**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

**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](https://trauma.georgia.gov/events/2024-04-19/gtc-level-iii-and-iv-committee-meeting-0)

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

**\*Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code.**

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

**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.
* 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*