

APPROVED
08.15.24



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Chateau Elan

Braselton, Georgia

Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/bPc_7En2Gg8

Meeting Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Dennis Ashley, Chairman
Dr. James Dunne, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Regina Medeiros, Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. John Bleacher
Mr. Terry Cobb
Mr. Pete Quinones
Dr. James "J" Smith
Dr. S. Rob Todd

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING	ATTENDING
Marcus Lindsey	Air Methods - AirLife Georgia, Account Executive	In Person
Sheila Bennett	Atrium Health Floyd, SVP/Chief of Patient Services	In Person
Clarence McKemie	Atrium Health Floyd, TMD	In Person
Patrice Walker	Atrium Health Navicent, Chief Medical Officer	In Person
Robyn Axlund	Atrium Health Navicent, Trauma Data Coordination	In Person
Josephine Fabico-Dulin	Atrium Health Navicent, Trauma Program Specialist	In Person
Tracy Johns	Atrium Health Navicent, TPM	Virtual
Kimberly Najera	Atrium Health Navicent, Trauma Program Specialist	In Person
Kristal Smith	Atrium Health Navicent/Region 5 RTAC, IP and Outreach Coordinator	Virtual
Angela Barton	Atrium Navicent, Trauma Program Specialist	In Person
David Cox	Crisp Regional Hospital, Medical Director. ER/Hospitalist	In Person
Charly Ussery	Crisp Regional Hospital, Registrar	Virtual
Charly Ussery	Crisp Regional Hospital, Registrar	In Person
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional Hospital, TPM	Virtual
Shelby Adams	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, PI Coordinator	In Person
Laura Lunsford	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, TPM	In Person
Catherine Ross-Garron	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, Trauma Educator/Outreach/Injury Prevention	In Person
Christopher Ruiz	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, VP of Trauma Services	In Person
Courtney Pettiford	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, TMD	In Person
Danlin Luo	DPH OEMST, Epidemiologist	Virtual

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING	ATTENDING
Shehzad Muhamed	DPH OEMST, Systems of Care, Medical Director	Virtual
Stacey Smith	DPH OEMST, Trauma Coordinator	In Person
Lindsey Lewis	Effingham Health System, Clinical Quality and Compliance RN	Virtual
David Kiefer	Effingham Health System, TMD	In Person
Guillermo Soto	Effingham Health System, TPM	In Person
Amy Davis	Effingham Health System, WDON	Virtual
Brooke Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center, TPM and ED Manager	Virtual
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, TPD	Virtual
Becca Hallum	Georgia Health Association, Associate General Counsel	Virtual
Chris Scoggins	Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center	In Person
Christoph Kaufmann	Georgia Trauma Commission, Medical Director	In Person
Cheryle Ward	Georgia Trauma Foundation, Executive Director	In Person
Rebecca Gaskins	Grady, Director of Trauma	In Person
Pamela Vanderberg	Grady, VP Trauma Services	In Person
Steve Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center, TMD	In Person
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, TPM	In Person
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO	In Person
Scott Maxwell	HCA, Lobbyist	Virtual
Travis Perry	JMS at Wellstar Cobb, Medical Director	In Person
Mary Beth Goodwin	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, PI Coordinator	In Person
Gregory Patterson	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TMD	In Person
Kelli Vaughn	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TPM	Virtual
Karrie Page	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, TPM	Virtual
Ralph Castillo	Morgan Medical Center, CEO	In Person
Susan Jackson	Morgan Medical Center, Director of Quality and Safety	In Person
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM	In Person
Jesse Gibson	Northeast Georgia Medical Center, TPM	Virtual
Naila Avery	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, TMD	In Person
Rayma Stephens	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, Trauma PI Coordinator	In Person
Lemuel Dent	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, TMD	In Person
Brandi Fitzgerald	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, TPM	In Person
Jan Tidwell	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center, CNO	In Person
Jerry McMillan	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center, EMT-P/Trauma Registrar	In Person
Amy Stephens	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center, Pi Coordinator	In Person
Kristen Gentry	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center, TPM	In Person
Jay Connelly	Piedmont Henry Hospital, TPM	Virtual
Justin Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital, Trauma PI Coordinator	Virtual
James Polston	Piedmont Walton, TPM	In Person

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING	ATTENDING
Kmberly Reusmann	Piedmont Walton, Trauma Register	In Person
Kristin Spires	Region 10, RTAC Coordinator	In Person
Brian Dorriety	Region 7, RTAC Coordinator	In Person
Nadine Lynch	Wellstar Cobb Burn Center, Burn Program Manager	In Person
Kyle Doehrman	Wellstar Cobb Medical Center, Executive Director, CDU, Emergency, Trauma	In Person
Winston Charles	Wellstar Cobb Medical Center, TPM	In Person
Adalynn Rath	Wellstar Douglas, Trauma coordinator	In Person
Danielle Johnson	Wellstar Kennestone / RTAC 3, Trauma outreach & injury prevention / RTAC Coordinator	Virtual
Julie Freeman	Wellstar Kennestone, Outreach & Injury Prevention Coordinator	Virtual
Grace Mills	WellStar Kennestone, PI coordinator	Virtual
Christina Ucci	Wellstar Kennestone, Trauma PI Coord	Virtual
Kyndra Holm	Wellstar MCG CHOG, PTPM	In Person
Bruan Bays	Wellstar MCG, TPM	In Person
Ashley Faircloth	Wellstar MCG, TPM	In Person
Elizabeth Folse	Wellstar North Fulton, TPM	Virtual
Alicia Allen	Wellstar Paulding, Director of Nursing	In Person
Andrea McCarson	Wellstar Paulding, Trauma Coordinator	In Person

CALL TO ORDER (00:00:04)

Dr. Dennis Ashley called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, with eight Commission members present.

CHAIRMAN REPORT (00:00:05)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Dennis Ashley started the meeting by recognizing EMS Week. We thank our EMS colleagues for all they do every day. It's been a fast-paced two days with all the meetings. I know it's hard to get away from your day-to-day responsibilities. Thank you for taking the time to attend, and we appreciate your hard work.

On Monday, the Trauma Administrators met for a financial workshop by Valerie Rinkle with TCAA. It was well-received, and it's great for trauma administrators to get involved in maximizing your revenue cycle. Our GQIP meeting yesterday saw highlights from different trauma centers on improving our care. It is great to see Level III and IV centers presenting and participating. I was impressed by Dr. Kiefer's slide regarding purchasing rapid infusers, efforts to obtain plasma, and potentially whole blood. It is wonderful to see our trauma system maturing and moving forward.

The \$61 million trauma system stabilization proposal we presented last year went incredibly well at the Capitol. We worked with many key House and Senate players, educating them on our readiness costs. Ultimately, we were allocated \$4 million, far from the \$61 million goal, but we achieved credibility and recognition for our cause.

Dr. Ashley concluded his report by thanking all the volunteers and Committee Chairs. We have gotten so big, and you can see (pg. 2 of the meeting packet) how we have grown from one group to an advanced infrastructure.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (00:07:54)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley requested a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, pgs. 3-13.

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-01:

Motion to approve February 15, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted

MOTION BY: John Bleacher

SECOND BY: James "J" Smith

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

BYLAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT (00:08:30)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Elizabeth Atkins mentioned that an appointment needs to be made with the Bylaws Committee. The bylaws are due for revision in November, and some volunteers will need to review and provide a recommendation for them. Pete Quinones, Dr. S. Rob Todd, and Dr. James "J" Smith were appointed to the Bylaws Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (00:11:06)

Presented by Liz Atkins

Liz Atkins referenced the full report on **pages 14-21**, which provides a high-level overview of the progression of our key initiatives over the last quarter.

- We have new software that helps trauma any legislation that could impact us or trauma stakeholders. The legislative 2024 recap report can be found on **page 18**.
- During the ACS COT Spring Meeting, Dr. Ashley participated as a discussant in a spotlight session that focused on trauma center and system development and financing.
- We received acceptance for our American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) oral abstract submission, "Impact of American College of Surgeons Trauma Verification on a Statewide Quality Collaborative." Dr. Ashley also received acceptance for an abstract on the financial implications of lives saved and return on investment. The AAST meeting will occur September 11-14, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- The Trauma Center Association of America's Annual Meeting took place last month. In partnership with NASEMSO, the Trauma Systems Committee is conducting a nationwide survey of system funding.
- The Georgia Trauma Commission has started its social media outreach on Facebook and LinkedIn.
 - Follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaTraumaCommission>
 - Follow on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/georgia-trauma-commission>

Liz Atkins asked Crystal Shelnutt to provide the RTAC updates:

- Welcome Kristin Spires, the new Region 10 RTAC Coordinator. She has worked in healthcare for 20 years in both in-hospital and pre-hospital roles. Please get in touch with them if you would like to get involved in your local RTAC. We have some exciting work taking place.

- The Stop the Bleed maps have been updated (**pgs. 19-21**). For our K-12 school program, only two counties still need to complete all their training; our RTAC Coordinators are working hard to ensure completion. We continue to receive applications for bleeding control kits from public education institutions, law enforcement, and government agencies. Our last application period ended in April and will reopen in July.
- The RTAC Coordinators delivered a regional education needs assessment this year. The assessment aimed to identify each region's educational needs and explore potential solutions. Each region had its own unique challenges and needs, demonstrating the importance of tailored approaches to education and for the regions to help decide what type of classes they're getting.
- The RTAC Coordinators and chairs will meet on June 18th to share goals, resources, and activities and bring everyone together to help expand the RTAC's presence.

RURAL FACILITY RESOURCE/NEEDS ASSESSMENT(00:22:40)

Presented by Dr. Chris Scoggins

Liz Atkins introduced Dr. Chris Scoggins, Director of Special Projects, with the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center. Dr. Scoggins provided a comprehensive overview of the 2024 Survey of Rural Hospital Needs and Resources (**pgs. 22-53**), a joint effort of the Georgia Trauma Commission, Georgia State Office of Rural Health, and the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center. The survey was distributed to all sixty-six rural hospitals in Georgia with emergency services, and data was collected March 11 – April 5, 2024. In total, sixty-two out of the sixty-six hospitals submitted a response, resulting in a 94% response rate. Dr. Scoggins highlighted center demographics and capabilities, transfer and transport data, staff, training, and equipment barriers. Despite these challenges, there was a consensus on the need for better communication and resource allocation to enhance quality care in rural healthcare settings. The survey results underscored the importance of addressing these systemic issues to improve healthcare delivery in underserved areas.

COMMITTEE AND WORKGROUP REPORTS

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT (00:49:16)

Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros

Dr. Regina Medeiros began the report by sharing the progress of Super Speeder revenue. She noted that the Commission remains 13% ahead of budgeted projections and anticipates further gains with the return of pre-pandemic travel levels.

The next item for discussion was the proposed FY2024 Reallocation Plan (**pg. 60**), which totals \$2.9 million; we have identified several initiatives for funding approved by the Finance and Budget Committee, and the remaining funds will be split into the traditional 80/20 split between trauma centers and EMS.

MOTION BY: GTC Budget Committee

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-02:

Motion to approve the FY 2024 Reallocation Plan

MOTION BY: Budget Committee

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion PASSED with no objections nor abstentions

Afterward, the proposed FY 2025 Budget ([pg. 61](#)) was discussed. Dr. Medeiros highlighted the successful advocacy efforts that resulted in increased readiness funding for Level IV trauma centers, now covering 50% of their total readiness costs. Dr. Medeiros asked Commission members to review the line items and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. John Bleacher requested more information on the Georgia Trauma Foundation funding decrease. Dr. Medeiros explained that the Finance and Budget Committee had determined that we could not approve the requested increase based on the current funding priorities. The Commission is committed to supporting the Foundation's operating costs, but more details are needed to understand the true operating costs. The Committee compromised between the \$182,000 and the \$270,000 range and approved a \$220,000 allocation. There are opportunities to request additional funds for initiatives that may come up throughout the year. Dr. Bleacher explained that the Foundation did provide detailed line items for operational expenses for review and noted that the Foundation uses a zero-based budget, which forecasts the need now, not historical. We met 90% of the deliverables, but our budget was cut by 20%.

Dr. Dunne noted concerns about the readability of the provided documents, suggesting that larger and clearer documents be presented for future meetings. Dr. Medeiros encouraged members to review the detailed budget documents before the meeting, which were emailed and posted on the website to ensure timely feedback on funding issues. The importance of fiscal transparency and accountability was emphasized.

MOTION BY: GTC Budget Committee

[MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-03:](#)

[Motion to approve the FY 2025 Proposed Budget](#)

MOTION BY: Budget Committee

VOTING: Dr. Dennis Ashley, Dr. James Dunne, Dr. Regina Medeiros, Terry Cobb, Dr. S. Rob Todd, and Dr. James "J" Smith voted in favor. Dr. John Bleacher voted against.

ACTION: The motion **PASSED** with one objection and no abstentions.

Liz Atkins mentioned Courtney Terwilliger could not attend today's meeting, but the EMS Committee report is included in the packet, [pgs. 71-90](#), for review. Dr. Ashley continued to the Level III/IV Committee report.

LIII/IV COMMITTEE REPORT (01:05:52)

Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson

Dr. Greg Patterson referenced the report on [page 91](#):

- The MARCH PAWS project has faced delays in the online lecture production, prompting a switch to in-house AV consultants to expedite the process. The goal is to present progress by the November meeting.
- The results of the Rural Resource Needs Assessment survey were presented today. We will continue discussing the results with Dr. Chris Scoggins and working with the committee.
- The Access to Specialty Care project will be updated in August. Results are expected by September and will be shared in the November meeting. We still hope to develop an app to improve access and coordination for rural trauma care.
- The Trauma Connections Workgroup focuses on transfer times, EMS education, feedback, and injury prevention.

Dr. Patterson addressed delays in ACS verification visits, currently 16 months out due to pandemic-related backlogs and system updates. He proposed extending the verification deadlines:

- Existing Level III Centers: From June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2027
- New Level III Centers (since November 2022): From June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2028

MOTION BY: GTC LIII/IV Committee

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-04:

Motion to extend the ACS trauma center verification deadline to June 30, 2027, for existing Level III centers and June 30, 2028, for new Level III centers.

MOTION BY: Level III/IV Committee

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Commission members discussed the importance of these extensions to ensure all centers can achieve ACS verification. They recognized the significant backlog and the need to support centers through the process. It was noted trauma centers will receive notification of the extension through their annual contacts.

GEORGIA COMMITTEE FOR TRAUMA EXCELLENCE (GCTE) REPORT (01:15:00)

Presented by Tracy Johns

Tracy Johns referenced the report on **page 92** for the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence.

- With Georgia Trauma Commission funding, 32 trauma program staff completed the AIS 08 course in February. Five of the thirty-two students took the March exam and passed, and five more will take the September exam.
- GTC contract deliverables for levels I, II, and III include TQIP continuing education requirements and 50% monthly educational experiences. This will encourage standardization of the state registry.
- The PI Subcommittee is concentrating on transfer outs and how to measure the length of stay with a concentration on defining Emergent, Urgent, and Non-Emergency time frames. Survey to trauma centers on how this is being measured at their facility.
- The Education Subcommittee has decided to develop a poster highlighting the priorities for patient care and stabilization in the “golden hour” and focusing on the priority for rapid transport to definitive care. We are continuing to work on the TPM toolkit and welcome input.
- Stop the Bleed Day is Thursday, May 23, 2024, and we have 300 scheduled to take the free Stop the Bleed webinar. The "Georgia Stay SAFE: Preventing Pediatric Firearm Injuries," Bingocize, Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Reporting initiatives are ongoing.

Tracy Johns proposed a funding request on behalf of the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence. Starting in 2025, admissions coding must be AIS 2015. We request \$22,800 to support 60 participants in taking the AIS 2015 virtual course, which costs about \$385 per person.

Tracy Johns also shared concerns regarding the Georgia Trauma Commission-required ESO platform and issues with a distributed patch, customer service, and documentation. ESO is also significantly increasing registry costs. Dr. Medeiros advised that the Georgia Trauma Commission covers 100% of Levels III and IV registry costs. Level I and II centers will see a significant cost increase and encouraged attendees to prepare their administration for the increase. It is important to note that centers have received increased readiness funding. Gina Solomon has been

working hard to negotiate group pricing. We are committed to the ArborMetrix project, but once the trial period has ended, we can certainly entertain and consider other registries. However, we will not make any changes to ensure everyone uses the same registry at this time.

The discussion shifted back to the \$23,800 funding request. It was noted that the funding request would cover most of the Level III and IV registrars, as Levels I and II have more resources to help cover costs within their centers. Dr. Medeiros advised Commission members that the funding request would use Commission residual funds to cover the cost.

MOTION BY: GTC Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-05:

Motion to approve AIS 2015 course funding, \$23,800, request for 60 participants.

MOTION BY: Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE REPORT (01:33:01)

Presented by Dr. Patrice Walker

Dr. Walker provided highlights of the recent Trauma Administrators Committee meeting:

During our Monday meeting, Valerie Rinkle with TCAA provided valuable updates focusing on billing practices, cost methodology, a script for billers, trauma advocacy for CMS, and how to get credit for the new technology we are purchasing. Valerie Rinkle recommended that administrators look into developing a Trauma Reimbursement PI team for their centers and start determining who should be a part of those teams.

Our next meeting is in August, and we will look at other ways to support our Administrators. There have been discussions regarding developing a Trauma Administrator toolkit to help new administrators and facilities coming on board, similar to the Trauma Program Manager toolkit Tracy mentioned in her report.

Dr. Walker thanked the Commission for providing the 2024 Legislative Recap and the Trauma System Stabilization Proposal handout. I recently attended the Georgia Public Health Association meeting and was able to share our funding needs as a trauma system.

Liz Atkins mentioned that there was interest in further training to enhance the effectiveness of the center's finance team and improve trauma center reimbursements. She asked the Commission to approve a \$5,000 budget to start the contracting process with Valerie Rinkle and plan a hybrid or in-person workshop.

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-06:

Motion to approve \$5,000 budget to contract Valerie Wrinkle for an additional finance training session.

MOTION BY: James "J" Smith

SECOND BY: S. Rob Todd

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion PASSED with no objections nor abstentions.

The report concluded with a discussion of the need for a finance dashboard to monitor and maximize trauma center reimbursements, addressing issues like clean claims rates and billing practices.

TRAUMA SYSTEM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (01:42:36)

Presented by Dr. James Dunne

Dr. James Dunne provided the following updates, which are referenced on **pg. 96**:

- The Committee focuses on transportation and time to definitive care, particularly addressing challenges with obtaining accurate data and the first Prehospital Care Report (PCR) from the scene to the first hospital.
- Efforts are underway to map ambulance stations in Georgia to identify EMS deserts. The project will help determine where we need to close the gap.
- Navicent and Memorial are conducting a study to analyze timelines and identify delays in the transfer process. Hopefully, in six months, we will have data to determine the time to definitive care between the two hospitals.
- The data migration from ESO to Imagetrend continues to be a challenge. The State has reduced the number of fields to help mediate data transfer. Thanks to all the registrars for all the hard work you do.
- The trauma system dashboard is on hold due to the ESO issues but will be updated soon.

Dr. J. Smith requested a point of privilege and thanked Savannah EMS and Memorial's trauma team for their swift and effective response in a recent emergency, resulting in the saved life of a friend.

TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE REPORT (01:56:22)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley provided an update on behalf of Dr. Matthew Vassy. During Monday's meeting, the committee discussed the need to reiterate a previous message to non-trauma center hospitals about transferring patients promptly when necessary without excessive workup. This initiative involved updating a poster and letter that were circulated years ago.

Dr. Dunne also shared that the committee discussed leveraging telehealth options to co-manage patients while they await transfer. Powershare was mentioned as an option to transfer radiology images between hospitals and enable real-time image access to aid in patient management. The goal is for every hospital to have access to Powershare. Committee members expressed they are generally willing to accept patients. Still, non-trauma centers often feel the need to justify transfers with additional studies, causing delays in care. This communication gap underscores the need for better support and collaboration between facilities.

Overall, the committee displayed enthusiasm and engagement in addressing these issues collaboratively. Dr. Ashley recommended that the Trauma Medical Directors and EMS Committee work together to address the transport issues ahead of the next legislative session.

SYSTEM PARTNER REPORTS

GEORGIA TRAUMA FOUNDATION REPORT (02:26:58)

Presented by Dr. John Bleacher

Dr. John Bleacher referenced the report on **pages 99-104**.

- We have one Georgia Trauma Foundation board member candidate for Commission approval, Ashley Nowell. Ashley's experience and passion for trauma care make her an ideal candidate for increasing public awareness and advocacy. It was noted that the board currently has about seven members, and the ideal range is 8-13 members. Each term is two years, with a maximum of three terms.

MOTION BY: Georgia Trauma Foundation

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-07

Motion to approve Ashley Nowell as a Georgia Trauma Foundation Board Member.

MOTION BY: Georgia Trauma Foundation

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

- The annual fundraising event at the Porche Experience Center was highly successful. Final fundraising figures are being tallied. The event saw significant support and attendance.
- The Rural Continuing Education Program has completed 18 courses, benefiting over 200 students. Plans are underway to expand and enhance the program further for the coming year.

GEORGIA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT (02:03:44)

Presented by Gina Solomon

Gina Solomon provided a brief update and referenced the report on **page 105**.

- We had a great GQIP meeting yesterday. We are still working on getting our VTE and Time to Care workgroups off the ground, and we plan to expand volunteer involvement.
- The ArborMetrix platform went live in December and now has data from 2021 to 2023 loaded. Efforts continue to increase user participation and engagement.
- The Patient Safety Organization (PSO) application has been submitted, and initial meetings with Healthcare Research and Quality are scheduled for the following week to determine the next steps.
- The next in-person GQIP meeting will occur on November 20th in Cordele, GA, preceding the Commission meeting. Discussions are ongoing about restructuring meetings to include one larger meeting and a smaller, more focused session. Plans for the 2025 Winter/Spring meeting are being developed, considering attendees' preferences for meeting cycles and locations.

OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA (OEMST) REPORT (02:07:56)

Presented by Stacey Smith

Stacey Smith reviewed their report on page 106.

- Consultative visits are ongoing to help facilities prepare for American College of Surgeons and Department of Public Health visits. These visits aim to ensure facilities have the necessary resources for

successful evaluations. Facilities needing consultations are encouraged to reach out for virtual or in-person consultations.

- Two Level I trauma centers have been reverified, with one facility upgrading from Level II to Level I. Additionally, a new Level II trauma center has been established in Region 8, addressing the healthcare needs in South Georgia. Discussions with the region's potential Level III and IV trauma centers are ongoing.
- We are collaborating with the Georgia Trauma Commission to develop a trauma dashboard and a data dictionary scheme a preparation file expected in 2025.
- The OEMST has published its annual EMS report, which is available on our website.
- Marie Probst and Gina Solomon continue to conduct data validation visits to assist with GQIP and TQIP downloads.
- Kelly Joiner is working with the Trauma Commission (Liz and Courtney) on the GA Trauma System Project to identify trauma hospitals and EMS locations (air/ground).
- Richard Rhodes, Heather Reddick, and Kelly Joiner are working with Liz and the EMS Subcommittee on Training Course maps for funded EMS courses.
- The OEMST has worked with Georgia Data Analytics Center (GDAC) to develop an EMS Workforce Dashboard and now an EMS Initial Education Dashboard that is public-facing and available to any entity/community. The EMS dashboard includes workforce distribution, demographics, license level information, and service provider information.

A question was raised about any Level III or IV centers dropping out of the system. It was confirmed that a Level IV trauma center is exiting due to financial and resource constraints, including the loss of inpatient services.

REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT (02:12:50)

Presented by Liz Atkins

It was noted Dr. Vox was unable to attend the meeting, but a motion in the committee report required attention. Liz Atkins referenced the report on **page 94** of the packet. The request pertains to the recommendation from the ACS system consult to develop benchmarks and measure performance in rehab utilization. A Shepherd Center Researcher, Dr. Raeda Anderson, will be tasked with analyzing the GQIP data to evaluate rehab utilization, identify areas of improvement, and establish benchmarks. The proposed budget for the project is \$8,980, which covers approximately 84 hours of work at \$95 per hour plus travel expenses.

MOTION BY: Rehabilitation Committee

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-08:

Motion to approve \$8,980 budget for the initial analysis of rehab data

MOTION BY: Rehabilitation Committee

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT (02:17:20)

No new business items were raised or submitted. Dr. Ashley requested a motion to adjourn.

MOTION GTCNC 2024-05-09:

Motion to adjourn

MOTION BY: S. Tob Todd

SECOND BY: Terry Cobb

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- The Commission approved the February 15, 2024, meeting minutes.
- Pete Quinones, Dr. S. Rob Todd, and Dr. James "J" Smith were appointed to the Bylaws Committee.
- Dr. Chris Scoggins, Director of Special Projects with the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, provided a comprehensive overview of the 2024 Survey of Rural Hospital Needs and Resources, a joint effort of the Georgia Trauma Commission, the Georgia State Office of Rural Health, and the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center.
- The Commission approved the FY2024 Reallocation Plan.
- The Commission approved the FY 2025 Proposed Budget.
- The Commission approved to extend the ACS trauma center verification deadline to June 30, 2027, for existing Level III centers and June 30, 2028, for new Level III centers.
- The Commission approved the AIS 2015 course funding request, \$23,800 for 60 participants.
- The Commission approved the \$5,000 budget to contract Valerie Wrinkle for an additional finance training session.
- The Commission approved Ashley Nowell as a Georgia Trauma Foundation Board Member.
- The Commission approved a \$8,980 budget for the initial analysis of rehab data.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye