

**APPROVED**  
**10.12.23**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Georgia Trauma Commission Called EMS Committee

### Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/rZpu7ImTXv4>

Attachments: [trauma.ga.gov](https://trauma.ga.gov)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chair, GTC Member	Pete Quinones, Region Three   GTC Member
Lee Oliver, Vice-Chair, Region Five	
Scott Stephens, Region One	
Jeff Adams, Region Two (via Zoom)	
Scott Roberts, Region Four (via Zoom)	
John Smith, Region Six (via Zoom)	
Duane Montgomery, Region Seven (via Zoom)	
Allen Owens, Region Eight (via Zoom)	
Brian Hendrix, Region Nine	
Huey Atkins, Region Ten	
Vic Drawdy, GTC Member (via Zoom)	
Jim Adkins, GTC Member	

OTHERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gina Solomon	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Kim Littleton	GEMSA
Cathy White	GEMSA
Kierra Ross	Georgia Hospital Association
Tim Boone	AVLS
Vincent Harris	OEMS/T
Ryan Hollingsworth	OEMS/T
Michael Johnson	OEMS/T
Bernard Restrepo	OEMS/T
Richard Rhodes	OEMS/T

Kristal Smith	Atrium Navicent/R5 RTAC
Crystal Shelnett	Region 10 RTAC
Danielle Johnson	Region 3 RTAC
Farrah Parker	Region 6 RTAC
Brian Dorriety	Region 7 RTAC

## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 20, 2023, with twelve of the thirteen members present. Due to recent committee member changes, Courtney asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

### **APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2023, AND MAY 19, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

*Presented By Courtney Terwilliger*

After introductions, Courtney Terwilliger requested a motion to approve the April and May meeting minutes or advise of any changes.

#### **MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-07-01:**

**Motion to approve April 20, 2023, and May 19, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted**

**MOTION BY:** Scott Roberts

**SECOND BY:** Lee Oliver

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

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

### **GTC UPDATE**

*Presented By Liz Atkins*

- We have formed a Trauma System Executive Leadership to address the ACS Trauma System Consult Report recommendations. Members include Liz Atkins, Dr. Dennis Ashley, Xavier Crockett, April Moss, and Michael Johnson.
- Initial contracting with Dr. Eileen Bulger, a trauma surgeon at UW with a paramedic by background, is ongoing. One of the initial projects is GIO mapping the location of all 911 vehicles in proximity to trauma centers.
- Liz Atkins shared the initial draft of the Trauma System Dashboard (**ATTACHMENT A**). Metrics include trauma registry patients, EMS scene times, mortality rates, and time to definitive care. The draft represents raw numbers and will evolve over time.
- Dr. Ashley has determined it is time to ask for more funding. Liz reviewed the trauma center additional funding request presentation (**ATTACHMENT B**), which proposed to bring funding up to cover 50% of readiness costs for level I, II, and III centers, and 100% of level IV center readiness costs, totaling \$61 million.
  - There is still a need to collect EMS data to support funding requests. The committee discussed options for generating revenue, such as tire disposal fees or car tag fees. Liz Atkins advised the importance of compiling EMS data to build a strong economic case. Courtney asked if anyone has gone through the CMS collection on costs; please contact him as he is interested to learn what costs are reported.
- The RTAC Coordinator contracts include providing a trauma educational needs assessment for

their region. This will help support a more data-driven process around state educational initiatives and complement the mapping. EMS Council, RTAC Chair, RTAC Coordinator, and EMS Committee region representatives should collaborate to identify your region's educational needs.

### **AVLS UPDATE**

*Presented By Dr. Tim Boone*

Dr. Tim Boone referenced the FY 2023 Q4 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT C**) and reviewed the following:

**1. Support Deliverables**

Time spent troubleshooting with various agencies: adding units, activating SIMS, CAD integration for the AMN, getting units online, renaming gateways, etc. Supply chain issues have gotten better with a quicker turnaround than before.

