

APPROVED
08.28.23



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Budget Committee

July 17, 2023
Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Dr. Regina Medeiros, Chair, GTC Secretary/Treasurer	
Dr. Dennis Ashley, GTC Chair	
Dr. James Dunne, GTC Vice-Chair	
Courtney Terwilliger, GTC Member	

OTHERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission, Finance Operations
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Assistant

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was established at 3:30 PM on Monday, July 17, 2023, with four committee members present.

Dr. Regina Medeiros advised the meeting agenda order will be adjusted to allow Dr. Ashley time to review the trauma funding presentation.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Dr. Regina Medeiros

Dr. Medeiros asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the April or May meeting minutes.

MOTION GTCNC BUDGET COMMITTEE 2023-07-01:

Motion to approve April 17, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: Courtney Terwilliger

SECOND BY: James Dunne

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

MOTION GTCNC BUDGET COMMITTEE 2023-07-02:

Motion to approve May 23, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: James Dunne

SECOND BY: Courtney Terwilliger

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion PASSED with no objections nor abstentions.

TRAUMA SYSTEM FUNDING ASK

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley provided a condensed overview of the additional funding request presentation (**ATTACHMENT A**). Legislators seem to be giving money back in tax cuts, and revenue has picked up, making it an opportune time to ask for funding. The presentation includes thirteen years of data and is compiled into a 30-40 slide presentation detailing the history of trauma center funding. Some discussion highlights:

- Sides 19-21 show the trajectory of readiness costs compared to available funding, indicating a significant gap between the required funds and the actual allocations.
- Slides 27-31 reveal that the funding to trauma centers is only a fraction of the actual costs.
- Dr. Ashley proposed an additional funding request to cover 50% of readiness funding for level I, II, and III trauma centers and 100% of readiness for level IV centers. The total funding request would amount to \$61 million, an addition to the \$23 million currently available.
- Dr. Dunne raised concerns about understanding the revenue generated by trauma centers to justify the funding request. Dr. Ashley clarified that the uncompensated care data only involved patients without insurance, and readiness costs were adjusted to account for trauma center revenue.
- The Committee also discussed activation fees, with Dr. Ashley proposing they be considered in the revenue bucket of the hospitals; They are only applicable once patients are treated.
- Courtney Terwilliger discussed the ongoing efforts to collect data and analyze EMS needs, challenges, and readiness costs. He will attend the ACCG meeting to discuss next year's Health and Human Services platform. Regional town hall meetings are being held around the state to discuss educational training access and hospital transfer barriers.

The committee agreed to request additional funds to support trauma center readiness costs. Dr. Ashley acknowledged the ongoing efforts to address EMS challenges and emphasized working collaboratively to obtain EMS data and develop a roadmap for improvement to request additional funding in the future. The project with Dr. Eileen Bulger should provide us with a start in developing the data and story around EMS. We're also in discussions with UGA to assist with EMS cost data.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros

Dr. Medeiros noted resistance to adding additional committee members and proposed creating a finance workgroup responsible for detailed financial analysis and providing regular updates to the full Budget Committee. With the new workgroup, the committee meeting schedule will change to once a quarter, and the meeting time will need to be extended to one hour and a half to discuss crucial decisions. This approach is aimed to prevent excessive time spent on minor details and allow the committee to focus on key matters.

Dr. Medeiros and Liz Atkins will draft a workgroup member list for the Budget Committee to review.

FUNDING PROPOSALS

Presented by Liz Atkins

Liz Atkins presented two funding proposals, both totaling \$26,000:

1. GIO Proposal: We are collaborating with the Governor's Office asset to efficiently and

effectively map EMS educational efforts, real-time tracking of resources, and identify course hot spots. The proposal cost is estimated at just under \$20,000 and can be deducted from the contingency budget.

2. CNTR Mapping Proposal: Center for National Trauma Research, a mapping asset utilized to locate where EMS 911 ambulances are based. Dr. Bulger advised that getting access to that information will help us look at transport patterns throughout the state and support EMS development. The cost is estimated at \$6,000 and can be deducted from the contingency budget.

There was a concern about the need for mapping data and its practical use. Liz clarified that the mapping data would provide valuable insights for reporting, budget transparency, and identifying opportunities for improvement.

After the meeting adjourned, Liz emailed committee members the draft GIO Proposal (ATTACHMENT B) and CNTR Mapping Proposal (ATTACHMENT C)

MOTION GTCNC BUDGET COMMITTEE 2023-07-03:

Motion to approve the \$26,000 funding request to cover the GIO Proposal and the CNTR Mapping using contingency funds.

MOTION BY: Courtney Terwilliger

SECOND BY: Dr. Regina Medeiros

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Before adjournment, Dr. Medeiros wanted to ensure all budget committee members supported moving forward with the funding request. All committee members expressed their support.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Discussed the additional trauma center funding request and expressed support to proceed with the current presentation.
- Discussed creating a finance workgroup in lieu of adding new committee members. Dr. Medeiros and Liz Atkins will draft a workgroup member list for the Budget Committee to review.
- The \$26,000 funding request was approved to cover the GIO Proposal and the CNTR Mapping using contingency funds.

MOTION GTCNC BUDGET COMMITTEE 2023-07-04:

Motion to adjourn

MOTION BY: James Dunne

SECOND BY: Courtney Terwilliger

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion

ACTION: The motion **PASSED** with no objections and no abstentions

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM

Minutes by G. Saye