

APPROVED
04.11.24



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/0u4BT8Sha-Q>

Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chair, GTC Member	Pete Quinones, Region Three GTC Member
Lee Oliver, Vice-Chair, Region Five	Allen Owens, Region Eight
Scott Stephens, Region One	
Jeff Adams, Region Two	
Scott Roberts, Region Four	
John Smith, Region Six (via Zoom)	
Duane Montgomery, Region Seven (via Zoom)	
Brian Hendrix, Region Nine	
Huey Atkins, Region Ten	
Vic Drawdy, GTC Member (via Zoom)	
Jim Adkins, GTC Member	

STAFF & OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gina Solomon (via Zoom)	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Kim Littleton (via Zoom)	GEMSA
Tim Boone	AVLS
Ryan Hollingsworth	OEMS/T
Vincent Harris	OEMS/T
Kelly Joiner	OEMS/T
Richard Rhodes (via Zoom)	OEMST/T
Kristal Smith (via Zoom)	Atrium Navicent/R5 RTAC
Crystal Shelnutt	Region 10 RTAC, Coordinator
Terry Cobb	Laurens County, EMS Director

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, January 11, 2024, with ten members present. Lee Oliver joined after the call to order.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

After the call to order, Courtney Terwilliger requested a motion to approve the October meeting minutes or advise of any changes.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-01-01:

Motion to approve October 11, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted

MOTION BY: Jeff Adams

SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Courtney Terwilliger advised the agenda order will be modified on today's call to accommodate GEMSA's request to report first.

GEMSA UPDATE

Presented By Kim Littleton

Kim Littleton advised the education maps are under development. A recent analysis determined that between 2022 and 2023, GEMSA has offered 112 courses with 3,031 students enrolled and 179,792 contact hours. We are studying the education maps to assess the regional areas we must target.

Kim shared the current course process with the committee (**ATTACHMENT A**):

- Monthly cadaver labs are scheduled in each region. There are planned instructor courses across different locations.
- Fifty-four EMR/EMT grants were awarded, and seven were declined for various reasons, such as instructor availability and participant issues.
- One completed Axiom course and two planned courses in April with full registrations.
- Two Ropes courses will be planned by June.
- Forty-four NAEMT grants were awarded, and fifteen courses were completed. There are ongoing discussions to resolve some policy variations with NAEMT site requirements.
- Six TECC courses have been completed, with more scheduled in 2024. There are challenges with low participation in South Georgia, prompting a call for increased awareness and participation. Kim encouraged committee members to ensure their regions are aware of courses. The upcoming TECC course will take place in Albany, Georgia, and registration is still open.
- One Auto Extrication course has been completed; three are upcoming in Jackson, Floyd, and Douglas counties.
- Three Farm Medic Courses have been completed to date.
- Intro to EMS Leadership is scheduled for February and is at capacity.
- One Moulage course is completed, with one upcoming scheduled in Gwinnett County.
- The Instructor Workshop is planned for January.
- All equipment has been purchased for courses.
- Leadership Program year twelve was completed with twenty-seven alumni. The year thirteen

class registration deadline is January 31st.

Kim Littleton shared a detailed report (**ATTACHMENT B**) on the Public Service Announcement campaign analytics, offering insights into the campaign's reach. The report covered metrics such as social media engagement, static display effectiveness, and overall cost breakdown. It was concluded that there is a need for a comprehensive understanding of the analytics and potential adjustments to the campaign strategy. Kim recommended allowing the Ad agency to review the report with the Committee. It was noted that comments are responded to directly by GEMSA and routed to the appropriate pathway based on the information requested.

Committee members discussed the "interested" link of the video, noting the list of agencies by county only provides information about where the agency license is based. Therefore, agencies that offer services in multiple counties will not be seen other than where the agency license is based. Ryan Hollingsworth advised that when someone fills out the interested survey, the Office EMS and Trauma regional representatives review their responses to ensure they are aware of educational programs in their region.

Courtney Terwilliger asked Kim to provide a recap of the Town Hall Meetings. Kim noted the average participation ranged from 20 to 70 participants. Concerns about wait times, tiered response, education standards, and burnout were raised. The emphasis was on finding solutions and thinking innovatively to address these challenges. Courtney asked GEMSA to provide a detailed report on the Town Hall meetings.

A question was raised regarding the course equipment purchased by GEMSA and its availability in the regions. Kim confirmed some teaching equipment is available to instructors. Kim Littleton or Cathy White can be contacted if anyone is interested in borrowing equipment.

AVLS UPDATE

Presented By Tim Boone

Dr. Tim Boone referenced the FY 2024 Q2 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT C**) and reviewed the following:

- 1. Support Deliverables**

Time spent troubleshooting with various agencies: adding units, activating SIMS, CAD integration for the AMN, getting units online, renaming gateways, etc. Supply chain issues have gotten better with a quicker turnaround than before.

- 2. Total Unit Usage**

- 1089/1255, 87% active

Grady EMS is leaving the AVLS Program and will start utilizing a different platform.

- 3. Current counties without AVLS**

- Cherokee
- Camden
- Chattahoochee: bringing them on this month
- Dekalb
- Gwinnett
- Long
- Lumpkin

- 4. MG90 Quick Reference Guide**

- The latest edition is posted on the trauma.ga.gov website.

- 5. Review of Airtime Log**

- More agencies are switching to Southern Linc

6. AVLS Spending

- Q2 AVLS Gateways Purchased: \$26,519 of \$206,335.64 FY 2024 Budget.

ATTACHMENT D has been provided to committee members for the Q2 gateway review.

The AVLS report noted that the MG90s will stop manufacturing within two years. Tim Boone recommended using residual funds to purchase MG90s upfront and store them for future use. Once the equipment stops being manufactured, the software will still be supported for five more years.

GTC UPDATE

Presented By Liz Atkins

Liz provided a brief update:

- The \$61 million enhancement has been presented to the Governor's Office. Soon, it will be presented to other legislative representatives.
- The Regional Trauma System Development Manager position has been offered and accepted. The candidate will start on February 1st.
- One of the RTAC Coordinators' contract deliverables this year is to provide an educational needs assessment within their region. They are currently working with their EMS Council to create the assessment. A due date will be determined.
- The education maps are in progress and are being refined. The maps will display real-time data on the website to help drive your decisions on educational needs.

Gina Solomon provided an update for the Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP), also known as the Peer Review Committee. The Arbormetrix platform has launched, and the first users were given access. The Arbormetrix platform has trauma facility data, which can be sliced and analyzed by region. The goal is to review patient data to improve complications. Liz Atkins asked Gina to demo the Arbormetrix Platform at the next EMS Committee meeting.

EMS FUNDING

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

The FY2025 budget is currently in review at the Capitol. Dr. Ashley and Liz have been actively working to secure additional funding. Once the budget is released, we may schedule a called meeting to approve next year's budget.

OLD BUSINESS

EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT

- **FY2024 EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT REALLOCATION**

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

The EMS equipment grant is complete and closed. A balance of \$34,383.40 remains unspent due to some agencies not applying and others applying for less than they were eligible for (**ATTACHMENT E**).

The committee proposed allocating the remaining EMS grant funds to the AVLS budget to purchase thermometer probes and offset AVLS equipment installation fees.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-01-02:

Motion to allocate \$34,383.40 into the AVLS budget to pay for equipment installation or purchase thermometers.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins

SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy

Concerns were raised about the potential variation in installation costs for equipment, and it was suggested to set a flat rate for reimbursement. A cap was mentioned for each item: up to \$250 reimbursement per installation fee and \$200 per temperature probe. The temperature probe could monitor blood temperature, drug boxes, and pharmaceuticals.

The Georgia Trauma Commission staff advised that the reallocated funds must be encumbered to a vendor by March 31st. The committee agreed the funds would be spent by March 31st to reimburse agencies for AVLS equipment installations or temperature probes. If there are any remaining funds by March 31st, then funds will be encumbered to Sierra Wireless for AVLS equipment.

The motion was restated:

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-01-02:

Motion to allocate \$34,383.40 into the AVLS budget to purchase AVLS equipment, including the installation of units and temperature probes.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins

SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

- **EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT WORKGROUP UPDATE**

Presented By Lee Oliver

The workgroup has reviewed the FY2024 agency counts and has identified agencies with questionable peak counts (**ATTACHMENT F**). Concerns were raised about the high peak counts compared to the county's population size. The workgroup requests EMS Committee representatives reach out to the agencies in question to ensure peak count accuracy; the regional reps should complete the validation by February 15th. An email will be sent out with the spreadsheet and a column for notes.

The workgroup also discussed the use of a modifier for peak counts. However, it was noted that applying a modifier would not significantly impact the amount of funds allocated to each agency. The committee decided to further evaluate the formula and allocation impact once the peak counts are validated.

It was acknowledged that additional improvements could be made to the grant process, including the possibility of conducting audits to ensure the appropriate use of funds.

IMMEDIATE TRANSFER TO HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Concerns continue regarding patients being taken to the nearest hospital, causing delays in treatment. The focus is to understand the barriers for ambulance services to take patients to the correct hospital and ensure timely transfer to tertiary centers. The effort involves two phases: EMS and hospitals. A survey is being developed, involving collaboration with Nita Ham and the Rural Innovation Center at Mercer. The goal is to identify and address barriers, potentially through financial or educational means.

MARCH PAWS

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

The slide set and the didactic portions are theoretically finished. There are plans to meet with Glenda Grant from the Rural Health Innovation Center at Mercer to discuss creating videos. There have been discussions with nurses about the level of training in classes. Any questions regarding MARCH PAWS are welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

CNTR GEORGIA TRAUMA SYSTEM ANALYSIS

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger presented the CNTR Maps (**ATTACHMENT G-I**), which depicts where ambulances are stationed. The maps have caused concern since there are more ambulance stations than licensed ambulances. Kelly Joiner advised the definition of an ambulance station is any station you would send an ambulance to deployment.

The committee discussed the need to define ambulance stations and the clarity needed between Medical First Responders and licensed ambulances. The conversation continued into ambulance deserts and the importance of understanding response times.

Courtney asked committee members to review the map and data in their regions and let him know what sticks out.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

- Courtney Terwilliger proposed discussing pass rates in Georgia and possible program funding to help improve them during the next committee meeting. Richard Rhodes advised Georgia's pass rates will be available for review by next week.
- Lee Oliver proposed adding Sierra Wireless temperature probes to the Approved EMS Equipment Grant List.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-01-03:

Motion to add Sierra Wireless temperature probes to the Approved EMS Equipment Grant List.

MOTION BY: Lee Oliver

SECOND BY: Huey Atkins

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

- Lee Oliver also requested to add the review of equipment purchased with the grant funds to the next meeting agenda. Courtney advised the workgroup to discuss a recommendation to

- bring to the committee regarding equipment purchases.
- Lee Oliver asked if anyone else would join the EMS Equipment Grant Workgroup. Scott Roberts agreed to join the workgroup.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- GEMSA provided an EMS course update (**ATTACHMENT A**) and the Public Service Announcement Campaign metrics (**ATTACHMENT B**)
- Courtney asked GEMSA to provide a detailed written report overview of the Town Hall meetings.
- AVLS update was reviewed (**ATTACHMENT C & D**).
- Liz Atkins proposed Gina Solomon provide an Arbormetrix platform demo during the next EMS Committee meeting.
- EMS Equipment unspent funds were discussed. The committee approved the allocation of \$34,383.40 (**ATTACHMENT E**) into the AVLS budget to purchase AVLS equipment, including the purchase and installation of units and temperature probes.
- The EMS equipment grant workgroup requests EMS Committee representatives reach out to the agencies in question to ensure peak count accuracy (**ATTACHMENT F**); the regional reps should complete the validation by February 15th. An email will be sent out with the spreadsheet and a column for notes.
- Courtney Terwilliger requests the EMS Committee review the CNTR Maps and Data (**ATTACHMENT G-I**) and let him know what sticks out.
- Courtney Terwilliger proposed discussing pass rates in Georgia and possible program funding to help improve them during the next committee meeting.
- The committee approved the addition of Sierra Wireless temperature probes to the Approved EMS Equipment Grant List.
- Lee Oliver proposed adding the review of equipment purchased with the grant funds to the next meeting agenda. Courtney advised the workgroup to discuss a recommendation to bring to the committee regarding equipment purchases. Scott Roberts will join the workgroup.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-01-04:

Motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY: Scott Roberts

SECOND BY: Lee Oliver

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye