



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

**APPROVED**  
**10.06.23**

## Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 14, 2023

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, TMD
Courtney Terwilliger	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member
Suzanne Gardner	AdventHealth Redmond, Trauma Registrar
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond, Trauma Program Manager
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, TPM
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional Hospital, TPM
April Dukes	Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO, VP PCS
Damien Scott	Emanuel Medical Center, CEO
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, Trauma Program Director
Judean Guinn	Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO
Brian Delashmitt	Hamilton Medical Center, CMO
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, TPM
Steve Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center, TMD
Kelli Vaughn	John D Archbold Memorial Hospital, TPM
Jeffrey Harden	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, CNO
Jan Tidwell	Piedmont Cartersville, CNO
Paula Butts	Piedmont Henry Hospitals, CNO
Richard Jacob	Piedmont Walton, TMD
Karen Hust	Piedmont Walton, TPM
Emily Brown	South Georgia Medical Center, TPM
Jolleen Thies	South Georgia Medical Center, Trauma PI Coordinator
Winston Charles	Wellstar Cobb Hospital, TPM
Kerry Carter	Wellstar Paulding, TPM
Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center, TPM
Michele Evans	Winn Army Hospital, TPM

\*Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Gabriela Saye	GTC, Executive Assistant
Gina Solomon	GTC, GQIP Director
Cheryle Ward	Georgia Trauma Foundation
Becca Hallum	Georgia Hospital Association, Associate General Counsel and Compliance Officer
John Dekle III	Liberty Regional Medical Center, ED Director



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am with 24 committee members present.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

*Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson*

Dr. Patterson asked for a motion to approve the April 21, 2023 meeting minutes.

### **MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2023-07-01:**

**Motion to approve April 21, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.**

**MOTION BY:** Courtney Terwilliger

**SECOND BY:** Damien Scott

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

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

## **MARCH PAWS**

*Presented by Courtney Terwilliger*

Dr. Patterson asked Courtney Terwilliger to provide updates on MARCH PAWS.

Courtney expressed gratitude to Dr. Register for her assistance in arranging the logistics of the first course. He acknowledged the valuable contributions of staff members, specifically Nita Ham, Cole, and Becky, who were instrumental in ensuring a smooth operation. Courtney also emphasized the importance of determining the course budget to facilitate long-term funding efforts.

During the first course, there was a shift in the initial concept of the course, which led him to realize the need for scalability. He highlighted the existence of centers with varying participant numbers, ranging from 225 people to smaller rural centers with just a team of 5. Further discussion and analysis on the logistics and feasibility of accommodating different center sizes were deemed necessary. Courtney is also reviewing the slide deck from the first-course feedback to incorporate suggested changes, such as putting “civilians” into the name of the course to distinguish it from military applications. We also identified some official course equipment required for the practical session; quotes have been requested. Karen is working on including hyperlinks to the slide deck to familiarize students with the equipment. We may also conduct a pre-course survey to identify what kind of equipment the centers use and are familiar with. The development of a treatment algorithm was discussed, with progress expected in the second phase.

The second course is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Southeastern Technical Healthcare Building in Swainsboro. The third and final course is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> at Archbold in Thomasville.

Courtney is looking to collaborate with Glenda Grant at the Rural Innovation Center to develop CEUs for physicians and nurses to encourage course participation.

## **WEB-BASED REGISTRY UPDATE**

*Presented by Gina Solomon*

Four centers have signed up for the web-hosted platform, and we have a few centers working with ESO to adopt the outcomes module version. Two centers are unable or uninterested in participating due to structural reasons. A previous survey revealed gaps in the center’s awareness of funding the purpose of the web-hosted platform for their registry, so there is an opportunity to improve communication and awareness of contract requirements.



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## **ACTION PLANNING PTSF CONSULT VISITS AND ACS SYSTEM CONSULT/RURAL FOCUSED REVIEW**

*Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson*

Dr. Patterson reviewed the 11 ACS rural-focused priority recommendations outlined in the final ACS report. Some discussion highlights are noted below.

- One recommendation outlined the need to perform a comprehensive resource and needs assessments addressing funding for rural trauma centers, emphasizing the rural aspect of EMS in trauma hospitals. As a state, we have completed financial surveys of our level three and four hospitals. Still, we may need to revisit the costs in the future to account for inflationary costs and new ACS recommendations.
- The importance of capturing EMS as part of the resource and needs assessment was also highlighted, and ideas were sought for data collection in this area. Courtney shared his involvement with the regional town hall meetings to gather information on barriers to hospital transfers and patient transportation in rural areas. There have also been collaborative efforts with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA), and other EMS stakeholders to address these challenges and discuss concerns about resources and leaving counties uncovered during transfers.
- Additionally, initiatives were discussed, such as identifying 911 EMS base locations and conducting surveys on hospital equipment and transfer issues. Dr. Patterson advised we are in discussions with UGA to geo-map EMS, trauma hospitals, and transfer capabilities to understand what is happening in the state.
- Dr. Patterson touched upon the recruitment and retention of rural providers and nursing, acknowledging the need for collaboration with medical and nursing schools to address this matter effectively. Tifani Kinard mentioned Atrium Floyd has an Enterprise Rural Team focused on rural provider recruitment and retention, looking specifically at compensation and making good progress. Dr. Patterson advised he would love to discuss their team further.
- During the ACS consult visit, there was mention of a state plan that many did not know about its existence. We need to work on following up with the state and GTC to ensure the involvement and participation of rural facilities in the state plan.
- Standardized trauma care in rural Georgia through educational programs, such as MARCH PAWS, was highlighted as a positive step forward. The need to increase the complement of emergency medicine providers and enhance the competency of existing providers in rural emergency departments was acknowledged. The focus on improving scene response times, mutual aid agreements, and developing processes for rescue stops and accelerated transfers in rural areas was discussed. As demonstrated in a California study, the concept of red box transfers drew interest for potential implementation in Georgia to reduce transfer times. Karen Hust advised the GCTE Performance Improvement Subcommittee was utilizing the red box study as a guideline to reduce transfer times in their respective facilities.
- Data entry and validity in rural facilities were addressed, with ongoing efforts by the GCTE Committee and its mentor program to provide education and collaboration opportunities. The need for process improvement training, mentorship, and support for rural trauma program managers was also mentioned.

## **ACCESS TO SPECIALTY CARE**

*Presented by Dr. Greg Patterson*

The annual assessment of specialty care and communication improvements was mentioned, with a survey planned to gather relevant data from trauma centers to determine what services and resources are available.

The meeting concluded with Dr. Patterson advising members to continue discussion and collaboration during the GQIP Summer Meeting in Savannah if attending. Participants were encouraged to reach out for any additional information or updates.



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

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

- Courtney Terwilliger provided an overview of the first MARCH PAWS course. The second MARCH PAWS course is scheduled for September 22nd at the Southeastern Technical Healthcare Building in Swainsboro. The third and final course is scheduled for October 27th at Archbold in Thomasville.
- ACS recommendations rural-focused recommendations were reviewed and accessed by the committee. Further discussions and collaboration can continue at GQIP Summer Meeting for those attending.
- Access to specialty care will be updated in August and available on the [trauma.ga.gov](http://trauma.ga.gov) website.
- The next LIII/IV Committee meeting is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM via Zoom. 2024 committee dates will be determined once Commission 2024 dates are approved.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye*