



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

**APPROVED**  
**07.19.24**

## Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 19, 2024

7:00 am to 8:00 am

Zoom

[Link to Meeting Recording and Meeting Material](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT*	REPRESENTING
Greg Patterson	<b>Committee Chair/</b> John D Archbold Memorial Hospital, TMD
Alicia Register	<b>Committee Vice-Chair/</b> Crisp Region Hospital, TMD
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond, TPM
Monica Trotter	AdventHealth Redmond, Trauma PI Coordinator
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, TPM/Quality/Accreditation Liaison
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional Hospital, TPM
April Dukes	Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO, VP PCS
Will Soto	Effingham Health System, TPM
Olalekan Akinyokunbo	Emanuel Medical Center, TMD
Gail Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center, Trauma Registrar
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, TPD
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, TPM
C. Brian Delashmitt	Hamilton Medical Center, EVP-CMO
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP,CNO
Steven Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center, TMD
Kelli Vaughn	J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TPM
Karrie Page	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, TPM
Jeffrey Harden	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, CNO
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM
Kristen Gentry	Piedmont Cartersville, TPM
Jan Tidwell	Piedmont Cartersville, CNO
Paula Butts	Piedmont Henry Hospital, CNO
Jay Connelly	Piedmont Henry Hospital, Dir Trauma and Stroke
Justin Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital, Trauma PI Coordinator
Mark Benak	Piedmont Walton Hospital, TMD
J. Garrett Polston	Piedmont Walton Hospital, TPM
Stevanie Reynolds	Piedmont Walton Hospital, CNO
Winston Charles	Wellstar Cobb Hospital, TPM
Andrea McCarson	Wellstar Paulding, Trauma Coordinator
Alicia Allen	Wellstar Paulding, Director of Nursing
Susan Baldridge	Wellstar Spalding Hospital, TPM
Ezaldeen Numur	Wellstar Spalding Hospital, TMD
Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, TPM

\*Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code.



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth Atkins	GTC, Executive Director
Gabriela Saye	GTC, Business Operations Manager
Gina Solomon	GTC, GQIP Director
Crystal Shelnett	GTC, Regional Trauma System Development Manager
Cheryle Ward	GTF, Executive Director
Tammie Russell	Liberty Regional Medical Center, Trauma Program Coordinator
Nita Ham	State Office of Rural Health, Senior Director
Adalynn Rath	Wellstar Douglas, Trauma Coordinator

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. with 32 committee members present. Dr. Greg Patterson welcomed everyone and started the meeting with the approval of the meeting minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

*Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson*

Dr. Patterson requested a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.

**[MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2024-04-01:](#)**

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

**MOTION BY:** Alicia Register

**SECOND BY:** Rachel Hand

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

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

### **GTC Update**

*Presented by Liz Atkins*

- There was a successful appropriation of an additional \$4 million for the trauma system in the FY 2025 budget, following a multi-year stabilization plan. While the total requested funding of \$61 million was not fully awarded, Liz Atkins emphasized the significance of securing initial funding for the multi-year plan.
- The Finance and Budget Committee approved changes to the funding formula to reflect documented readiness cost data. Levels I, II, and III will receive 8% of readiness costs. Level IVs will receive a greater allocation of 50% due to the low readiness cost data.
- Senate Bill 515, an EMS project sponsored by Senator Bo Hatchett, did not pass. The \$2 million line item was put into the Commission budget. Senator Bo Hatchett would like the project to continue if the bill funds remain with the Commission. Liz cautioned that the governor had not signed the FY 2025 budget, and whether the bill funds will stay with the Commission is unconfirmed.

### **RURAL AND NON-TRAUMA CENTER RESOURCES AND DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY**

*Presented by Liz Atkins*

The survey was sent out and received a phenomenal response rate. There is a plan to present the survey findings at the May Commission meeting.



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## **MENTORSHIP PROGRAM | TRAUMA CONNECTIONS GROUP**

*Presented by Rachel Hand*

The level III and IV center mentorship group has had good attendance and engagement in the first few meetings. There have been discussions on transfer forms and metrics, EMS metrics and ways to enhance EMS feedback, and injury prevention tactics focusing on fall prevention. The group posed a question regarding the purpose of the MARCH PAWS course. Dr. Patterson clarified that the MARCH PAWS course would focus on teaching non-trauma center hospitals basic trauma care to stabilize patients quickly and how to use the systems in Georgia to contact nearby trauma centers. The course development is ongoing, and Courtney Terwilliger can provide more information if needed.

Dr. Patterson applauded the trauma connections group and expressed excitement for the ongoing collaboration. He would like to continue to support the mentor program and add it to the standing agenda items for continued updates.

## **NEW BUSINESS | ACS VERIFICATION DEADLINE EXTENSION**

*Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson*

Committee members discussed the Georgia Trauma Commission ACS verification requirements and proposed to update the deadline for existing and new level III trauma centers. The ACS has been delayed with consultative and verification visits, affecting the required timelines for trauma centers. It was also noted that the new ACS standards require extensive preparation, which can be time-consuming and resource-intensive. The committee deliberated on various required dates and agreed to compromise on the extension deadline for existing level III's to June 30, 2027. The newest centers, South Georgia Medical Center and Piedmont Henry, will have until June 30, 2028, to complete the ACS verification requirement.

### **MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2024-04-02:**

**Motion to extend existing level III centers ACS verification date to June 30, 2027, and the two new centers, Piedmont Henry and South Georgia Medical Center, to June 30, 2028**

**MOTION BY:** Alicia Register

**SECOND BY:** J. Garrett Polston

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

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

The deadline extension proposal will be submitted to the full Commission during the May 22, 2024, Commission meeting.

Before adjournment, Dr. Patterson emphasized that the Access to Specialty Care Update is scheduled for August/September. He encouraged members to attend the May GQIP meeting and continue networking.

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

- Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) update included a \$4 million appropriation to the FY 2025 trauma system stabilization plan budget. The GTC Finance and Budget Committee voted to revise the funding formulas to reflect readiness cost data. Preliminarily, Level I, II, and III centers will receive 8% of readiness costs. Level IV centers will receive 50% of readiness costs. The Committee's recommendation goes to the full GTC for voting on the FY 2025 budget in May.



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- The Rural and Non-Trauma Center Resources and Demographic Survey had an 89% (59/66) response rate. Thanks to all centers completing the survey. The survey results will be presented at the May Georgia Trauma Commission meeting.
- Rachel Hand provided an update on the mentorship program, Trauma Connections Group. Dr. Patterson requested continued updates from the group.
- The Committee approved the proposed extension of the ACS verification visit requirement for existing level III centers to June 30, 2027, and the two new centers, Piedmont Henry and South Georgia Medical Center, to June 30, 2028. Additionally, moving forward, any new Level III Trauma Centers will have to become ACS Verified by June 30, 2028, to be eligible for GTC funding. The Committee proposal will be brought forth to the full Commission for approval.

**MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2024-04-03:**  
**Motion to adjourn**

**MOTION BY:** Rachel Hand

**SECOND BY:** Alicia Register

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

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

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye*