**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

**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](https://trauma.georgia.gov/events/2024-07-19/gtc-level-iii-and-iv-committee-meeting)

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

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

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

**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 Shelnutt*