**2. Total Unit Usage**

- 1134/1443, 79% active

**3. Current counties without AVLS**

- Cherokee: Currently in discussion
- Camden: In discussion
- Chattahoochee/Muscogee: Not likely
- Dekalb: Meeting with AMR and Dekalb Fire
- Gwinnett: Have their own system
- Long: Opened discussion with Dr. Graham
- Lumpkin: County Purchased CradlePoint from FirstNet
- Region 3 has units dropping out of the system. Grady and Clayton County are transitioning to other systems, utilizing their funds.

**4. MG90 Quick Reference Guide**

- The latest edition is posted on the [trauma.ga.gov](https://trauma.ga.gov) website.

**5. Review of Airtime Log**

- More agencies are switching to Southern Linc, one of the most expensive AVLS options.
- T-Mobile has proposed to provide us with 90-day SIMs to pass out to agencies interested in trying them out. There is a way to track which SIM card the ambulance utilizes the most. If agencies switch to T-Mobile, it could provide substantial savings.

**6. AVLS Spending**

- Q4 AVLS Gateways Purchased: \$134,348 of \$134,884 FY 2023 Budget. \$536 was left over at the end of the year.

**ATTACHMENT D** has been provided to committee members for the Q4 gateway review.

### **GEMSA UPDATE**

*Presented By Kim Littleton*

Kim Littleton reviewed **ATTACHMENT E** with committee members, which details FY2023 course types, number of courses held, number of students attended with mapping, and number of contact hours achieved. In FY2023, GEMSA had 3123 students and 189,048 contact hours. Some notes:

- All FY2024 trauma skill labs are placed except for regions 9 and 4.
- There are events where an agency cannot complete its EMR-EMT course, but we work to award another agency on the list with grant funding. For FY2024, we have awarded all requests for the upcoming year.
- Our Auto Extrication courses have an emphasis on patient care during extrication.
- Kim is working with NAEMT to discuss training site requirements workaround since GEMSA brings in the equipment necessary for the course.

After the FY2023 Education Report, Kim reviewed the public service announcement video (link) and marketing strategy (**ATTACHMENT F**). Some notes:

- The public service announcement video has been developed to promote EMS careers utilizing FY2023 funds.
- The video will have some tweaks with a cover and end piece, incorporating additional logos.
- The reason for utilizing more Air Evac images was to use local Middle Georgia services to forgo paying hotels or per diems for the video crew to travel. We do want to incorporate more ground ambulances or slow the transition time in the video.
- South Carolina has already completed a PSA and has collected data and feedback. We can work off their successes for seamless marketing dissemination.
- We are discussing with Dr. Charles Alexander to develop a brief animation video highlighting the appropriate use of EMS.
- Committee members suggested directing interested students to local EMS providers in addition to contacting GEMSA to avoid the appearance of solely promoting GEMSA. Kim added that GEMSA will have a webpage linking students to resources and schools.
- Courtney Terwilliger advised that the PSA marketing funding was voted for and approved in the FY2024 budget discussions.
- Liz advised the Committee to approve the final video edits via email.

In other updates, Kim advised that they have been involved in the regional town hall meetings and plan to provide the committee with a synopsis of those meetings to inform them of their challenges. We have also partnered with the ER Nurses Association for our October conference to include a nursing track.

### **EMS FUNDING**

*No updates*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT**

*Presented By Courtney Terwilliger*

We need to look at a more effective allocation of grant funding that aligns with our mission. Please let me know if anyone has any ideas.

Gabriela Saye brought the next grant application period to the committee's attention. The Georgia Trauma Commission staff proposes starting the next grant application in October and payment processing in November. The need to inform all agencies well in advance was emphasized with a save-the-date to be distributed and uploaded to the website. Katie will need the updated ambulance counts from the Office of EMS and Trauma. It was advised to send the committee the updated ambulance and last year's counts to compare. Liz recommended scheduling an informal call to discuss any outstanding concerns regarding ambulance counts and the grant application before the October application period.

#### **IMMEDIATE TRANSFER TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE**

*Presented By Courtney Terwilliger*

We met at the State Office of Rural Health with representatives from the Association of County Commissioners, the Georgia Hospital Association, the State Office of EMS and Trauma, and the Georgia Trauma Commission. We discussed the barriers regarding the immediate transfer of time-sensitive patients. We are working with the Mercer Innovation Center to create a questionnaire to assess critical

patient transportation difficulties and to obtain actionable data.

### **MARCH PAWS**

*Presented By Courtney Terwilliger*

The first MARCH PAWS session occurred a few weeks ago in Cordele, Georgia. Participants were asked to provide feedback on the slides. We found that additional equipment was needed and is currently in progress. It was found that the course must be scalable to accommodate smaller centers with limited equipment and smaller teams. The next course, a more formal version, is scheduled for September in Swainsboro.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **EMS COMMITTEE MEETING CADENCE**

*Presented By Lee Oliver*

The committee discussed alternate meeting dates due to schedule conflicts. Changing the cadence from the third Thursday to the second Tuesday of every third month was proposed. The next committee meeting will be updated from October 19<sup>th</sup> to October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

#### **MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-07-02:**

**Motion to change the EMS Committee meeting cadence to the second Tuesday of every third month.**

**MOTION BY:** Lee Oliver

**SECOND BY:** Allen Owens

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

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

#### **DOT HOSPITAL SIGNAGE**

*Presented By Jim Adkins*

Jim Adkins proposed asking every state EMS agency to look at the hospital signs in their community. Many signs are missing, knocked down, or do not have directional arrows. The Governor's Office of Highway Safety has reviewed the proposal, and they endorse the project. The Department of Transportation Sign Shop manager is also ready to start.

#### **MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-07-03:**

**Motion to support the DOT Hospital Sign Project by reaching out to EMS agencies regarding their community's hospital signs**

**MOTION BY:** Jim Adkins

**SECOND BY:** Lee Oliver

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

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

Courtney Terwilliger advised taking the sign project to the town hall meetings and developing a letter to distribute to the EMS agencies. Cathy White stated GEMSA could develop a SurveyMonkey to collect responses from EMS agencies.

#### **2023 EMT-R PASS RATE ANALYSIS**

*Presented By Richard Rhodes*

Data was presented (**ATTACHMENT G**) to show the success rates and course lengths of various EMR programs across the state. Based on the analysis, it was decided not to lower the required course hours from the current 80-hour requirement.

Courtney stated that the committee's previous discussion focused on supporting funding for the 50-hour DOT program to provide students instruction on CPR, Stop the Bleed, and initial care. If we don't fund the 50-hour DOT program, it will cost more in instructor time. We can discuss the funding request further at the next meeting.

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

- Liz reviewed Georgia Trauma Commission updates, including the additional trauma center funding request, a review of the trauma system dashboard, and the formation of the Trauma System Executive Leadership group. In addition, she advised that RTAC Coordinator contracts include the deliverable of providing a trauma educational needs assessment for each region. EMS Council, RTAC Chair, RTAC Coordinator, and EMS Committee region representatives should collaborate to identify your region's educational needs.
- Dr. Tim Boone reviewed the FY2023 Q4 AVLS Report highlighting that T-Mobile has proposed providing us 90-day SIMs to pass out to agencies interested in trying them out.
- Kim Littleton reviewed FY2023 courses totaling 189,048 contact hours. The committee also reviewed the Public Service Announcement video and provided feedback. Liz advised the Committee to approve the final video edits via email.
- The next EMS Equipment Grant application will start on October 1 and end on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Grant payments will be processed in November. Liz recommended scheduling an informal call to discuss any outstanding concerns regarding ambulance counts and the grant application before the October application period.
- MARCH PAWS first course iteration has been completed. The next course will take place in September at Swainsboro.
- Committee approved committee meeting cadence from the third Thursday to the second Thursday of every third month.
- The committee approved support of Jim Adkin's DOT Hospital Sign Project by contacting EMS agencies regarding their community's hospital signs. Cathy White will work with Jim Adkins to develop a survey for feedback.
- Richard Rhodes reviewed the success rates of various EMR programs across the state. Courtney wished to discuss funding the 50-hour DOT program at the next meeting.

#### **MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-07-04:** **Motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION BY:** Jim Adkins

**SECOND BY:** Lee Oliver

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye