

**APPROVED**  
**03.18.24**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Georgia Trauma Commission Budget Committee

February 19, 2024

Meeting Minutes

[Meeting Documents Link](#)

Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Dr. Regina Medeiros, Chair, GTC Secretary/Treasurer	
Dr. Dennis Ashley, GTC Chair	
Dr. James Dunne, GTC Vice-Chair	
Courtney Terwilliger, GTC Member	
Pete Quinones, GTC Member	
Jesse Gibson, Northeast Georgia Medical Center Trauma Program Director	

OTHERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth Atkins	GTC, Executive Director
Katie Hamilton	GTC, Finance Operations Officer
Gabriela Saye	GTC, Business Operations Mgr
Crystal Shelnett	GTC, Regional Trauma System Development Mgr

### STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was established at 3:30 PM on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, with four committee members present. Katie Hamilton advised today's meeting will focus on the FY 2025 draft budget and proposals. Dr. Regina Medeiros and Dr. Dennis Ashley joined shortly after the roll call.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

*Presented By Katie Hamilton*

Katie asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.

#### [MOTION GTCNC BUDGET COMMITTEE 2024-02-01:](#)

[Motion to approve January 22, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted.](#)

**MOTION BY:** James Dunne

**SECOND BY:** Courtney Terwilliger

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

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

## **FY 2025 BUDGET**

*Presented by Katie Hamilton*

Katie shared a spreadsheet outlining the FY 2025 budget (**ATTACHMENT A**). As part of the FY 2025 budget discussion, proposals will also be reviewed.

Katie shared some updates to some operation line items on the spreadsheet:

- Staff salaries and benefits include a 4% cost of living increase. The amount may change once the 2025 fringe rates are released towards the end of the fiscal year.
- The DOAS Administrative Fee includes fees associated with our attachment to the Department of Public Health. The costs are detailed in **ATTACHMENT B**.
- There is a proposed increase in the media and graphic designer line item. Liz Atkins further explained there is a need for comprehensive marketing support. The marketing agency would not only assist with injury prevention outreach but could also support various initiatives aligned with the Commission's goals. Additionally, they would help our social media presence, website maintenance, legislative messaging, and strategic planning.

Under system development:

- We did not include funding for the UGA time to definitive care since the project has yet to start; they are working on access to data. Liz Atkins advised the committee can determine what items they want to support for FY 2025.
- We did not include funding for the Stop the Bleed Coordinator, as our Regional Trauma System Development Manager, Crystal Shelnett, will oversee the program.

Dr. Medeiros clarified that the focus of this meeting is to start discussions about what the committee wants to allocate to line items before the final budget is released. With each line item, committee members must advise if they wish to continue, decrease, or increase funding.

## **FY2025 PROPOSALS**

*Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros*

Katie shared the FY 2025 funding proposals (**ATTACHMENT C**).

### **MAG MRC | \$170,000**

MAG MRC is asking for the same amount as last year. Concerns were raised about the alignment of the Commission's mission with the MAG MRC. Dr. Medeiros highlighted political considerations in supporting MAG funding amid the Commission's additional funding plan. Dr. Ashley elaborated on how the Commission could ask MAG to align its activities to focus more on the Commission's mission and emphasized the benefits of continued support. We could review the ACS recommendations from the Trauma System Consult and ensure they support trauma-related initiatives. It was noted MAG MRC differs from local MRCs in that they provide statewide support.

### **GQIP | \$272,074**

Liz Atkins expressed concern about whether the Commission could continue to support both GQIP and NSQIP effectively, especially considering the release of Arbormetrix and the growing number of trauma centers. Dr. Ashley touched upon the origins of GQIP and NSQIP, which aimed to leverage resources and improve outcomes in trauma and general surgery.

It was proposed to fund NSQIP for another year, but start discussing potential separation or realignment. Committee members agreed that funding conversations with NSQIP need to start now.

It was clarified that the NSQIP Medical Director is Dr. Joe Sharma, the TQIP Medical Director is Dr. S. Rob Todd, and the research resident is Dr. Eli Mlaver. It was emphasized that the NSQIP Medical Director oversees the research resident at Emory.

Concerns were raised about the potential conflict of interest with Dr. S. Rob Todd, who serves as the TQIP Medical Director and a commission member. Liz Atkins added that there needs to be a strong candidate in line to take over the TQIP Medical Director position from Dr. Todd. Discussions should occur with Dr. Todd about recusing himself from voting on the budget, as he currently receives a portion of the funding.

Dr. Medeiros re-emphasized that it's best to start having funding conversations with individuals or organizations to ensure we stay on top of the matter. Liz Atkins advised that it is best to have conversations when awarding them the contract for the year. Katie added that discussions must be had before entities prepare their next proposal.

Dr. Dunne proposed that the TQIP Medical Director may fit well within the System of Medical Director under the System Development budget. Dr. Ashley agreed this could be an opportunity and should be discussed further.

Due to time limitations, Dr. Medeiros requested that the other proposals be reviewed briefly. Committee members can send their questions and concerns for the following proposals to Regina, Katie, and Liz to discuss further in a subsequent meeting.

#### **Georgia Trauma Foundation | \$352,800**

Katie clarified that the proposal has yet to be approved by the Foundation Board and is subject to change once approved. Committee members expressed concerns about the proposal and will discuss it further at a subsequent meeting.

#### **OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA FY2025 ALLOCATION**

*Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros*

Katie re-shared the FY 2025 budget spreadsheet (**ATTACHMENT A**) and highlighted the increase in allocation to the Office of EMS and Trauma, which will be 3% of the trust fund, about a \$50,000 increase. It was clarified that OEMST did not submit a proposal. Committee members agreed it would be reasonable to ask OEMST to submit a proposal on how they will spend the allocated funds.

To ensure collaboration and communication between OEMST and the Trauma Commission, it was suggested that someone reach out to the Governor's Office to ensure OEMST submits a budget template and upholds its responsibilities. Liz Atkins recommended asking OEMST directly for their budget rather than the Governor's Office. Dr. Ashley asked if the Governor's Office has sent a budget template to OEMST. Liz advised she could reach out to ask.

It was clarified that the OEMST budget is needed now for the committee to decide how much to allocate to them. The budget must be approved in March once the legislative session is over. The full Commission must approve the budget before May to ensure contracts are sent out by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Committee members reviewed the previous budget OEMST submitted in 2021 (**ATTACHMENT D**). After

review, it was suggested to send OEMST a template to submit a proposal based on the requirements noted in O.C.G.A. 31-11-100-102 (9). They could add other additional expenses they could incur, such as the portion of staff that covers trauma, participation in TQIP, and site visits. It was emphasized that it seems reasonable to hold OEMST to the same standards as everyone else who receives funding by requiring deliverables.

Dr. Medeiros proposed to reach out to April Moss at OEMST to submit an FY 2025 budget proposal for trauma under specialty care.

### **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjournment, Katie Hamilton emphasized that once the proposals are confirmed, we can determine the trauma center and EMS split. Dr. Medeiros added the goal is to have a clear picture of how much we want to allocate by the end of March.

- Committee members reviewed the FY 2025 budget spreadsheet (**ATTACHMENT A**). Katie emailed committee members the DOAS Administrative Fee sheet (**ATTACHMENT B**).
- Committee members reviewed and provided feedback on FY 2025 proposals (**ATTACHMENT C**): MAG MRC and GQIP. Due to time restraints, committee members were advised to review the Georgia Trauma Foundation proposal and email Liz Atkins, Katie Hamilton, and Dr. Regina Medeiros with any questions or concerns.
- Committee members reviewed the Office of EMS and Trauma's proposed allocation and previous 2021 budget request (**ATTACHMENT D**). After discussions, it was suggested that April Moss be contacted at OEMST and request an FY 2025 budget proposal based on requirements noted in O.C.G.A. 31-11-100-102 (9). They could add other additional expenses they could incur, such as the portion of staff that covers trauma, participation in TQIP, and site visits.
- Committee members agreed to start conversations with the following entities:
  1. MAG MRC: align its activities to focus more on the Trauma Commission's mission.
  2. GQIP: proposal to fund NSQIP for one more year but start discussing potential separation or realignment.
  3. Dr. S. Rob Todd: Recusing from voting on the budget as he currently receives a portion of funding.
  4. OEMST: request an FY 2025 budget proposal from April Moss.

### **MOTION GTCNC BUDGET COMMITTEE 2024-02-02:**

#### **Motion to adjourn**

**MOTION BY:** Courtney Terwilliger

**SECOND BY:** Dr. Dennis Ashley

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

**ACTION:** The motion **PASSED** with no objections and no abstentions

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM

Minutes by G. Saye.