

APPROVED
04.30.26

Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE)

February 19, 2026

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

[Meeting Recording and Attachments Link](#)

Lynn Grant, Fairview Park Hospital

GCTE Chair

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Becky Gaskins, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Grady
Julie Freeman, <i>Education</i>	Wellstar Kennestone
Kellie Rowker, <i>Pediatric</i>	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Rayma Stephens/Ashley Bullington, <i>Performance Improvement</i>	Northside Gwinnett Hospital/Crisp Regional Hospital
Kelli Vaughn, <i>Registry</i>	J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
Kristal Smith/Justin Keeton, <i>Injury Prevention</i>	Atrium Health Navicent/Piedmont Henry
Tracy Johns, <i>Past Chair</i>	Atrium Health Navicent

ATTENDEES		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION
Nicole	Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond
Jessica	Davis	Archbold Memorial Hospital
Katie	Hasty	Atrium Health Floyd
Melissa	Parris	Atrium Health Floyd
Crystal	Wynn	Atrium Health Floyd
Kristen	Phillips	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center
Dawn	Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center
Maria Francis	Johnson	Atrium Health Navicent
Josephine	Fabico-Dulin	Atrium Health Navicent
Kimberly	Najera	Atrium Health Navicent
Kristal	Smith	Atrium Health Navicent
Tracy	Johns	Atrium Health Navicent
Patricia	Judd	Atrium Health Navicent
Margery	McClure	Atrium Health Navicent
Anna Claire	Cesario	Atrium Health Navicent
Susan	Murphy	Atrium Health Navicent

ATTENDEES		
Alicia	Cochran	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Susanne	Edwards	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Briona	Whitehead	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Karen	Hill	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Rana	Roberts	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Kellie	Rowker	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Ashley	Bullington	Crisp Regional Hospital
Jane	Echols	Doctors Hospital of Augusta
Frances	Hughes	Doctors Hospital of Augusta
Laura	Lunsford	Doctors Hospital of Augusta
Danlin	Luo	DPH OEMST
Dipti	Patel	DPH OEMST
Marie	Probst	DPH OEMST
Stacee	Smith	DPH OEMST
Brenda	Roberts	Effingham Health System
Brianna	Teel	Effingham Health System
Brooke J.	Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center
Gail	Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center
Cheryle	Ward	Georgia Trauma Foundation
Sarah	Parker	GQIP
Jessica	Astrella	Grady
Courtney	Baker	Grady
Michael	Bentley	Grady
Samantha	Buchanan	Grady
Teri	Craig	Grady
Latresia	Fair	Grady
Sharona	Griffin	Grady
Amy Annia	Jeune	Grady
Leigh	Pack	Grady
Stacey	Shipley	Grady
Barbara	Thomas	Grady
Pamela	Vanderberg	Grady
Miranda	Baras	Grady
Joy	Eleby	Grady
Kelli	Scott	Grady
Lawrence	Blair	Grady

ATTENDEES		
Debbie	Boyett	Grady
Angela	Sanabria	Grady
Maria	Silva	Grady
Roger	Smith	Grady
Ashley	Steele	Grady
Ashley	Steele	Grady
Stephanie	Verna	Grady
Elizabeth	Williams-Woods	Grady
Terry	Cobb	GTC
Brian	Dorriety	GTC
Kristin	Spires	GTC
Kim	Brown	Hamilton Medical Center
Jill	Woodard	IPRCE
Tammie	Russell	Liberty Regional Medical Center
James "Tracy"	Burnsed	Memorial Health University Medical Center
Tommy	Langenfeld	Memorial Health University Medical Center
Whitney	Williamson	Memorial Health University Medical Center
Caitlyn	Wals	Memorial Satilla Health
Christie	Mathis	Morgan Medical Center
Walter	Wiley	Northeast Georgia Health System
Courtney	Herrin	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Natasha	Alvarado	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Janice	Labbe	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Emily	Murdoch	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Mike	Strobel	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Linda	Greene	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Shawna	Baggett	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Blanca	Hinojosa	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Morgan	Krause	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Jessica	Mantooth	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Jessica	Mantooth	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Matthew	Vassy	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Laura	Wolf	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Colleen	Horne	Northside Gwinnett Hospital
Tracy	Harris	Northside Gwinnett Hospital
Romeo	Massoud	Northside Gwinnett Hospital

ATTENDEES		
Nadirah	Burgess	Northside Gwinnett Hospital
Dana	Davis	Northside Gwinnett Hospital
Rayma	Stephens	Northside Gwinnett Hospital
Sarah	Holcombe	Northside Gwinnett Hospital
Ashley	Woodard	Parallon
Terri	White	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
Ana	Delgado	Piedmont Athens Regional
Heather	Morgan	Piedmont Athens Regional
Stephanie	Stribling	Piedmont Athens Regional
Shannon	Thomas	Piedmont Athens Regional
Eva Mae	Carignan	Piedmont Athens Regional
Natasha	Davis	Piedmont Athens Regional
Jonathan	Horsager	Piedmont Augusta Hospital
Kaleigh	Stallard	Piedmont Cartersville Hospital
Jerry	McMillan	Piedmont Cartersville Hospital
Karen	Barrett	Piedmont Cartersville Medical
Amy	Stephens	Piedmont Cartersville Medical
Tamara	Patterson	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Kelly	Gasser	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Marilyn	Dunlap	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Jack	Rodgers	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Shalonda	Wright	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Nicole	Hester	Piedmont Healthcare
Jay	Connelly	Piedmont Henry Hospital
Justin	Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital
Jason	Radford	Piedmont Henry Hospital
James	Polston	Piedmont Walton
Emily	Brown	SGMC Health
Janann	Dunnavant	SGMC Health
Kailey	Paulson	SGMC Health
Emily	Brown	SGMC Health
Raeda	Anderson	Shepherd Center
Desiree	Lacy	South Georgia Medical Center
Jamie	Lockett	Wellstar
Andrea	McCarson	Wellstar
Amy	Kattner	Wellstar

ATTENDEES		
Shelby	Lemon	Wellstar Cobb
Travis	Perry	Wellstar Cobb Medical Center - Burn Program
Nadine	Lynch-Mascoe	Wellstar Cobb Medical Center - Burn Program
Adalynn	Rath	Wellstar Douglas Medical Center
Erica	Walsh	Wellstar Douglas Medical Center
Victoria	Carter	Wellstar Kennestone
Megan	Dawson	Wellstar Kennestone
Jamie	Van Ness	Wellstar Kennestone
Anthony	Vizzinia	Wellstar Kennestone
Taitiana	Woods	Wellstar Kennestone
Dana A	Bouse	Wellstar Kennestone
Karen	Johnson	Wellstar Kennestone
Julie	Mosher	Wellstar Kennestone
Dani	O'Connor	Wellstar MCG Health
Ashley	Faircloth	Wellstar MCG Health
Adrian	Ruiz	Wellstar MCG Health
Patricia	Smith	Wellstar MCG Health
Dawn	Faircloth	Wellstar MCG Health
Agnieszka	Sellers	Wellstar MCG Health
Shajuana	Taylor	Wellstar MCG Health
Shelby	Adams	Wellstar MCG/CHOG
Elizabeth	Folse	Wellstar North Fulton
Rhonda	Jones	Wellstar North Fulton
Kerry	Carter	Wellstar Paulding Medical Center
Michelle	Jordan	Wellstar Paulding Medical Center
Vaughn	Tejedor	Wellstar Spalding Medical Center
Rachel	Hand	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center
Ashley	Orr	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center
Cameron	Grimes-Ayres	Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center
Ron	Darby	Wellstar North Folton
Losa	Nichols	Wolfson Children

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call to Order/Approval Mins Intro of New Members	Becky Gaskins, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE), a committee of the Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC), to order at 1:08 pm. After quorum was established, Becky requested a motion to approve the October 30, 2025, meeting minutes. <u>MOTION GCTE 2026-02-01:</u> Motion to approve October 30, 2025, meeting minutes. MOTION: Kellie Rowker SECOND: Kelli Vaughn DISCUSSION: None ACTION: The motion <u>PASSED</u> with no objections nor abstentions After minutes approval, Becky asked if new committee members were present and welcomed them to the committee.
LifeLink of Georgia	The meeting continued with a LifeLink update on trauma and organ donation in Georgia (ATTACHMENT A). Chuck Massey, Hospital Development Specialist, reported nearly 4,000 trauma referrals over the past five years, resulting in 572 organ donors. Donation after cardiac death has risen to account for roughly 40% of donors, and trauma patients contribute more organs per donor than non-trauma patients. Annual trends were reviewed, noting fluctuations in referrals and donors from 2021-2025. April was highlighted as Donate Life Month, with national themes emphasizing life, connection, and legacy. Mr. Massey shared a personal story about their path to Lifelink and encouraged committee members to involve Lifelink in trauma meetings, community education, and certification support initiatives. Pamela Elder-Mobley (Pam) shared a powerful personal account (ATTACHMENT B) of her daughter, Raven Jeffress, who was fatally injured in a car accident in March 2023. Pam described her decision to donate Raven's organs, which saved multiple lives, and the founding of the Ray T. Beacon of Light AMPS Foundation to continue her daughter's legacy. The committee expressed gratitude and reflected on the impact of donor families.
Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) Update	Commission updates included: • Budget season underway: amended budget moving through; FY2027 budget already considered. The extra \$4M remains in the budget; final session decisions not expected until April 6. • House Bill 629 incorporates bleeding control kits into Georgia Public Schools Emergency Response Framework; stop-the-bleed training now mandatory. Appreciation expressed for RTAC coordinators ensuring all schools receive training. • Federal updates: Mission Zero refunded at \$4M; additional funding hoped for via 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act. • Trauma grants discussed; funding may support mock disaster development to prepare for surge events.

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	- Northeast Georgia and Grady heavily represented at Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) meeting; multiple pre-hospital trauma research presentations noted. - Encouraged submissions to EAST, STN, or TCAA for innovative concepts; EAST considered a nurturing venue for professional development. - Level I and II Readiness Cost Survey underway; costs expected significantly higher than prior surveys. - Committee meetings listed on Trauma Commission website; members encouraged to attend or call in.
Georgia Quality Improvement Program Update	Gina Solomon provided the following updates: - The Winter GQIP meeting scheduled for February 20th; Dr. Ayoung-Chee to present Level 4 data. - Summer meeting scheduled for August 20 at Jekyll Island; keynote by Dr. John Holcomb on pre-hospital blood use. - GQIP 2025 data download required: PRQ data entry reports to be submitted for verification. - NTDB 2026 registry updates may affect data downloads; members advised to complete updates before downloading. - ArborMetrix platform updates: - New age filters allow exclusion of pediatric patients (<18) and customization for specific age cohorts. - Admit service filters now available for trauma, non-surgical, and orthopedic admissions. - Future development: blunt multi-system and elderly blunt multi-system cohort filters.
Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) Updates	Crystal provided the following updates: - Stop the Bleed Program Kit applications are currently open; flyers should be distributed across regions. In the previous year, nearly 3,800 Stop the Bleed kits were delivered statewide. - Training classes are growing from small groups (5-20) to large sessions (50-200 participants), requiring significant logistical support. - RTAC coordinators continue to lead initiatives in injury prevention (PI) and education, with notable statewide growth. Feedback is requested on unmet needs or ways to better support local efforts. - New EMS education coordinator, Kristin Spires. - Initial education grants are active, supporting EMS workforce development; 10 applications received and 3 classes underway. - Upcoming courses include NAEMT, PHTLS, cadaver labs, MCI training, tactical training, and other continuing education. - RTAC education committees will assist with identifying host locations and ensuring broad course distribution. - Georgia Trauma Commission website is the primary source for EMS education: registration, applications, and course calendars. - Courses and events can also be submitted for inclusion on the website calendar (in-person or virtual).

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	- Feedback from needs assessment indicates a preference for social media notifications, though email remains the main communication method. - New email for submissions and inquiries: education@gtc.ga.gov
Office of EMS & Trauma (OEMST) Update	Marie Probst provided the following updates: - For the OTCPE and OBCPE performance reviews, 35:36 of the centers submitted their FY2026 Q2 report. Using the data reported in the OTCPE, the following statewide averages were calculated. The OTCPE statewide average for the TS response rate data deliverable for CY2025 is 95% and FY2026 is 98%. The OTCPE statewide average for the Record Closure rate data deliverable for CY2025 is 96% and FY2026 is 94%. Congratulations to everyone for performing so well. - Regarding the trauma registry imports from ESO users, nine centers have left over system or schema errors from the December download of the January-September 2025 data. Please check in with me before sending the final 2025 download so we can be sure the past errors are fixed before the March download is submitted. - Based on the ImageTrend NTDS algorithm criteria, the overall January – September 2025 data validity score is 88% for 37,041 records from the designated trauma centers. - In the 2025 final downloads received so far for the January -December 2025 data, we are experiencing a Time Out system error. ImageTrend is aware of the issue. We are waiting for a solution to share with everyone. As a reminder, please login to the ImageTrend Patient Registry to verify the import was successful without any system or schema errors. GA LONGID system errors can be easily corrected in the ESO registry and a new download file imported. Any other system or schema errors require additional attention so please contact me if your import shows these errors. Stacey Smith provided the following updates: - Congratulations to Wellstar Spalding, Atrium Floyd Polk, Emanuel for Level IV redesignations. - Northeast Georgia achieved ACS Level I re-verification and state redesignation. - Three new Level IV centers are being added this year; consults are available through Stacy or Marie. - Registry download issues should be addressed by March 2nd for 2025 data. - Pediatric readiness designation: facilities can contact Stacy, April, or Sam Sindelar to get designated and ensure high-quality pediatric care.
Dementia Update	Elizabeth Head, Deputy Director for Injury Prevention at Georgia Department of Public Health, provided a brief overview of Georgia's dementia initiatives and their link to trauma care (ATTACHMENT C). She highlighted the GARD program, dementia care specialists, Dementia Friends training, and participation in the U.S. POINTER Study, emphasizing public health integration and rural implementation. She noted alignment with ACS Geriatric Trauma Care Standards, including interdisciplinary care, frailty screening, and fall prevention, and shared resources for geriatric trauma management, encouraging collaboration with trauma teams.

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	Elizabeth thanked participants, acknowledged support from Liz Atkins, and offered ongoing assistance for dementia and geriatric trauma initiatives.
Georgia Trauma Foundation Update	Cheryle Ward provided the following updates: • Trauma Awareness Day is Tuesday, February 24th, the largest advocacy event of the year, where participants thank lawmakers at the state capitol and interact individually on the rope line. Registration for the event has closed due to room capacity, but participants are welcome to join the rope line independently. • The annual gala, “One Georgia Gala,” set for May 30 at the Delta Flight Museum. The event name will remain consistent going forward to reflect statewide unity and equitable trauma care access. Tickets go on sale March 2.
Subcommittee Reports	Education: Julie Freeman provided the following updates: • Highlighted last year’s achievements in increasing trauma-certified nurses (TCRN), providing in-person and virtual reviews, and acquiring customizable STN modules for trauma center orientation. • Continuing goals include expanding trauma education access in rural Georgia • Collaborating with the Georgia Trauma Commission to offer funded courses, including the Optimal Course for ACS verification preparation. A survey has been sent by Gabriela Saye to gauge interest in the course (ATTACHMENT D). Pediatric: Kellie Rowker provided the following updates: • The pediatric transfer one-page reference document, “Indications for Pediatric Trauma Patients Requiring Rapid Transfer to a Pediatric Trauma Center,” was completed, voted on February 9, and approved by the Commission (ATTACHMENT E) • The committee is revamping a more detailed pediatric assessment, stabilization, and transfer reference into a tri-fold format; content is largely approved, and adjustments are mainly logistical. • The pediatric imaging toolkit is being updated based on literature reviews of articles post-2011, with the first draft planned for the May meeting and broader release by mid-year. • The EMS Safe Transport Project PowerPoint is already in use, with three large EMS agencies in Region 3 integrating it into January and February staff meetings. Future steps include using a QR code for improvements and presenting a poster at a major conference as a GTCE project. Performance Improvement: Rayma Stephens provided updates: • The group shared PI tools in the last year to improve loop closure and review processes, with plans to create a central repository for all tools. • Previous attempts to use a Teams shared space were blocked by facilities, so alternative solutions are being explored. • The subcommittee is monitoring “time to definitive care,” but work is on hold pending state process guidance.

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	- Beginning discussions on geriatric-focused projects aligned with state priorities. - Members are encouraged to reach out with any PI projects for the subcommittee to support. Registry: Kelli Vaughn provided the following updates: - Concluded 2025 with registry vendor demonstrations and a summary analysis, and members will present their evaluation process at the Trauma System News Summit. - Dr. Ayoung-Chee provided a GQIP data analysis overview using sample data to demonstrate to registrars and PI staff how data entry directly impacts system-level quality outcomes. - The remainder of the meeting focused on member-submitted registry questions, generating strong discussion and establishing an ongoing Q&A-driven format for future meetings. - Recent download issues were discussed, including ESO base deficit errors, with updated guidance to be distributed to the group. - A 2026 validation issue related to VTE prophylaxis, aspirin and warfarin menu options, was identified, and a work order has been submitted to ESO; updates will be shared once resolved. - Web-based users have already received the 2026 update, though status may vary by platform. Injury Prevention and Outreach: Becky Gaskins provided the following updates on behalf of Kristal Smith: - The Injury Prevention Subcommittee reported over 250 attendees at the January Stop the Bleed Winter Blitz and completion of a Matter of Balance coach training. - Upcoming initiatives include teen driving prevention events in the spring and child injury prevention webinars in April.
Open Discussion: ACS Survey Experiences	A discussion was opened regarding recent ACS survey experiences, specifically related to geriatric requirements and whether centers are facing challenges meeting those standards. Jessica Mantooth, Northeast Georgia Medical Center, shared that geriatrics was not a major focus during their survey; although they created a geriatric guideline, surveyors did not emphasize it heavily. Instead, the primary focus during their survey was OR processes, including availability, scheduling, and clearly describing workflow in the PRQ. Surveyors asked detailed questions about how the OR actually functions, highlighting the importance of clearly outlining processes in the PRQ to avoid additional scrutiny. Orthopedic coverage and processes were noted as particular areas of attention. Nadirah Burgess, Northside Gwinnett, reported a similar experience, stating geriatrics was not emphasized, but response times for orthopedic and neurosurgery consults, especially documentation of consult times, were a focus. Additional discussion addressed survey logistics, including chart selection timelines and communication with ACS reviewers. One center reported submitting charts 45 days prior to survey, receiving chart selections back within 2-3

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	days, and being advised to follow up if no response is received within 7 days. It was noted that while 25 charts are typical for adult centers, one facility had only 20 selected, and surveyors often determine their focus areas based on the PRQ before arriving onsite
Open Discussion: Registry Transitions	An open discussion was initiated regarding trauma registry transitions, particularly the challenges of moving from Legacy V5 to newer platforms, with many centers still unable to fully receive or submit usable data. Feedback from a prior vendor analysis showed no clear optimal product; scores were limited due to evolving technology and features not yet fully operational at the time of review. It was acknowledged that registry needs vary significantly by center type, with high-volume, research-focused centers having different requirements. Participants emphasized that no single vendor currently meets all centers' needs, and perspectives differed based on role, volume, and operational priorities. Liz Atkins proposed re-evaluating vendors, particularly considering recent AI advancements that may reduce workload and improve efficiency. Concerns were raised about new centers selecting registry products without assurance of compliant data submission capability, especially amid uncertainty about Legacy V5 availability. Liz Atkins reiterated that compliance requires receipt of complete, usable data elements, not simply file submission, and highlighted the financial investment in analytics infrastructure that depends on clean data feeds. The group agreed to revisit the registry evaluation discussion at a future meeting and explore vendor engagement, including follow-up with ESO and state system contacts to address data submission and startup funding concerns. April Moss emphasized the need to reinforce the importance of ensuring that any new or updated trauma registry contracts are compliant not only with GQIP requirements but also with state registry submission standards.
Adjournment	GCTE leadership thanked committee members for their efforts and contributions across the trauma programs. The next meeting is scheduled for April 30th. <i>Becky Gaskins adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm</i>

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye