

APPROVED
01.11.24



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/764dUv6cNxl>

Attachments: 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 (via Zoom)	
Jeff Adams, Region Two	
Scott Roberts, Region Four	
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	

STAFF & OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gina Solomon (via Zoom)	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Kim Littleton (via Zoom)	GEMSA
Cathy White	GEMSA
Tim Boone (via Zoom)	AVLS
Ryan Hollingsworth	OEMS/T
Kelly Joiner (via Zoom)	OEMS/T
Jordan Pierson (via Zoom)	OEMST/T
Kristal Smith (via Zoom)	Atrium Navicent/R5 RTAC
Farrah Parker (via Zoom)	Region 6 RTAC
Brian Dorriety (via Zoom)	Region 7 RTAC
Nicole Sundholm (via Zoom)	AdventHealth Redmond, Trauma Program Manager

STAFF & OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Buck Alday	Bartow County Fire and Emergency Services, EMS Division Chief

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, October 12, 2023, with eleven members present. Brian Hendrix and Vic Drawdy joined after the call to order.

APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2023, AND SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

After the call to order, Courtney Terwilliger requested a motion to approve the July and September meeting minutes or advise of any changes.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-10-01:

Motion to approve July 20, 2023, and September 19, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted

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

Due to the full agenda, Courtney Terwilliger advised the Georgia Trauma Commission update and AVLS update will be deferred unless anyone has specific questions.

There was a brief discussion on the AVLS carrier switch open enrollment dates with the uncertainty of when it starts. It was decided to work with Tim Boone to ensure agencies know the process. Liz Atkins suggested the Georgia Trauma Commission could post the information on the website.

GEMSA UPDATE

Presented By Cathy White

Cathy White provided an update on the progress of educational courses. Several classes are either scheduled or in progress (**ATTACHMENT A**). The only course encountering some barriers is the EVOC Train-the-Trainer. We are still working with McNeil to combine EMS and fire. At this moment, they have only approved the EMS course. Cadaver Labs in Tift, Henry, Lawrence, and Hall counties are full. Our conference is coming up this weekend in Jekyll Island with 400 registered.

Some other updates noted:

- We completed the hospital signage project with Jim Adkins and had over 100 responses from people around the state on what was needed to improve the hospital signage in their areas.
- The rollout of the PSA video was discussed and will be presented at the upcoming conference. A comprehensive advertising strategy is being developed.
- We are also working on a caricature video, not funded by the Georgia Trauma Commission, to educate the public about when you need to call EMS.
- Courtney Terwilliger added they are still working on how to display the EMT class information for those interested. There was concern regarding keeping the contact information for each county up to date.

EMS FUNDING

No updates

OLD BUSINESS

EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Special Equipment Requests (ATTACHMENT B)

The committee reviewed special equipment requests for the FY 2024 EMS Equipment Grant. There was one submission needing approval.

Toombs-Montgomery EMS requested to use their grant funds towards a Medical Support Unit Trailer: *“The primary role of the enclosed trailer would be to support our crews in providing a monitoring and cooling zone for our firefighter rehab stations. The trailer would also serve as a mobile first aid station at special events with increased risk to participants (i.e., Vidalia Onion Festival Air Show). Our design also includes storage for mass casualty equipment during an MCI. Please find attached documentation that includes other events this item could utilize.”*

Liz Atkins advised that Medical Support Units have been approved in the past but to keep them off the approved list to approve case-by-case unit requests.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-10-02:

Motion to approve Toombs-Montgomery EMS Medical Support Unit Trailer special equipment request. Medical Support Unit Trailers will not be added to the approved equipment lists and will require case-by-case approval.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins

SECOND BY: Duane Montgomery

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

Committee members discussed the need to review and update the equipment list. It was acknowledged that there is a need to have visibility into the equipment purchased with the grant funds. Liz Atkins suggested submitting future applications through a web form to capture the equipment data for review.

Agency Ambulance Counts (ATTACHMENT C)

A discussion ensued regarding the recent county transitions from one provider to another, most notably of Grady EMS pulling out of multiple counties on various dates. The committee agreed if a county has already determined a new provider, the new provider can apply for the county counts. Three counties have identified their new provider: Ameripro for Mitchell County, Atrium Navicent for Baldwin County, and Gold Star for Cook County. Kelly Joiner noted that the Baldwin County transition is on 11/04/23, not 11/04/24. A suggestion was made to add language to future grant applications that agencies must remain in the zone for 90 days after grant payment to be eligible. There was also a recommendation to have a grant workgroup review the application documents and bring a recommendation to the full committee for review for future grant periods. A question was raised regarding the purpose of the grant, if it is a reimbursement grant, how will the new providers claim

reimbursement for items not yet purchased? Liz Atkins noted that the FY 2024 reimbursement language was removed from the grant documents to allow agencies to purchase items with the grant funds.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-10-03:

Motion that the three services, Atrium Navicent, Ameripro, and Gold Star, identified as holding the zones, are eligible to apply for the grant.

MOTION BY: Allen Owens

SECOND BY: Jeff Adams

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

It was clarified the motion only applies to the three services listed. Other counties with transitions taking place next year do not apply to the motion. Agencies can apply for the next grant cycle if any changes occur after the application period.

EMS Equipment Grant Workgroup Update

Lee Oliver provided an update from the grant workgroup. We are trying to determine the best way to obtain the real ambulance count. We added a question this year to find out how many ambulances are currently scheduled at peak (**ATTACHMENT D**), "The peak number of ambulances that are scheduled and staffed consistently." Then, after we get those numbers, the workgroup or subcommittee will determine if we need to add a factor to the peak number for spares. Adding a factor number will not make a significant impact on the allocation. We did not discuss competitive grants. Once the data is collected from the current application, we can dig into the numbers provided by the agencies.

Region 1 Ambulance Counts

Scott Stephens presented to the committee that there has been a concern with Region 1 agencies over the September motion: *MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-09-01: Motion to fund 911-Zone Providers, not 911-Zone Holders, with the EMS Equipment Grant.* The motion would affect three counties in Region 1, which are unique in their operations and should be excluded from the motion. They are not keeping the ambulances due to an old state rule. They are staffing the truck and running 911 calls with those ambulances. The counties are Walker, Dade, and Bartow, which are staffing ambulances within their zone, even though they have a zone ambulance provider. There was concern that the agencies would miss out on the allocation of the grant funds.

Walker, Dade, and Bartow each have their own ambulances. The ambulances support the provider; Walker and Dade's ambulances are kept at one central location, while Bartow is spread out. Lee Oliver asked how each county is staffed. It was clarified Dade County is volunteer; the other counties are coming off the fire trucks.

Courtney Terwilliger advised that motion 2023-09-01 would preclude the agencies from collecting the grant allocation, and Scott may make a motion to change it.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-10-04:

**Motion to exclude Walker, Dade, and Bartow County from the zone-holder motion,
MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-09-01.**

MOTION BY: Scott Stephens

SECOND BY: Lee Oliver

Scott Stephens restated that each county operates differently. Walker County, for example, keeps an ambulance available to run a call at any given time. Liz Atkins added that last year, CHI Memorial applied for Walker. Scott Stephens answered that the concern with the zone-holder motion was that the numbers allocated would change. Liz Atkins explained the allocation numbers would stay the same; CHI Memorial could still apply for Walker County county. Huey Atkins added it is important to ensure we are not opening the grant up to have any licensed service eligible for the grant funds. If these counties can apply as mutual aid services, then anyone who provides mutual aid across the state could apply. Scott Stephens added the three counties are the zone-holders and have contracted with others to be the zone providers.

It was determined CHI Memorial, as the zone provider, could still apply for the Walker County counts like last year. For example, Walker County is listed as having one eligible ambulance, and CHI Memorial has ten eligible ambulances. As the zone-holder, CHI Memorial can apply for Walker County's one ambulance in addition to its ten ambulances, totaling eleven ambulances for CHI Memorial. CHI Memorial applies for the funding, and it will be up to CHI to provide the equipment to the county.

Scott Stephens advised he would like to withdraw his motion. It was reported there must be a vote since there is a motion and a second.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-10-04:

**Motion to exclude Walker, Dade, and Bartow County from the zone-holder motion,
MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-09-01.**

MOTION BY: Scott Stephens

SECOND BY: Lee Oliver

VOTING: All members were *opposed* to the motion.

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

IMMEDIATE TRANSFER TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Several months ago, we met in Cordele, Georgia, with ACCG, GHA, EMS Association, State Office of EMS, and Office of Rural Health to examine patient transfer barriers. We are waiting for the town hall meetings to finish, compile the information received, and reconvene the group to review the feedback and determine the next steps. A survey has been developed to send out to rural hospitals. The survey is currently under review by Mercer Innovation Center to ensure the questions will elicit an objective response.

The committee discussed the challenges they experienced with lengthy wall times and unprepared hospitals that have led to patient transfer delays.

MARCH PAWS

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

The second MARCH PAWS course took place in Swainsboro and included pre and post-tests. The tourniquet placement, the “high and tight” method, was questioned as it may not be the best approach in EMS. We continue to work on the online integration of course videos and content. The next course will take place in Thomasville on October 27th.

50-HR DOT EMR PROGRAM

Presented By Courtney Terwilliger

Courtney Terwilliger advised that grantees may use their EMR education grant towards the 50-hour EMR curriculum. They do not have to get approval from the EMT/R class through the state to obtain the grant.

NEW BUSINESS

EMS WORKFORCE DASHBOARD

Presented By Kelly Joiner

Kelly Joiner reviewed the EMS Workforce Dashboard with the committee, developed with the assistance of the Georgia Data Analytics Center (GDAC) to provide users with real-time data and valuable insights into the EMS workforce. Data on the dashboard is updated quarterly on the first week of the month when MSAC meets. The current data includes information as of September 1st. Users can explore the demographics of licensed medics, where they live, work, and license levels. It is interactive, and you can explore data by region, county, or other relevant criteria. Users can also view information by agency type and number of licensees. There is also the ability to download data is needed.

We have the dashboard linked on our state website. The direct link is:

https://insights.georgia.gov/views/StateofGeorgiaEMSDashboard/Distribution?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aorigin=card_share_link

It was mentioned Richard Rhodes is working with GDAC to facilitate an EMS education dashboard. We plan to work with GEMSA to include the dashboard information on the PSA landing page.

Liz Atkins asked Kelly Joiner and Richard Rhodes to discuss the EMS education dashboard offline to ensure there is no duplication of efforts between the EMS education dashboard and the Georgia Trauma Commission EMS education mapping. She also asked if any committee members were interested in joining an EMS education mapping project to provide feedback.

GRACE COMMISSION PROJECT

Presented By Jim Adkins

Jim Adkins proposed the EMS Committee consider supporting the Grace Commission project, spearheading human trafficking awareness. The endorsement is to bring more awareness of human trafficking in Georgia. Some may not consider it as trauma, but you are traumatized if you are a victim. If you want to learn more and view a video of the Grace Commission project, visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/first-lady/grace-commission>.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

Before adjournment, Lee Oliver suggested the EMS equipment grant workgroup reconvene between November and December to review the application data. Additionally, Liz Atkins asked for committee volunteers to assist with an EMS education mapping project; Scott Roberts and Jeff Adams volunteered to help.

- There was a brief discussion on the AVLS carrier switch open enrollment dates with the uncertainty of when it starts. It was decided to work with Tim Boone to ensure agencies know the process. Liz Atkins advised the Georgia Trauma Commission could post the open enrollment information on the website.
- GEMSA FY2024 course status was reviewed (**ATTACHMENT A**)
- The committee approved the Toombs-Montgomery EMS Medical Support Unit Trailer special equipment request (**ATTACHMENT B**). Medical Support Unit Trailers will not be added to the approved equipment lists and will require case-by-case approval.
- The committee approved that the three services, Atrium Navicent, Ameripro, and Gold Star, identified as holding the zones, are eligible to apply for the grant (**ATTACHMENT C**).
- Lee Oliver reviewed the new peak number of ambulances verbiage on the FY 2024 application (**ATTACHMENT D**). Lee Oliver suggested the EMS equipment grant workgroup reconvene between November and December to review the application data.
- The committee opposed excluding Walker, Dade, and Bartow County from MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-09-01: Motion to fund 911-Zone Providers, not 911-Zone Holders, with the EMS Equipment Grant. It was determined the motion does not affect the ambulance counts, and the zone providers could still apply for the grant.
- Kelly Joiner reviewed the EMS Workforce Dashboard:
https://insights.georgia.gov/views/StateofGeorgiaEMSDashboard/Distribution?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aorigin=card_share_link
- Liz Atkins asked Kelly Joiner and Richard Rhodes to discuss the EMS education dashboard offline.
- Jim Adkins asked the committee to support the Grace Commission project, spearheading human trafficking awareness. If you want to learn more and view a video of the Grace Commission project, visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/first-lady/grace-commission>.
- Liz Atkins asked for committee volunteers to assist with an EMS education mapping project; Scott Roberts and Jeff Adams volunteered to help.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-10-05: **Motion to adjourn.**

MOTION BY: Jeff Adams

SECOND BY: Scott Roberts

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye