**TO BE APPROVED**

**Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE)**

**August 1, 2024**

**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

[**Trauma.ga.gov meeting link**](https://trauma.georgia.gov/events/2024-08-01/gtc-georgia-committee-trauma-excellence-gcte-meeting)

**Tracy Johns, Atrium Health Navicent**

**GCTE Chair**

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| **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT** | **REPRESENTING** |
| Tracy Johns*, Chair*Kyndra Holm, *Education*Susanne Edwards, *Pediatric*Kristal Smith/Karrie Page*, Injury Prevention and Outreach*Rayma Stephens/Ashley Bullington, *Performance Improvement*Colleen Horne, *Registry*Jesse Gibson *Chair, former* | Atrium Health NavicentWellstar MCG Children's Hospital of GeorgiaChildren’s Healthcare of AtlantaAtrium Health Navicent/ Memorial Health Meadows HospitalNorthside Gwinnett Hospital/Crisp Regional HospitalNorthside Gwinnett HospitalNortheast Georgia Medical Center |

| **ATTENDEES** |
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| **FIRST NAME** | **LAST NAME** | **ORGANIZATION** |
| SuzanneCindyNicoleMonicaKatieMelissaCrystalRobynAngelaJosephineJoannaTracyBrennaKeshaKristalAliciaSusanneKarenAshleyAprilCharlyLauraDanlinMarieStaceeOlalekanGailJessicaLawrenceSamanthaReginaAndreaTeriJoySteveJenniferSharonaAmy AnniaLeighEmilyRockyEmilyAngelaStaceyRogerAlanBarbaraAlanaPamelaKimLaurenKathrynFarrahJessicaMary BethTammieKimKarrieWhitneyTharasusanChristieJesseLindaBlancaCarolJennaMorganJessicaNadirahDanaTracyColleenKimRaymaBeckyDeborahJenniferNicoleHeatherStephanieShannonBradKristenAmyCaitlinMarilynKellyTamaraShalondaJayJustinMarylynnJamesKmberlyLisaChelseaTetraStephanieAlyssaCristinaAdalynnDanaDanielleGraceJamieTaitianaBrianRaqealAshleyDawnReginaPatriciaKyndraElizabethRhondaJasonKerryAndreaVaughnRachel | GardnerHoggardSundholmTrotterHastyParrisWynnAxlundBartonFabico-DulinGossJohnsMcClurePatelSmithCochranEdwardsHillBullingtonDukesUsseryLunsfordLuoProbstSmithAkinyokunboThorntonAstrellaBlairBuchananCannonCostanzoCraigElebyElmgrenFreemanGriffknJeunePackPageRothenbergRussellSanabriaShipleySmithSoThomasValadezVanderbergBrownZavalaEberlyParkerDavisGoodwinRussellKottemannPageWilliamsonDukesJacksonMathisGibsonGreeneHinojosaGerrinHowellKrauseMantoothBurgessDavisHarrisHorneSmithStephensWeidlerAndersonTalkingtonHesteeMorganStriblingThomasCothranGentryStephensDejesus-RodrigoDunlapGasserPattersonWrightConnellyKeetonSullivanPolstonReusmannWeitzmanCarterJenkinsGreensteinMondaSoto-OlveraRathBouseJohnsonMillsVan NessWoodsBaysBeardFairclothFairclothMedeirosSmithHolmFolseJonesLanyonCarterMcCarsonTejedorHand | AdventHealth RedmondAdventHealth RedmondAdventHealth RedmondAdventHealth RedmondAtrium Health FloydAtrium Health FloydAtrium Health FloydAtrium Health NavicentAtrium Health NavicentAtrium Health NavicentAtrium Health NavicentAtrium Health NavicentAtrium Health NavicentAtrium Health NavicentAtrium Health NavicentChildren's Healthcare of AtlantaChildren's Healthcare of AtlantaChildren's Healthcare of AtlantaCrisp Regional HospitalCrisp Regional HospitalCrisp Regional HospitalDoctors Hospital Of AugustaDPH OEMSTDPH OEMSTDPH OEMSTEmanuel Medical CenterEmanuel Medical CenterGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyGradyHamilton Medical CenterHamilton Medical CenterHCAJMS Burn Center at Doctors HospitalJohn D. Archbold Memorial HospitalJohn D. Archbold Memorial HospitalLiberty Regional Medical CenterLifeLink of GeorgiaMemorial Health Meadows HospitalMemorial Health University Medical CenterMemorial Satilla HealthMorgan Medical CenterMorgan Medical CenterNortheast Georgia Medical CenterNortheast Georgia Medical CenterNortheast Georgia Medical CenterNortheast Georgia Health SystemNortheast Georgia Medical CenterNortheast Georgia Medical CenterNortheast Georgia Medical CenterNorthside Hospital GwinnettNorthside Hospital GwinnettNorthside Hospital GwinnettNorthside Hospital GwinnettNorthside Hospital GwinnettNorthside Hospital GwinnettNorthside Hospital GwinnettParallonPhoebe PutneyPiedmont Athens RegionalPiedmont Athens RegionalPiedmont Athens RegionalPiedmont Athens RegionalPiedmont Cartersville Medical CenterPiedmont Cartersville Medical CenterPiedmont Cartersville Medical CenterPiedmont Columbus RegionalPiedmont Columbus RegionalPiedmont Columbus RegionalPiedmont Columbus RegionalPiedmont Columbus RegionalPiedmont Henry HospitalPiedmont Henry HospitalPiedmont Henry HospitalPiedmont Walton HospitalPiedmont Walton HospitalPiedmont Walton HospitalSouth Georgia Medical CenterWashington County Regional Medical CenterWellstarWellStar CobbWellStar CobbWellstar DouglasWellstar KennestoneWellstar KennestoneWellstar KennestoneWellstar KennestoneWellstar KennestoneWellstar MCGWellstar MCGWellstar MCGWellstar MCGWellstar MCGWellstar MCGWellstar MCG/Children’s Hospital of GAWellstar North Fulton HospitalWellstar North Fulton HospitalWellstar North Fulton HospitalWellstar PauldingWellstar PauldingWellstar Spalding Medical CenterWellstar West Georgia Medical Center |

| **TOPIC** | **DISCUSSION** |
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| Call to Order/Approval MinsIntro of New Members | Tracy Johns, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE), a committee of the Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC), to order at 2:00 pm.After the roll call, Tracy requested a motion to approve the May 20th meeting minutes:**MOTION GCTE 2024-08-01:****Motion to approve May 20, 2024, meeting minutes.****MOTION:** Ashley Bullington**SECOND:** Susanne Edwards**DISCUSSION:** None **ACTION:** The motion***PASSED*** with no objections nor abstentionsAfter minutes approval, Tracy asked new committee members to introduce themselves. |
| Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) Update | Liz Atkins provided the following updates:* FY 2024 amendments and FY 2025 renewals have been distributed to contracted trauma centers. Please let us know if you encounter any barriers when processing these contracts.
* Super speeder revenues have increased by $1.2 million compared to FY 2023. The additional revenue will be included in the 2025 legislative budget recommendations.
* The funding formula for trauma centers has been revamped, particularly benefiting Levels III and IV. Now, readiness funding is based on specific cost results, with Level IV centers receiving a significant increase in funding despite their low readiness cost data. We are continuing to fund Level III and IV registry actual costs.
* The criteria for Performance-Based Pay (PBP) are under review, with plans to implement a tiered system for meeting attendance to ensure fairness and encourage participation.
* Funding has been approved for a virtual AIS 15 update course. Based on demand, a full course may be offered in the future.
* We working to see what IRR program we can stand up for Level IV centers. It would have to be done on a reimbursement basis-more information is forthcoming.
* A TCAA Finance Team webinar is scheduled for August 19th, with a high number of attendee registrations. The goal is to align different departments to speak the same financial language and address the complexities of trauma activation fees. The Trauma Administrators Committee meeting was cancelled for August 19th to allow them the opportunity to attend the webinar.
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| Office of EMS & Trauma (OEMST) Update | Marie Probst provided the following updates:We have presented to the GTC Trauma System Performance Committee and the GCTE Registrar Subcommittee a change to the Georgia 2025 Criteria for the trauma registry records. We want to align our Georgia registry criteria with the NTDS criteria. The purpose of this change is because our Georgia data quality processes and analysis, through your participation with Gina and GQIP, have matured our data system to the point that we need our criteria to align with the national criteria. There won't be any more guessing year to year about what the state criteria include or don't include. The 2025 year is a good mid-decade year to align for research purposes, and we know there's a clean break in the data there. When looking at your reports, your GQIP and TQIP data would be more comparable to apples to apples instead of apples to oranges. We are open to comments and your feedback. That data dictionary criteria will be adopted once we reach the September 1st date. We had a quick call this morning with ESO at our monthly state-level call. Danielle wanted everybody to know that the ICD 10 code updates for V5 users will be released in a few weeks, but I would anticipate it by the end of August. If you haven't received your update, please contact ESO's tech support. ACS has not released the 2025 into the data dictionary yet, meaning the vendors cannot prepare the schema for the following year until everybody gets that data dictionary. So, ESO is aware that the delay will affect their development schedules. They will work as diligently as they can. That also affects ImageTrend users because they will prepare the needed schema so that you can download it from your ESO system to the instrument registry.Stacee Smith provided the following updates:* Four Level IV consults have been completed to help facilities prepare for designation. Please contact Stacee if your facility is interested in schedule a consultation or interested in becoming designated.
* Congratulations to Effingham on their Level IV redesignation.
* Kelly Joiner and Liz Atkins are working together to identify opportunities for air and ground locations across the State.
* Richard and Heather are going on training courses.

Tracy Johns encouraged members to request ACS survey dates well in advance as ACS is scheduling for September 2025 and beyond. |
| Georgia Trauma Foundation Update | Deferred |
| Georgia Quality Improvement Program Update | Gina Solomon provided the following updates:* Thank you to all for the timely first-quarter downloads amidst the numerous updates and changes. The first quarter file was successfully submitted to ArborMetrix, with a pending upload soon.
* A new process measure for VTE is being developed. The VTE workgroup has reviewed the first draft and is also working on a state-generic VTE protocol, similar to previous protocols for VAP and multimodal approaches.
* A quarterly virtual call is scheduled for August 20th. An in-person fall meeting is scheduled for November 20th in Cordele, GA. This fall meeting will be more intimate and may set a precedent for future meetings, potentially transitioning to one large annual meeting and one smaller one. The tentative date and location of the Winter 2025 meeting will be shared soon.
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| Subcommittee Reports | **Education:** Kyndra Holm provided the following updates:* The first draft of the Trauma Program Manager toolkit is complete and has been sent to stakeholders for initial review. Feedback from Stacee at DPH OEMST will be incorporated into the document. The workgroup and GCTE leadership will review the revised draft for final approval. The goal is to disseminate the toolkit by October 1st.
* The Essential Trauma Nursing Skills project aims to guide and support nurses in non-trauma centers. Keith from Savannah is leading this effort, creating a poster and PowerPoint presentation. The content is designed to be concise and easily accessible for quick reference and minimal training. The expected completion and dissemination date is November 1st.

**Pediatric**: Susanne Edwards provided the following update on behalf of Kellie Rowker:* Children's Healthcare is searching for a physician team lead as the current Trauma Medical Directors are adjusting to the new organization and the State of Georgia.
* We are collaborating with various centers to provide additional information and resources on the Shock Index Pediatric Adjusted (SIPA) education, integrating it into EMS trauma symposium talks.
* The pediatric transfer toolkit is under development. We are reviewing documents from various centers and combining the best elements. The first draft is expected in the upcoming months.
* Children's will host a trauma bay equipment tour next week with Piedmont Henry. The new hospital, Arthur M. Blank, will open on September 29th, and future tours may include this campus.
* Children's is participating in a multi-institutional study (MATIC 2) on using whole blood in pediatrics, with a go-live date of November. Key concerns include dosing, titers, and availability.
* An internal quality project is examining how patients are restrained during EMS transport. To improve focused education, a QR code link has been distributed for staff to report restraint methods.

Kristal Smith inquired about collaboration with the EMSC group and the Department of Public Health Injury Prevention Subcommittee. Suzanne confirmed Kelly is involved with the EMSC group, and they can distribute information more broadly. Tracy suggested forwarding the survey and other materials to Gabby to include in the meeting minutes.**Performance Improvement:** Rayma Stephens provided updates:* There are ongoing efforts to standardize the statewide time to definitive care. The previous May meeting focused on determining timeframes for emergent and urgent transfers. Various members provided input on their current processes, but no definitive decision was reached. Commission support might be necessary to finalize these timeframes. The homework assigned for the August 13th meeting is to define criteria for categorizing transfers as emergency, urgent, or non-urgent.
* During the August meeting, we will also discuss input from the TMD group, insights from a visit to the local transfer center, and new initiatives beyond time to definitive care.

**Registry**: Colleen Horne provided the following updates on behalf of Kelli Vaughn:* The AIS 15 update virtual course is underway with funding from the Commission. Liz Atkins confirmed the line items for the AIS 15 update and the need to establish a registration process.
* The GTC required education for registrars includes the new TQIP module and 50% of TQIP monthly education experiences.
* Registry Subcommittee PowerPoints are available on Basecamp. TPMs have access to consultative education visits.

**Injury Prevention and Outreach**: Karrie Page provided an update on activities:* The Georgia Trauma Systems National Stop the Bleed Day webinar on May 23rd was successful, with over 300 participants. We're in the middle of the back-to-school training blitz, which has over 1,584 registrations and 900 post session surveys to date. We have few instructor slots left if anyone is interested.
* The Georgia Stay Safe program, focused on preventing pediatric firearm injuries, held a webinar with 40 attendees. The webinar was recorded and link the minutes on how to get the toolkits if needed.
* Upcoming events include the National Night Out on August 6th, where communities get together to promote law enforcement and community partnerships.
* Georgia Falls Free Fridays are underway for Fall Prevention month in September. The webinars will take place Fridays in September at 10:00 AM.
* September 6th, Kristal Smith will be doing a Bingocize demonstration at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, highlighting our trauma system partnership with the Georgia Area Agencies on Aging.
* September 13th, Emily Brown from South Georgia Medical Center will be participating as a panelist in a discussion on EMS and Fire-based fall prevention initiatives.
* Our next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 27th.
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| Nominations for GTCE Vice-Chair | Tracy Johns announced her term as chair would end this year, with Lynn Grant moving up to Chair position. The nomination for vice chair for 2025-2026 rotation was received for Jamie Van Ness. Jamie accepted the nomination. Voting for the vice chair will take place during the November meeting.  |
| 1.1 Administrative Commitment | Tracy reviewed the ACS standard 1.1 (**ATTACHMENT A**), which applies to Levels I, II, II, and pediatric Levels I and II. This standard emphasizes the necessity for trauma centers to demonstrate a strong commitment from the facility's governing body to adhere to the trauma standards. This includes having a letter of compliance from the governing body and medical executive committee, typically signed by the COO or CEO. Tracy highlighted that failing to meet this Type 1 standard could result in an automatic failure of the survey, as it is crucial for compliance.  |
| 4.31 Trauma Registry Staffing | Tracy also reviewed ACS standard 4.31 (**ATTACHMENT B**), which also applies to Levels I, II, II, and pediatric Levels I and II. It required at least a half an FTE dedicated to the trauma registry for every 200 to 300 annual patient entries. Tracy emphasized that, ideally, facilities should aim for a full FTE for 400 to 600 annual entries to avoid burnout and ensure proper data management. The discussion touched on the challenges of obtaining additional staffing and the importance of regularly reviewing staffing numbers in relation to patient volume. Ashley Bullington asked about staffing requirements if the annual entries fall between 300 to 400. Tracy advised ideally you would need a full FTE but should work with your administrator to ensure you are following best practice. Liz Atkins suggested running historical data over the past five years to track growth trends, which could help in planning for future staffing needs and justifying requests for additional FTEs. This approach provides a data-driven rationale for staffing needs. Marie Probst highlighted the requirement references the count of entries is defined as all patient entries who meet NTDS inclusion criteria. She advised any records outside of NTDS criteria should be used for internal tracking purposes only. Tracy stressed the importance of adhering to NTDS criteria to ensure accurate state and verification reports.  |
| Shared Celebrations | * Ashley Bullington shared a success story about a Stop the Bleed class conducted at a local primary school. The class, attended by 125 staff members, included hands-on training and distribution of kits to the school.
* Kristal Smith expressed gratitude to the faculty involved in the recent training blitz and encourage participation in upcoming sessions.

Tracy praised the group for their collaborative efforts and dedication to improving trauma care across the state.  |
| Adjournment | Before adjournment, Tracy Johns expressed appreciation for everyone's participation and contributions. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th. ***Tracy Johns adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm*** |

*Minutes Crafted by Gabriela Saye*