

APPROVED
05.04.26



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Trauma Administrators Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Zoom

[Meeting Attachments](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	REPRESENTING
Patrice Walker	Committee Chair , Atrium Health Navicent Medical Center, CMO
Cindy Hoggard	AdventHealth Redmond, ER/Trauma Director
Sheila Bennett	Atrium Health Floyd, CNO
Tifani Kinard	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, CNO
Patrice Walker	Atrium Health Navicent, Chief Medical Officer
Rana Roberts	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Director, Trauma, Transport and Transfer Center
April Dukes	Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO, VP PCS
Jason Byrd	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, CFO
Damien Scott	Emanuel Medical Center, CEO
Pamela Vanderberg	Grady, VP Burn and Trauma Services
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO
Shelly Harrell	HCA Fairview Park and Memorial Sav, COO
Derek Rozier	Liberty Regional Medical Center, CEO
Shelly Harrell	Memorial Health University Medical Center, SVP, Business Development and Strategy
Adam Bedgood	Morgan Medical Center, COO
Walter Wiley	Northeast Georgia Healthcare System, Executive Director of Emergency, Trauma, Observation, and EMS
Becky Weidler	Northside, Director of patient care operations
Jason Smith	Phoebe Putney, CMO
Dee Burkett	Piedmont Athens Regional, Exec Dir Patient Services
Jan Tidwell	Piedmont Cartersville, CNO
Bill Tustin	Piedmont Columbus, COO
Stevanie Reynolds	Piedmont Walton, CNO
Randy Smith	SGMC Health, Vice President Operations
Frances Van Beek	Wellstar Health System, AVP, Trauma & Neuro
Kim Basso	Wellstar MCG, Executive Director of Womens and Childrens
Mark Schreiber	Wellstar MCG, CNO
Colton Miller-Houghton	Wellstar North Fulton, Executive Director of Nursing
Alicia Allen	Wellstar Paulding Medical Center, Director Outpt Services
Tracy Gynther	Wellstar West Georgia, CNO
APPOINTED DESIGNEES	REPRESENTING
Ali Thomas	Archbold Memorial Hospital, Emergency Department Director
Robbin Lee	Atrium Health Floyd, Director of Nursing Services
Duane Mitchell	Wellstar Spalding, Director of Emergency Services

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	STAFF AND OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT
N/A	Elizabeth V. Atkins, GTC, Executive Director Gabriela Saye, GTC Business Operations Manager Crystal Shelnutt, GTC, RTSDM Gina Solomon, GTC, GQIP Director Katie Vaughan, GTC, Finance Operations Officer Karen Barrett, Piedmont Cartersville, TPM Kristen Gentry, Piedmont Cartersville, Dir IP Svcs Kerry Carter, Wellstar Paulding Medical Center, TPM



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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM, with twenty-nine committee members and three committee member designees present.

Approval of November 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Walker asked for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes.

MOTION GTCNC TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE 2026-02-01:
Motion to approve the November 3, 2025, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: Pam Vanderberg

SECOND BY: Damien Scott

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Georgia Trauma Commission Updates

Presented by Elizabeth Atkins

Liz provided the following updates:

- The Georgia legislative session is underway.
- The FY2027 budget recommendation includes an additional \$4 million for trauma funding, which remains in the Governor's proposal. Early engagement with House Health Appropriations occurred in December, allowing extended discussion of agency priorities, challenges, and future needs.
- Upcoming GTC meetings:
 - Winter Commission Meeting: February 19
 - GCTE and Trauma Medical Directors meetings: February 19
 - GQIP meeting (closed session limited to Trauma Program Managers and Trauma Medical Directors): February 20, including review of unblinded data and case analysis.
- The Trauma Readiness Cost Survey analysis is in progress. Stakeholder feedback indicated the need for clearer guidance and standardized formulas. Subspecialty provider cost reporting remains a major challenge, particularly due to differences between employed and private practice models.

Funding and Rural Trauma System Concerns

Presented by Damien Scott

Damien Scott, CEO of Emanuel Medical Center, shared concerns regarding the financial sustainability of Level IV trauma centers, noting a significant increase in uncompensated care costs. He stated that these financial pressures have required heightened scrutiny of expenditures and have led to concerns about the long-term ability to maintain trauma designation. Mr. Scott referenced prior findings from the American College of Surgeons indicating that rural trauma systems are fragmented and underfunded, and noted similar concerns expressed by other hospital leaders in the southeastern region of the state. He emphasized the need to strengthen Level III and Level IV trauma centers, address readiness and resource challenges, and consider expansion into underserved geographic areas where gaps in trauma coverage are evident. Mr. Scott indicated his intent to further discuss these concerns and potential solutions with the Georgia Trauma Commission.



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Dr. Walker noted that the funding and system sustainability discussion directly relates to upcoming new business items and represents a continuation of prior conversations.

RMOCC Planning

Presented by Dr. Patrice Walker

Dr. Walker led a discussion regarding the potential development of Regional Medical Operations Coordination Centers (RMOCCs) in Georgia and their possible role in supporting rural Level III and Level IV trauma centers, not only for emergency preparedness but also for day-to-day operational support and gap mitigation. She referenced prior presentations, including Dr. Benjie Christie's November presentation on trauma system readiness and national security threats, and emphasized the importance of proactive planning in light of recent global events. Dr. Walker reported that RMOCCs have been discussed at the Trauma Commission and Trauma Medical Directors' levels, and noted interest from trauma administrators in supporting this work, though roles remain undefined.

To gauge committee perspectives, a brief real-time survey (**ATTACHMENT A**) was conducted during the meeting. Survey results indicated limited familiarity with national RMOCC frameworks, highlighting the need for education, while responses suggested general interest in RMOCC development and related military-civilian partnerships. Participants identified key perceived barriers, including communication challenges, coordination across divisions, resource and capacity limitations, leadership alignment, financial constraints, HIPAA considerations, and concerns regarding bias in patient distribution. Committee members also discussed opportunities to learn from states with more established RMOCC models and to leverage existing structures rather than creating duplicative systems. Examples of successful military-civilian partnerships, including Grady's robust program, were shared.

Dr. Walker thanked members for participating in the survey, noted that a summary would be included in the minutes, and stated that the results would be shared at the upcoming Trauma Medical Directors meeting to inform next steps and future education efforts.

Committee Vice-Chair Nominations

Presented by Dr. Patrice Walker

Dr. Walker introduced the need to establish a Committee Vice Chair in alignment with Trauma Commission guidance that all committees maintain both a chair and vice chair to ensure continuity and succession planning. Discussion clarified that the vice chair role would provide meeting coverage in the chair's absence and support committee leadership activities. Dr. Walker expressed support for incorporating the vice chair into agenda development and preparatory work to ensure readiness for future leadership transitions.

The committee agreed to accept nominations without a formal vote at this time, with additional interested members encouraged to submit nominations via email. Dr. Walker indicated that a follow-up communication would be sent to ensure broader awareness of the opportunity.

Summary of Meeting and Action Items

Presented by Dr. Patrice Walker

Prior to adjournment, Dr. Walker reviewed upcoming key dates, including the Georgia Trauma Commission and Trauma Medical Directors meetings on February 19, Trauma Awareness Day at the Capitol on February 24, and the next Trauma Administrators Committee meeting on May 4. Members were advised to watch for future communications regarding potential RMOCC-related work groups or subcommittees.

The meeting concluded with an opportunity for final questions, after which the meeting was adjourned.



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- Elizabeth Atkins presented updates from the Georgia Trauma Commission.
- Damien Scott shared concerns regarding the financial sustainability of Level IV trauma centers.
- Dr. Walker led a discussion regarding the potential development of Regional Medical Operations Coordination Centers (RMOCCs). To gauge committee perspectives, a brief real-time survey (**ATTACHMENT A**) was conducted during the meeting. Dr. Walker will share the survey findings with the Trauma Medical Directors Committee to inform next steps and future education efforts.
- Dr. Walker introduced the need to establish a Committee Vice Chair. The committee agreed to accept nominations without a formal vote at this time, with additional interested members encouraged to submit nominations via email.
 - Update: The Vice Chair nomination email was sent by Gabriela Saye to committee members on Wednesday, February 4.

The next committee meeting is scheduled via Zoom on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 10:00 AM

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye