

**APPROVED**  
**10.23.23**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Trauma Administrators Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 24, 2023

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Zoom

[Meeting Material](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	REPRESENTING
Dr. Michelle Wallace Dr. Dennis Ashley Patrice Walker Mark Schreiber April Dukes Christopher Ruiz Amy Davis Ross Kemp Amy Griffin Jeffrey Harden Angela Gary Becky Weidler Dee Burkett Jan Tidwell Marty Wynn Randy Smith Frances van Beek Karim Godamunne	<b>Committee Chair</b> , Grady Health System Georgia Trauma Commission, Chair Atrium Health Navicent, CMO Augusta University Medical Center, CNO Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO Doctors Hospital of Augusta, VP of Trauma Services Effingham Health System, CNO Fairview Park Hospital (HCA), COO J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, CNO/Sr VP of Patient Care Services Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, CNO Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Exec Director Trauma/ED/Obs/Medical Transport Northside Gwinnett, Director Emergency/Trauma Services Piedmont Athens Regional, Executive Director, Patient Services Piedmont Cartersville, CNO Piedmont Walton, CFO South Georgia Medical Center, COO Wellstar, AVP, Trauma & Neuro Services Wellstar North Fulton Hospital, CMO
APPOINTED DESIGNEES	REPRESENTING
Cindy Hoggard Laura Jones Judean Guinn Karen Young Cary Burcham Jay Connelly	Advent Health Redmond, Director Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Vice President Emergency Services Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO Morgan Medical Center, Director of Nursing and Risk Management Piedmont Columbus, CNO Piedmont Henry, Dir. Trauma

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Dr. Michelle Wallace, GTC Member Dr. Dennis Ashley, GTC Chair	Elizabeth V. Atkins, GTC, Executive Director Gabriela Saye, GTC, Executive Assistant Gina Solomon, GTC, GQIP Director

### **Call to Order: (00:00:05 on the recording)**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM with eighteen committee members and six committee member designees present. Dr. Wallace thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

### **Approval of April 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes: (00:00:37)**

Dr. Wallace asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes.

**[MOTION GTCNC TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE 2023-07-01:](#)**  
**Motion to approve April 24, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.**



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**MOTION BY:** Dee Burkett

**SECOND BY:** Becky Weilder

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

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

## **Georgia Trauma Commission Updates: (00:01:15)**

### ***Presented by Liz Atkins***

After the meeting minutes approval, Dr. Wallace asked Liz Atkins to provide any Georgia Trauma Commission updates:

### **Trauma System Executive Leadership Committee**

In response to the action planning required by the American College of Surgeons Trauma System Consult, the Trauma System Executive Leadership Committee was formed. This includes dyad leadership from the Department of Public Health and the Georgia Trauma Commission: Dr. Dennis Ashley, Elizabeth Atkins, Xavier Crockett, April Moss, and Michael Johnson. Our big task is to inform the public about each agency's function within Georgia's Trauma System.

### **Dr. Eileen Bulger's Contract**

Eileen Bulger, at the University of Washington, and Bulger Research Group, contract is in process. She is a paramedic by background, a trauma surgeon, and the Chief of Trauma and Medical Director at the University of Washington. We are contracting with her to provide research within the pre-hospital space and obtain data to drive some initiatives. With the help of the Coalition for National Trauma Research (CNTR), we will do a mapping analysis of the location of all 911 vehicles in proximity to the trauma centers.

### **Trauma System Dashboard**

We are starting to assemble the bones of a Georgia Trauma System Dashboard. The dashboard will include critical measures in the ongoing trauma system assessment and monitoring.

## **Cost vs. Funding Data Presentation (05:30)**

### ***Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley***

Dr. Ashley presented an overview of a proposal for additional trauma center funding (**ATTACHMENT A**), seeking committee input and support. The overview included:

- Patient stories, information about the difference between trauma centers and emergency rooms, the development and evolution of performance-based pay, and highlighting the success of the Georgia Trauma System in improving quality access.
- Review of the key trauma center financial drivers and the funding trauma center's currently receive for readiness and uncompensated care costs. The data shows a need for increased funding to adequately fund and support trauma centers.
- The funding proposal requests the state fund 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.

The committee discussed the timeline for presenting the funding proposal to the legislature. Liz Atkins clarified that establishing a connection with the Governor's Office is their first step. We cannot present in this upcoming session since the Office of Planning and Budget has already started preparing next year's budget. Dr. Wallace



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mentioned no other agencies comparable to the Georgia Trauma Commission related to healthcare and quality, but she will ask to make sure. The Georgia Trauma Commission has strong partnerships with trauma center government affairs representatives, the Georgia Hospital Association, and a handful of legislators sympathetic to the trauma cause.

Dr. Michelle Wallace advised adding the Cost vs. Funding Data as a follow-up item for the October committee meeting for any questions. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to provide suggestions or ask for clarification. You may also want to socialize this with your government relations representatives for feedback.

There was a brief discussion regarding if the local government chooses not to proceed with Medicaid expansion, supporting uncompensated care for vulnerable populations could be the way to go.

### **GCC: Trauma Transfer Diversion Update (00:55:04)**

***Presented by Dr. Michelle Wallace***

We have had two trauma center diversion meetings in the last month with deliverables to be met. I sent diversion processes to the smaller group, Georgia, and multiple other states, with limited definition feedback. I will get another meeting scheduled in August.

Imagetrend went live on July 1<sup>st</sup>; it, the new GCC board will be used for mass casualties and so forth throughout the state. If you have any questions, please let me know. The next step is looking at what the communication platform will look like.

### **Summary of Meeting and Action Items(00:58:08)**

***Presented by Michelle Wallace***

- Elizabeth Atkins provided Georgia Trauma Commission updates on the Trauma System Executive Leadership Committee, contact status with Dr. Eileen Bulger, and the Trauma System Dashboard.
- Dr. Dennis Ashley presented **ATTACHMENT A** to the committee to review the additional trauma center proposal to be presented to legislators. Dr. Michelle Wallace advised adding the Cost vs. Funding Data as a follow-up item for the October committee meeting for any questions. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to provide suggestions or ask for clarification. You may also want to socialize this with your government relations representatives for feedback.
- Trauma Center Diversion meeting to be scheduled in August.
- Please let Dr. Michelle Wallace know if you have questions regarding the Imagetrend platform. The following steps will include looking at what the communication platform will entail.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2023, at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye*