



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

APPROVED
11.21.24

Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 19, 2024

7:00 am to 8:00 am

Zoom

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT*	REPRESENTING
Alicia Register	Committee Vice-Chair/Crisp Regional, TMD
Courtney Terwilliger	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member
Cindy Hoggard	AdventHealth Redmond, Director ER/Trauma
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond, TPM
Tifani Kinard	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, VP of Rural Health
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, TPM
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional, TPM
April Dukes	Crisp Regional, CNO, VP PCS
David Kiefer	Effingham Health System, TMD
Lindsey Lewis	Effingham Health System, Trauma Coordinator
Will Soto	Effingham Health System, TPM
Olalekan Akinyokunbo	Emanuel Medical Center, TMD
Damien Scott	Emanuel Medical Center, CEO
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, TPD
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, TPM
Steve Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center, TMD
Greg Patterson	J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
Cianna Pender	J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TMD
Kelli Vaughn	J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TPM
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM
Jan Tidwell	Piedmont Cartersville, CNO
Kristen Gentry	Piedmont Cartersville, TPM
Paula Butts	Piedmont Henry Hospital, CNO
Jay Connelly	Piedmont Henry Hospital, Director of Trauma
Justin Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital, PI Coordinator
Mark Benak	Piedmont Walton, TMD
James Polston	Piedmont Walton, TPM
Stevanie Reynolds	Piedmont Walton Hospital, CNO
Emily Brown	SGMC Health, Director of EMS and Trauma
Chelsea Carter	SGMC Health, TPM
Alyssa Monda	WellStar Cobb, Interim TPM
Kerry Carter	Wellstar Paulding, TPM
Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center, TPM



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*Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code.

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Becca Hallum	Georgia Hospital Association, Associate General Counsel
Adriana Marquina	Georgia Hospital Association, Legal intern
Nita Ham	Georgia State Office of Rural Health, Senior Director
Elizabeth Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Business Operations Manager
Crystal Shelnett	Georgia Trauma Commission, System Planner
Gina Solomon	Georgia Trauma Commission, GQIP Director
Katie Vaughn	Georgia Trauma Commission, Finance Operations Officer
Cheryle Ward	Georgia Trauma Foundation, Executive Director
Thara Adams Dukes	Memorial Satilla Health, Trauma Coordinator
Adalynn Rath	Wellstar Douglas, Trauma Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 a.m., with 39 committee members present. Dr. Alicia Register welcomed everyone and started the meeting by approving the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Presented by Dr. Alicia Register

Dr. Register requested a motion to approve the April meeting minutes.

[MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2024-07-01:](#)
Motion to approve April 19, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: Damien Scott

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

- Residual funds allowed us to provide additional funding across the trauma centers. The funding formulas have also undergone a major overhaul, the most significant since the Commission's inception. For levels 3 and 4, the distribution has shifted from a stipend-based system to a new formula. Using new readiness cost data, levels 1, 2, and 3 will now receive a uniform percentage of readiness funding, leading to a notable increase for level 3 centers. Although we didn't have as detailed data for level 4 centers and only received an additional 4 million of the 61 million requested, readiness funding for level 4 has increased to \$40,000. Overall, this is a positive update, and you should be pleased with your contracts.



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- Revenue from the Super Speeder and fireworks programs continues to grow. The Super Speeder funds increased by about \$1.2 million for FY24, which will be allocated for FY26. Even though FY25 has just started, we are already planning for FY26. Fireworks revenue, however, is reported differently and will be available once included in the Governor's budget.
- We are reviewing the performance-based pay system and plan to adopt a more flexible, tiered approach based on feedback. This will prevent losing all funding for missing a few meetings. Participation requirements will be adjusted to accommodate smaller centers. Currently, level 1 and 2 centers are 80% at risk, level 3 centers are 60% at risk, and level 4 centers are also included.
- We have a call this afternoon for level 4 centers to discuss a plan for improving integrator reliability, which is a key issue for level 4 due to limited registry resources. With the launch of ArborMetrix, data quality is crucial. We have a potential solution, though it comes with a significant cost. We want to ensure everyone is on board and discuss how we'll handle contracts individually to protect data integrity. The Top Runner Company will join the call to explain how their solution can benefit you.

MARCH PAWS UPDATE

Presented by Courtney Terwilliger

Meetings with videographer groups have been unproductive, so a new group recommended by Damien Scott will be contacted. We are discussing a potential grant program for training equipment, such as EZ I/O kits. Collaboration with Mercer on a rural hospital survey is underway to identify additional needs. They plan to begin recordings with various doctors and instructors in the next 2-3 weeks. Dr. Register encouraged those interested in becoming instructors or assisting with March PAWS to reach out.

Rural and Non-Trauma Center Resources and Demographic Survey

Presented by Dr. Alicia Register

At the May Commission meeting, Dr. Chris Scoggins, Director of Special Projects at the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, presented the results of the 2024 Survey of Rural Hospital Needs and Resources, a joint effort by the Georgia Trauma Commission, Georgia State Office of Rural Health, and the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center. Dr. Register reviewed that presentation, highlighting the 94% response rate from the 66 hospitals and the excellent support from Nita Ham in obtaining the data. The discussion reviewed survey responses with discussions around the strengths and weaknesses of designated and non-designated rural centers and opportunities for support and collaboration with those partners. Tifani Kinard suggested presenting this information at the GHA Rural Health meeting in August if the schedule will accommodate the late addition.

Trauma Connections Group Update

Presented by Rachel Hand

The Trauma Connections group meets monthly and includes Level 3 and Level 4 Trauma Program Managers (TPMs) and other interested parties. This group offers a platform for discussion, assistance with obstacles, and resource sharing. Recent meetings in May, June, and July focused on preparation for upcoming ACS visits, interrater reliability processes, and report writer tools for data validation. Participants have shared various resources, such as PIPS plans. The July 17th meeting also covered mortality review processes, mental health screening, and referral procedures. The group continues to expand its resource-sharing capabilities, meeting its intended goals.



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NEW BUSINESS | ACS VERIFICATION DEADLINE EXTENSION

Presented by Dr. Register & Liz Atkins

The new deadline for ACS verification for existing Level 3 trauma centers is June 30, 2027, while the deadline for new Level 3 trauma centers is June 30, 2028.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Tifani Kinard and Damien Scott will work to secure time at the GHA meeting to present the 2024 Survey of Rural Hospital Needs and Resources.
- Courtney Terwilliger will continue to work in securing a videographer and instructors for the upcoming MARCH PAWS recordings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 AM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Crystal Shelnett