

APPROVED
07.31.24



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/nPoqhPGxBGg>

Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

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

STAFF & OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gina Solomon	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Crystal Shelnett	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Tim Boone	AVLS, Coordinator
Nathan Stanaway	Emory University, Project Coordinator
Kim Littleton (via Zoom)	GEMSA
Cathy White	GEMSA
Heather Reddick (via Zoom)	OEMS/T
Richard Rhodes (via Zoom)	OEMS/T
Heather Morgan	Piedmont Athens, TPM
Brian Dorriety	Region 7 RTAC, Coordinator

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 11, 2024, with nine members present.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

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

[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-04-01:](#)

[Motion to approve January 11, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted](#)

MOTION BY: Scott Roberts

SECOND BY: Jeff Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION UPDATE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger provided a brief update:

- The Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) received an additional \$4 million for the Trauma System Stabilization Plan.
- Senate Bill 515 budget passed, but the bill did not. The bill, sponsored by Senator Bo Hatchett, proposed to set up two pilots to place ambulances in two Georgia regions to study barriers of interhospital and direct transportation to trauma patients. More discussions regarding the next steps are to follow.
- The GTC Finance Committee is working through the FY 2025 budget. The EMS Committee will need to have a called meeting once the FY 2025 budget is determined.
- The next quarterly Commission Meeting is set for May 22, 2024, at Chateau Elan.

Courtney advised during today's meeting we will review FY 2025 proposals, but the committee will not vote on items until the EMS budget is determined.

AVLS UPDATE

Presented By Tim Boone

Dr. Tim Boone referenced the FY 2024 Q3 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT A**) 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.

The Region 2 RTAC Coordinator, Kyle Gibson, received the AVLS coverage list to double-check and help coordinate. Dr. Boone will reach out to Kyle for an update on progress.

2. Total Unit Usage

- 1087/1224, 89% active
- Region 7 has some challenges, but we continue working with the Region 7 RTAC Coordinator to help troubleshoot.

3. Current counties without AVLS

- Cherokee
- Camden
- Chattahoochee: bringing them on
- Dekalb
- Gwinnett
- Long
- Lumpkin
- Clayton
 - Dr. Boone advised that Clayton is migrating to a Cradlepoint system.

4. MG90 Quick Reference Guide

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

5. Review of Airtime Log

- The current airtime log was reviewed. It was noted that T-Mobile has proposed that the committee encourage agencies to trial their network; they will provide a lower price and two to three months of free coverage during the trial period. The committee agreed to leave the carrier decision up to the agencies as they know the level of service they need. Huey Atkins asked if the other carriers would lower their fees to match T-Mobile's. Dr. Boone advised that the Georgia Technology Authority is responsible for negotiating pricing with service providers. If agencies want to switch carriers, they need to work within the enrollment window unless there is an operational need.

6. AVLS Spending

- Q3 AVLS Gateways Purchased: \$70,716 of \$206,335.64 FY 2024 Budget. We have \$135,619.64 remaining to spend.

The committee discussed the progress of the temperature probe that was approved during the previous meeting. Crystal Shelnett advised they have received a specification sheet that a blood bank is reviewing to ensure it is compatible with their system. The next step is to obtain the temperature probe and pair it with the specific AVLS box. We must work directly with the agencies to ensure the blood bank has the necessary oversight. The goal is for the temperature monitoring device to be transferrable between vehicles once paired with the AVLS system. Courtney Terwilliger requested progress reports on the temperature probe AVLS implementation.

GEMSA UPDATE

Presented By Kim Littleton

Kim Littleton shared the current course process with the committee (**ATTACHMENT B**), reviewing the course progress and remaining courses for FY 2024. Efforts are underway to improve the dissemination of course information to ensure it is shared with all providers, not just at the director level. GEMSA has developed a new Google Calendar to make it easier to review upcoming courses.

The contact hours to date and course ratings with reviews were also shared with the committee (**ATTACHMENT C**). GEMSA has completed 68,836 contact hours and has received positive reviews. Kim emphasized not everyone who attends the courses is a member of the association.

An update to the Public Service Announcement campaign analytics was reviewed (**ATTACHMENT D**). Kim recommended scheduling a session with the ad agency to attend a committee meeting to review the details. Huey Atkins proposed that GEMSA engage career academies and career fairs to boost interest in the field.

Kim provided an update on the progress of the EVOC training. GEMSA has been working with McNeil and Company on the curriculum to arrive at a resolution. Initially, McNeil and Company required that their instructors be used and paid to teach the course. After some discussions, McNeil and Company have agreed to allow GEMSA to teach the course. We may need to work on an extension to complete the FY 2024 EVOC courses.

OLD BUSINESS

EQUIPMENT GRANT WORKGROUP UPDATE

Presented By Lee Oliver

The Equipment Grant Workgroup has reviewed the FY2024 agency counts, and a few agencies remain in question (**ATTACHMENT E**). We have started looking at the equipment bought by agencies and found the majority are using the funds for routine supplies. It was suggested that the current equipment list be modified by removing expendable items, prioritizing essential items, and raising the bar of trauma care. In workgroup discussions, Liz Atkins suggested involving the Trauma Medical Directors to help provide a list of evidence-based trauma-care equipment. Courtney challenged the workgroup to develop a new list of required equipment to bring back to the committee for review.

Committee members discussed requiring fluid warmers as a recommended essential trauma care item. Blood products were discussed as they could benefit both rural and urban providers. The topic of discussion shifted to the recent military implementation of freeze-dried plasma, which is undergoing FDA review. It was noted that the FDA is starting pilot projects on freeze-dried plasma. Courtney Terwilliger requested more information on the FDA pilots. Crystal Shelnett advised that she could bring the pilot up with the RTAC Coordinators to research and obtain more information.

GEMSA EDUCATION GIO MAPPING

Presented By Natalie Lee

Natalie Lee presented the mapping for the 2022-2023 GEMSA education courses (**ATTACHMENT F**). Each course map also provides the total number of courses held, number of students enrolled, number of students who completed the course, and contact hours:

- Auto Extrication
- Axioms of Leadership
- EMS Instructor
- EMR
- EMT
- Farm Medic
- Leadership Program
- Moulage
- NAEMT
- Tactical Emergency Casualty Care
- Trauma Skills
- Overall Courses

It was noted that some course maps depict travel time to help visualize the time it takes to travel to a course. Overall, the maps help identify if there are any gaps or opportunities to adjust offerings. There were some challenges in the course data collection and mapping, such as incomplete information and discrepancies in completion rates. Natalie proposed using Survey123 as a registration tool to streamline data collection and mapping processes. She explained its features, which included online/offline registration, form validation, and live data availability. With the time saved in data cleanup, Survey123

would not cost more than what is already expended. Kim Littleton agreed to discuss the Survey123 tool with Natalie and review it for future course data collection.

The committee discussed tracking participants' primary career roles to understand course demographics better. Kim Littleton explained that the goal of the courses is to provide EMS providers with priority in course offerings. However, once the course is close to closing and there is still space available or insufficient to meet the minimum requirement, we backfill with other providers, such as law enforcement and nursing. As mentioned earlier, we are improving course offerings and disseminating them to all providers, not just leadership.

The committee acknowledged the interconnectedness of various professions in emergency care and the importance of inclusive training efforts. Courtney thanked Natalie for the mapping efforts and hopes to share the presentation at the Commission meeting to highlight the EMS education outreach across the state.

REGIONAL EDUCATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Presented By Crystal Shelnutt

The RTAC Coordinators provided a regional education needs assessment as one of their deliverables this year. The assessment aimed to identify the specific educational needs of each region and explore potential solutions to address them. Crystal provided highlights of each region's assessment:

Region 1:

- Requested additional access to trauma equipment, specifically mannequins, for difficult airway management and intraosseous needle decompression.
- Recommended instructor development and access to continuing education classes beyond canned courses.

Region 2:

- Expressed a need for increased access to simulation training, particularly ALS skills and trauma management.
- Greater involvement from medical directors is desired in continuing education offerings.

Region 3:

- Requested pediatric trauma courses and ALS skills training.
- Expressed interest in courses related to emerging practices in EMS, such as blood product administration.

Region 4:

- Identified a need for additional PHTLS and ITLS classes and instructors capable of teaching them.
- Highlighted challenges in assembling a sufficient instructor cadre for successful course delivery.

Region 5:

- Sought more training on trauma assessment, presentation, and arrest management.
- Expressed interest in mass casualty incident (MCI) training and advanced burn life support courses.

Region 6:

- Echoed the need for pediatric trauma training, difficult airway management, and MCI preparedness.
- Expressed interest in advanced burn life support courses.

Region 7:

- Identified staffing shortages as a barrier to attending off-site training.
- Expressed interest in hosting large-scale trainings but faced challenges in garnering in-house participation.

Region 8:

- Emphasized the need for more access to EMT and canned courses like PHTLS.
- Acknowledged the staffing challenges affecting training attendance.

Region 10:

- Expressed a desire for improved access to simulation resources, citing limitations with existing equipment.
- Proposed the creation of a standardized list of ideal resources for simulation training across regions.

Each region has unique challenges and needs, demonstrating the importance of tailored approaches to education and training and the need for the regions to help decide what type of classes they're getting. Engaging trauma centers and hospitals to leverage their resources for training was also mentioned.

Courtney Terwilliger encouraged committee members to share their region's assessment with their respective groups to review and provide feedback on their region's needs. Region 6 burn life support course was briefly discussed, but it has been cost-prohibitive; there is an opportunity for local burn programs to help provide education and training.

PASS RATES & GTC FUNDING

Presented By Richard Rhodes

Richard Rhodes presented data (**ATTACHMENT G**) on pass rates for the Georgia Trauma Commission-funded EMS programs. Remediation efforts to improve pass rates, such as providing students with testing software subscriptions and national test prep materials, were discussed. There is also a task force with an education consortium that looks into impacting low-performing programs. Richard noted that a consistent theme is that the benchmark for the program to be successful in education is three years. Another observation is that many students in the program do not test for the registry. It was suggested that we think of ways to capture students after completing the program and determine how to encourage them to test for the registry.

Crystal Shelnutt added that it is essential to determine why a program has failed. Could it be a program issue, or do the instructors need additional support and resources? Courtney Terwilliger expressed interest in the remediation effort of providing students with testing software subscriptions and identifying solutions for instructor support. Courtney Terwilliger will discuss the test prep and remediation resources and funding requirements with Richard.

NEW BUSINESS**REFLEX | DRONE SOLUTIONS**

Presented By Usman Jamal

Usman Jamal, a Georgia Tech graduate and founder of Reflex, thanked the committee for the opportunity to present. Usman highlighted the critical issue of emergency response time, citing statistics that underscored the problem's urgency and presented Reflex's mission to build a drone network for rapidly delivering critical medical supplies (**ATTACHMENT H**).

After the presentation, Usman addressed questions about the cost of implementing Reflex, explaining startup costs, ongoing expenses, and factors that influence pricing. He encouraged committee members to contact him to discuss pricing based on their region's needs.

Usman thanked committee members for their participation and encouraged members to contact him

for any inquiries or collaborations.

FY 2025 FUNDING PROPOSALS

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger emphasized the committee will be reviewing proposals for the FY 2025 budget. Once the final budget is determined, a called meeting will be scheduled to vote on next year's budget. Courtney asked Dr. Tim Boone and Kim Littleton to present their funding proposals.

Dr. Tim Boone reviewed the FY 2025 AVLS proposal (**ATTACHMENT I**) with the committee. Dr. Boone noted there may be an opportunity to reduce equipment costs by using the cheaper MP70 units instead of MG90s. It was noted that there is \$135,000 left to spend on the current FY 2024 budget.

Kim Littleton reviewed the FY 2025 GEMSA proposal (**ATTACHMENT J**) for upcoming education initiatives, including, but not limited to, leadership courses, NAEMT courses, instructor preparedness, mental health first aid, and training supplies.

Courtney encouraged committee members to consider today's items and share the information with their regions. Consider proposals for the next fiscal year; if your region has a specific funding request, please submit a proposal with a budget.

Scott Roberts raised concerns about the performance-based pay (PBP) metrics tied to the GEMSA contract. Courtney Terwilliger advised there are performance measures related to delivering classes and providing required data, but he plans to discuss the PBP metrics further with Liz Atkins. Katie Hamilton added that all Georgia Trauma Commission contractors have PBP metrics in their contracts. Kim Littleton confirmed that GEMSA is aware of the performance measures within the contract and noted that GEMSA conducts additional classes beyond what is contracted without the administrative fee. Kim Littleton also noted the administrative fee has not increased in the past eight years.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Before adjournment, Courtney Terwilliger mentioned a project to improve patient transportation and access to trauma centers for critically injured patients. The initial step is identifying barriers to timely patient transport. Mercer is assisting in creating a survey to gather data. The survey has been distributed, and data collection is underway, with expectations to have the data compiled by next week.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Dr. Tim Boone reviewed the FY2024 AVLS Q3 Report (**ATTACHMENT A**). Dr. Boone will contact Kyle Gibson for an update on the progress of the coverage list review.
- Courtney Terwilliger requested progress reports on the temperature probe AVLS implementation.
- Kim Littleton shared the current course process with the committee (**ATTACHMENT B**), reviewing the course progress and remaining for FY 2024.
- The contact hours to date and course ratings with reviews were also shared with the committee (**ATTACHMENT C**).
- An update to the Public Service Announcement campaign analytics was reviewed (**ATTACHMENT D**). Kim recommended scheduling a session with the ad agency to attend a committee meeting to review the details.
- The Equipment Grant Workgroup has reviewed the FY2024 agency counts, and a few agencies remain in question (**ATTACHMENT E**). The workgroup proposed revising the equipment list to include equipment that raises the bar on trauma care with proven

benefits. Courtney Terwilliger challenged the workgroup to develop an updated equipment list for committee review.

- The FDA pilot for the utilization of freeze-dried plasma was briefly discussed. Courtney Terwilliger requested more information on the FDA pilots. Crystal Shelnutt advised that she could bring the pilot up with the RTAC Coordinators to research and obtain more information.
- Natalie Lee presented the mapping for the 2022-2024 GEMSA education courses (**ATTACHMENT F**). Natalie proposed using Survey123 as a registration tool to streamline data collection and mapping processes. Kim Littleton agreed to discuss the Survey123 tool with Natalie and review it for future data collection. The committee discussed tracking participants' primary career roles to understand course demographics better.
- Crystal Shelnutt provided an overview of each region's education needs assessment. Courtney Terwilliger encouraged committee members to share their region's assessment with their respective groups to review and provide feedback on their region's needs.
- Richard Rhodes presented data (**ATTACHMENT G**) on pass rates for the Georgia Trauma Commission-funded EMS programs. Remediation efforts were highlighted. Courtney Terwilliger will discuss the test prep, remediation resources, and funding requirements with Richard.
- Usman Jamal presented an overview of Reflex's mission to build a drone network for rapidly delivering critical medical supplies (**ATTACHMENT H**).
- Dr. Tim Boone reviewed the FY 2025 AVLS proposal (**ATTACHMENT I**) with the committee. Dr. Boone noted there may be an opportunity to reduce equipment costs by using the cheaper MP70 units instead of MG90s.
- Kim Littleton reviewed the FY 2025 GEMSA proposal (**ATTACHMENT J**) for upcoming education initiatives, including, but not limited to, leadership courses, NAEMT courses, instructor preparedness, mental health first aid, and training supplies.
- Courtney encouraged committee members to consider today's items and share the information with their regions. Consider proposals for the next fiscal year; if your region has a specific funding request, please submit a proposal with a budget.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-04-02:

Motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY: Allen Owens

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 1:00 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye