trauma Commission strategic mission. The 3% increase would help offset the GQIP costs, specifically the registry cost for upcoming trauma centers.

Katie Hamilton reviewed:

- Expense to Budget through September 30th: Costs not shown are the EMS equipment grant, which ended on October 31st. The first trauma center invoices are expected in January 2024.
- Open Purchase Order (PO) Summary: FY 2020 open POs are equipment-related and expected to close at the beginning of next year. FY 2021 open POs are outstanding projects, including Arbormetrix—the report on pages 30-33 details each open purchase order to date.
- Use of Readiness FY 2023 Funding Summary: Page 38 outlines the reported use of readiness funding by level. The highlighted areas are the most used categories.
- Super Speeder Revenue Summary: We are 14% above FY 2023 revenue.

The FY 2025 Performance-Based Pay (PBP) criteria were discussed, which include the following changes:

- **All Centers**
 - Added back maintenance of registry record closure rate of 80% within 60 days.
 - GQIP data submission requirement timeframe
- **Level III Trauma Centers**
 - ACS Verification requirement extended to FY 2026
- **Level IV Trauma Centers**
 - NTDB data submissions changed to annual
 - Submission of PI Plan

Dr. Medeiros asked the Commission to review the proposed FY 2025 PBP on pages 34-35 and requested a motion to approve.

MOTION BY: GTC Budget Committee

MOTION GTCNC 2023-11-03:

Motion to approve the FY 2025 Proposed Performance-Based Pay Criteria

MOTION BY: Budget Committee

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion PASSED with no objections nor abstentions

EMS COMMITTEE REPORT (00:45:45)

Presented by Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger referenced the report on pages 42-44 for the EMS Committee and provided the following updates:

- AVLS Open Enrollment will start next month for EMS agencies who wish to change cell carrier providers.
- The EMS Equipment Grant closed on October 31, 2023, and applications are being processed. A committee is trying to develop a more precise process for identifying the number of 911-zoned ambulances at each service.
- We are working on a survey with the Mercer Rural Innovation Center staff. After we have approved this instrument, Ms. Nita Ham has agreed to get this survey to the appropriate personnel at the rural hospitals.
- The GEMSA town hall meetings are continuing and should end this month. They have been collecting information from the EMS community concerning barriers to inter-hospital transportation.

- Jim Adkins shared an update on the Hospital Signage project. The Georgia Department of Transportation and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety are actively involved in changing and updating hospital signs across the state to help citizens locate hospitals in their communities.

Dr. Dunne requested a detailed spreadsheet on EMS education courses facilitated to ensure equal distribution of courses and relevancy across the state. There was a brief discussion on the challenges with courses like PHTLS and efforts to streamline the process for better accessibility. Liz Atkins added there are mapping initiatives underway to provide real-time EMS education tracking.

LI/II/IV COMMITTEE REPORT (00:58:25)

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

Dr. Greg Patterson referenced the report on page 45:

- The MARCH PAWS third pilot was completed last month in Thomasville. We receive valuable feedback from participants and instructors and plan to set up more dates and locations for future courses.
- The ACS Trauma Systems Consult highlighted 11 key rural-focused recommendations, which we will discuss at the Rural Trauma System Action Planning meeting this afternoon. Ideas to address some of the recommendations are:
 1. Repeat financial survey for hospitals to reflect the updated standards
 2. Town hall meetings with EMS to capture barriers for transfers and patient transports
 3. Possible geo-mapping to assist with base locations
- Level III/IV centers continue to participate in the mentorship project, which partners centers based on GQIP data. The project aims to address challenges and foster collaboration between centers.

GEORGIA COMMITTEE FOR TRAUMA EXCELLENCE (GCTE) REPORT (01:04:20)

Presented by Lynn Grant

Lynn Grant referenced the report on pages 46-50 for the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence.

- The Registry Subcommittee is working on the AIS 2015 course funding to provide education to trauma centers, focusing on level III and IV centers.
- The PI Subcommittee is working on reducing the time to definitive care and creating an audit tool for level IV centers to monitor length of stay and shock index scores. A survey will be sent out to assess the implementation of the audit tool. A transfer feedback template for hospitals and EMS agencies is also under development.
- The Pediatric Subcommittee is focused on the Shock Index Pediatric Adjusted (SIPA) score, providing education and developing a tip sheet. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Egleston will participate in MATIC-2 to investigate the use of whole blood for pediatric trauma.
- The Injury Prevention and Outreach Subcommittee remains active in virtual and in-person Stop the Bleed education. The Wellstar Kennestone team has actively coordinated Lutzie 43 Teen Driving Summits across the state.
- The Education Subcommittee is working on a toolkit for new Trauma Program Managers, one focused on the level III/IV centers and one on the TPMs in level I/II centers. They are also developing essential trauma nursing education for ED nurses in outlying hospitals to provide safe/effective care for trauma patients.

REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT (01:08:00)

Presented by Dr. Ford Vox

Dr. Ford Vox referenced the report on pages 51-52:

- We began outlining the types of analyses we could pursue within the confines of the data available. Dr. Mlaver has made significant progress in this analysis and demonstrated to the committee how to analyze data by DX, ISS, and rehab services discharge.
- Dr. Vox met with Dr. Brick Johnstone, Director of ABI Research at the Shepherd Center, and found that these types of analyses, notably where they reveal access disparities, align with the ongoing research priorities of the TBI Model System. Shepherd Center will commit additional analysis resources, particularly cross-referencing the Trauma Commission dataset with other health research datasets by zip code.
- The committee reviewed a list of service lines ideally available at rehabilitation centers serving the trauma population and made various edits. The committee endorsed a process whereby the committee will contact all known rehabilitation centers in the state and invite them to participate in a database where their facilities are listed along with the services provided and in ongoing discussions with the committee about improving services and access to the trauma population.
- The rehabilitation access survey and rehabilitation services info sheet are being developed.
- There are challenges related to access to rehab beds for trauma patients, particularly in cases of unfunded patients. The committee aims to address this issue through data analysis, stakeholder meetings, and discussions with entities like Georgia Medicaid.

Dr. Dunne inquired about access to data for analysis, and Dr. Vox explained that while some data is available, additional collection is needed; there are limitations related to discharge locations. Dr. Dunne commended the committee's organization and efforts, expressing gratitude for the increased input from rehabilitation.

Before the Trauma Administrators report, Commissioner Russell Carlson of the Georgia Department of Community Health expressed gratitude for hosting the meeting and congratulated Nita Ham and her team for their hard work. He acknowledged the planning efforts and the importance of partnerships in addressing trauma network growth and rural health challenges. Commissioner Carlson conveyed the Department's commitment to remaining an open and willing partner for all stakeholders, recognizing the need for collaboration across various entities.

TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE REPORT (01:23:28)

Presented by Dr. Patrice Walker

Dr. Walker referenced page 53 of the meeting packet for the committee report:

- Dr. Walker introduced herself as the new Trauma Administrators Committee Chair. She is also the Chief Medical Officer at Atrium Health Navicent.
- The committee discussed Office of Inspector General (OIG) audits, which have been taking place across the United States. The audits are focused on trauma center charges and documentation.
- The proposed meeting dates for the upcoming year were reviewed, focusing on creating value for administrators through collaboration and resource sharing. Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) has agreed to return for part two of the Finance Workshop, providing valuable information for administrators.
- The committee reviewed FY 2025 PBP changes, highlighting mandatory meetings administrators must attend and ensuring awareness of requirements.

Dr. Ashley commended Dr. Walker for taking on the committee and emphasizing the importance of their work to strengthen the Georgia Trauma Commission.

TRAUMA SYSTEM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (01:27:56)

Presented by Dr. James Dunne

Dr. James Dunne provided the following updates:

- The Armband Project, aimed to track time to definitive care, is ongoing, with 154 armbands placed to date. Data linkage remains a limitation for hospital records, but a temporary fix is being executed. Gina Solomon has agreed to analyze the data once we obtain it.
- The Trauma System Dashboard, a recommendation from the ACS Trauma Systems Consult, is under development to provide a statewide view of trauma system metrics. Various databases will be needed to populate the dashboard.
- Time to Definitive Care Navicent and Memorial Project is on hold due to required data use agreements between the two institutions.
- We are collaborating with the University of Georgia Public Health Group to review data and assist with the time to definitive care initiative.

Despite the challenges, Dr. Ashley acknowledged the committee's efforts and ongoing commitment to finding solutions. It was suggested that the committee create a workgroup of research staff to assist with research initiatives and efforts.

TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE REPORT (01:39:32)

Presented by Dr. Matthew Vassy

Dr. Matthew Vassy referenced page 56 of the meeting packet for the committee report:

- We are in the process of identifying TMDs who are interested in forming a workgroup to discuss the committee's next steps offline at national conferences.
- The TMD survey questions have been formatted into SurveyMonkey by Gina Solomon; Dr. Vassy will review them in the upcoming days. The intent is to gather information about barriers to transfer and interest in the committee's work. We want to align with the MARCH PAWS concept and have begun conversations with Courtney Terwilliger. The goal is to synchronize efforts and enhance the impact of both initiatives.
- The redistribution of early transfer guidelines is under development. A poster and cover letter will be re-distributed to critical access centers to emphasize the importance of early recognition and expedited transfer of significantly injured patients.

Dr. Ashley mentioned it would be helpful to have a one-page document outlining standard information needed for hospital transfer and what each trauma center level wants for information. Dr. Ashley proposed a collaboration between Dr. Vassy (TMD Committee), Tracy Johns (GCTE), and Courtney Terwilliger (EMS Committee) to investigate what transfer information each trauma center level needs and how to standardize it.

SYSTEM PARTNER REPORTS

GEORGIA TRAUMA FOUNDATION REPORT (01:52:12)

Presented by Dr. John Bleacher

Dr. John Bleacher referenced the report on pages 57-62.

- There are two Georgia Trauma Foundation board member candidates for approval: Rustin Smith and Cecil Staton. The board member candidates' backgrounds were reviewed and are available on pages 58-62 of the meeting packet. Both candidates bring valuable skills, including legal expertise and fundraising experience.

MOTION GTCNC 2023-11-04:

Motion to approve both candidates, Rustin Smith and Cecil Staton, as Georgia Trauma Foundation Board Members

MOTION BY: Regina Medeiros

SECOND BY: James Dunne

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

- The Giving Tuesday campaign was highlighted; the platform is active, and donations can be made to the Georgia Trauma Foundation online with various payment options.
- The Rural Trauma Education Program, funded by a grant, has successfully completed seven courses in the last five months, with eight more to be scheduled.

GEORGIA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT (02:05:20)

Presented by Dr. Rob Todd

Dr. Rob Todd reviewed the GQIP report and content in the packet on pages 63-68

- There was another call for volunteers for the new workgroups, VTE and Interfacility Transfer, during our November meeting. We obtained some more interest and look forward to starting those workgroups.
- The ArborMetrix user interface is on target for a late December go-live. There will be a staggered rollout for logins with a completion date of early February 2024—continuous improvement expected with user feedback. The testing site is live with 2021 and 2022 data; 2023 data will be added soon.
- The Patient Safety Organization application is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The application will be followed by infrastructure development with trauma center agreements as a priority item.
- The GQIP Trauma Advisory Committee is meeting as needed.
- Liz Atkins added that the PI Template Project has started with nine stakeholder volunteers. Kathy Martin has agreed to lead the project.

A brief overview of registry challenges was presented, highlighting the SBAR on pages 67-68. Technical challenges with linking trauma registry data across our various registry platforms exist. A recommendation was suggested to have all stakeholders advise of their registry needs to make a joint decision on possible solutions.

OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA (OEMST) REPORT (02:26:02)

Presented by April Moss

April Moss reviewed their report on page 69:

- Welcome to our new State Trauma Coordinator, Stacey Smith, and Systems of Care Medical Director, Dr. Shazad Muhammad.
- There are nine potential level IV recruitments in EMS regions 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9.
- OEMST and GTC are working on writing an updated state trauma plan per recommendations from the ACS consult visit.
- Resolution to the 2023 and 2024 data challenges has been confirmed, with SDL files for 2023 data to be distributed in a few weeks.
- Gina Solomon and Marie Probst have started data validation visits with our level IV centers and helped prepare them for their designation visits.

- The 2021 Trauma Annual Report is undergoing a Department of Public Health Communication review; it will be published once approved. The 2022 Trauma Annual Report will be started once we can access the data.

Before adjourning, Dr. Ashley encouraged attendees to donate to the Georgia Trauma Foundation and thanked the State Office of Rural Health again for hosting today's meeting.

MOTION GTCNC 2023-11-05:

Motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY: Regina Medeiros

SECOND BY: Courtney Terwilliger

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- The Commission approved the August 10, 2023, meeting minutes
- Commission approved to retain all current Georgia Trauma Commission elected officers until the February 2024 meeting. A new Bylaw Committee must be appointed at the next Commission meeting.
- The commission approved the FY 2025 Performance-Based Pay Criteria.
- The commission approved Rustin Smith and Cecil Staton as Georgia Trauma Foundation Board Members.
- Dr. Dunne requested a detailed spreadsheet on EMS education courses facilitated to ensure equal distribution of courses and relevancy across the state.
- Dr. Ashley advised it would be helpful to have a one-page document outlining standard information needed for hospital transfer and what each trauma center level wants for information. Dr. Ashley proposed a collaboration between Dr. Vassy (TMD Committee), Tracy Johns (GCTE), and Courtney Terwilliger (EMS Committee) to investigate what transfer information each trauma center level needs and how to standardize it.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye