

**APPROVED**  
**01.09.25**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Georgia Trauma Commission EMS Committee

### Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/IThcxvop4oA>

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

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

STAFF & OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission
Gina Solomon	Georgia Trauma Commission
Crystal Shelnutt	Georgia Trauma Commission
Becca Hallum (via Zoom)	Georgia Hospital Association
Tim Boone (via Zoom)	AVLS Administrator
Wendell Lewis (via Zoom)	OEMS/T
Richard Rhodes	OEMS/T
Kim Littleton	GEMSA
Brian Dorriety	Region 7
Heather Riddick	OEMS/T

## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, October 21, 2024, with eleven members present. Pete Quinones joined the meeting shortly after the roll call.

### APPROVAL OF JULY 31, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

*Presented By Courtney Terwilliger*

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

#### [MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-10-01:](#)

[Motion to approve July 31, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted](#)

**MOTION BY:** Huey Atkins

**SECOND BY:** John Smith

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

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

### GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION UPDATE

*Presented By Elizabeth Atkins*

Elizabeth Atkins provided the following updates:

- The 7<sup>th</sup> World Trauma Congress (WTC) and 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of AAST and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery took place from September 10th to 14th and featured two Georgia Trauma AAST podium presentations and four WTC podium presentations. Dr. Ashley presented "The Economic Impact of Decreasing State Trauma Mortality On Lifetime Personal Income and State Tax Revenue" and "Impact Of American College Of Surgeons Trauma Verification On Statewide Collaborative Outcomes." Kyle Gibson presented on "Prehospital Whole Blood," Elizabeth Atkins discussed "Rural Trauma in the US" and "Cost of Care/Trauma Finance Performance Improvement," and Tara Grimes from the Shepherd Center gave a presentation on "Transition to Rehab after Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)."
- Pre-session budget meetings were held in preparation for the upcoming FY 2026 legislative session. Katie and Liz met with OPB Director Dunn and the OPB team; they also met with the Senate Budget Analyst, Kaitlin Little.
- Two webinars are scheduled to review the Rural Hospital Resource Needs Assessment on November 4th and 7th.
- The Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) meeting is scheduled for November 21st at the State Office of Rural Health, coinciding with National Rural Health Day.
- Work is underway to develop a process for Committee member disclosure of conflicts of interest (COI) for all Committees.

There was a brief conversation about current advancements and challenges related to prehospital blood programs, including Regions 2's presentation at AAST and the World Trauma Expo and discussions on Georgia's obstacles to billing challenges for blood. Kim Littleton from GEMSA stated she and Chad Black were meeting with various congressional delegation members to discuss CMS challenges in reimbursement of blood products administered in the field.

## **AVLS UPDATE**

*Presented By Tim Boone*

Dr. Tim Boone referenced the FY 2025 Q1 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT A**) 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.

**2. Total Unit Usage**

- 1102/1294, 84% active

**3. Current counties without AVLS**

- Cherokee
- Camden
- DeKalb
- Gwinnett
- Long
- Lumpkin
- Clayton
- Clinch

**4. MG90 Quick Reference Guide**

- The latest edition is posted on the trauma.ga.gov website.

**5. Review of Airtime Log**

- The current airtime log was reviewed. Southern Linc remains the leader in current airtime.

**6. AVLS Spending**

- \$68,864.64 remaining, which includes rollover funding.

Dr. Boone advised the Committee that Southern Linc will remain on LTE and not offer 5G services. Sierra Wireless, now Semtech, is updating its hardware and phasing out the MG90, with the last available units being shipped in December 2025 (**ATTACHMENT B**). He and others are lobbying for the new hardware to include the asset-tracking capabilities provided by the air tags. Many expressed concerns about the challenges faced with changing over to new equipment. Dr. Boone will provide the Committee with spec sheets for the new hardware.

Dr. Boone also conveyed that multiple requests for non-transport units (supervirus vehicles, QRVs, etc.) have been received. Courtney indicated he would consider support for units transporting blood, but he or the Committee expressed little support for expanding the AVLS funding to most of these vehicles.

## **GEMSA UPDATE**

*Presented By Kim Littleton*

The presentation began with a discussion of recently completed classes for FY 24 and upcoming classes through the end of the calendar year. Heat maps were used to track student locations, with reports presented at the recent membership meeting (**ATTACHMENT C**). FY 24 classes resulted in 115,112 contact hours, though two courses were not yet reflected in the maps.

A specific challenge was noted with a course in Webster County, where issues with an instructor delayed completion. However, the class is expected to finish soon with support from OEMS and a

different instructor. Course completion in initial education issues was also highlighted, with student attrition resulting in an appearance that the minimum class size is unmet. The EMR and EMT programs successfully awarded all requested grants, though some recipients could not complete courses within the fiscal year. There were also updates on the delivery of various leadership and trauma care courses across the state, as well as a recap of the impact of the Rescue Task Force training during a real-world school shooting incident. It was noted that more collaboration with law enforcement is needed to ensure cohesive response efforts in the future. Finally, there were updates on auto extrication training, highlighting the focus on patient care during rescues and the use of moulage at recent conferences to enhance training realism.

The 4-Week Leadership Program, also in its 13th year, continues to grow, with record numbers of applications and students. Modules are held in partnership with Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and other locations like Floyd and Harris Counties. Applications for Year 14 open in December, with a January 30 deadline. Alumni often return to share how the training impacted their careers, focusing on leadership skills, conflict resolution, and team collaboration. Upcoming events include a Farm Medic class in Region 9 (October 26-27), an Axioms of Leadership class in Region 10 (October 28-30), trauma skills labs in Regions 8 (November 1) and 6 (December 13), and a TCCC course in Region 2 (November 1-2). The current leadership cohort will graduate on November 7, and a new "Mental Health 1st Aid" course will debut on November 5.

Kim also addressed that their listservs have been updated to address a few communication issues in the course information distribution.

Before moving on, Courtney addressed the Committee on the importance of gathering feedback from their regions on what classes are needed and desired with this funding. The current structure of waiting until the next fiscal year rushes the decisions and contracts and is leading to delays. Courtney requests this feedback be used in conjunction with the RTAC educational needs assessments to create a request for courses rather than continuing to edit the GEMSA proposals. After discussing council meeting schedules, RTAC deliverables, and other constraints, the decision was made to have an additional meeting at the end of March 2025 to establish the education request.

Liz Atkins requested the Committee review and vote on a motion to approve the entire GEMSA budget and course content, as previous votes have only covered portions of their proposal. The full proposal (**ATTACHMENT D**) was made available for viewing by the Committee, with concerns expressed regarding the total fee for the Mental Health course as the GEMSA proposed total (\$4,166) per course exceeded what was previously mentioned, \$1,500. Kim informed the Committee that \$1,500 only included the instruction and not the cost of registration, IT, travel, etc., which is required of the GEMSA staff and makes up the remainder of the total.

**[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-10-02:](#)**

**[Motion to approve the contract amounts and course content for the FY 2025 GEMSA educational proposal \(ATTACHMENT D\).](#)**

**MOTION BY:** John Smith

**SECOND BY:** Scott Roberts

**VOTING:** Two members (Huey Atkins and Pete Quinones) abstained from voting, while the remainder voted in favor of the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion **PASSED** with no objections

## NEW BUSINESS

### EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT WORKGROUP UPDATE

*Presented By Lee Oliver*

The Committee discussed removing two equipment grant items from automatic approval: the UTV and the commercial washing machine (**ATTACHMENT E**). The washing machine had been approved roughly 10 years ago, and the UTV was previously granted, stemming from a request in Wilkes County. The Committee agreed that going forward, if someone wishes to request a UTV or similar item, they must submit a formal request and make a case for approval rather than receiving automatic approval. A motion was made to remove the UTV and the commercial washing machine from the standing list of automatically approved equipment. The Committee then confirmed that the peak count is now validated at 100%. They encouraged members to review the peak numbers (**ATTACHMENT F**) and invited any questions regarding the data.

[MOTION BY: EMS Equipment Grant Workgroup](#)

[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-10-03:](#)

[Motion to remove the UTV and the commercial washing machine from the standing list of automatically approved equipment \(ATTACHMENT E\).](#)

**MOTION BY:** EMS Equipment Grant Workgroup

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

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

[MOTION BY: EMS Equipment Grant Workgroup](#)

[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-10-04:](#)

[Motion to approve the peak ambulance counts for use of the FY 2025 EMS Equipment Grants \(ATTACHMENT F\)](#)

**MOTION BY:** EMS Equipment Grant Workgroup

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

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

There was a discussion on how these funds should be used to improve the quality of trauma care in the state, not specifically to replace disposable goods. Requiring fluid warmers was considered for future surveys and funding options as it has huge implications for prehospital trauma care.

### 2025 MEETING DATES

*Presented By Courtney Terwilliger*

The schedule was reviewed with one correction (July 10<sup>th</sup>) and the addition of a March date to review education (**ATTACHMENT G**).

[MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-10-05:](#)

[Motion to approve the 2025 meeting schedule \(ATTACHMENT G\).](#)

**MOTION BY:** Terry Cobb

**SECOND BY:** Jeff Adams

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

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

## **OTHER DISCUSSIONS**

- Courtney reviewed the status of MARCH-PAWS, indicating no current changes to report but that work is ongoing. Additional equipment purchases are being considered for the RTACs to support the project.
- Crystal provided a report on the first grant-funded EMT program, which has completed all five module exams and the final exam in the MedEdPrep software (**ATTACHMENT H**). A discussion followed on the benefits of the data collected on improving education across the state.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- All Committee members are to bring feedback from regional councils on education funding priorities for FY2026 to the March 20th meeting.
- Crystal will provide updates on MedEdPrep testing data as a standing agenda item at future meetings.
- Committee members are to review the updated meeting schedule and notify us of any conflicts.
- Dr. Boone will send the specifications sheet for the new XR series routers to Committee members.
- Dr. Boone will follow up with Sierra Wireless about adding asset tracking capability to the XR series routers.
- GTC will reach out to Chad Black about presenting on the whole blood program at the next meeting.
- The Committee will add a question about IV fluid warmers to the equipment grant application.
- Crystal to investigate if instructors can see how their students compare to others across the state in MedEdPrep testing data.

## **SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT**

- Georgia Trauma Commission Update: Elizabeth Atkins reported on various topics, including presentations from Georgia at the WTC/AAST event, a budget meeting for FY 2026, upcoming webinars on rural hospital needs, and the GTC meeting on November 21. Discussions also included challenges with prehospital blood programs and ongoing legislative efforts related to reimbursement.
- AVLS Update: Dr. Tim Boone presented the FY 2025 Q1 AVLS Report (**ATTACHMENT A**), highlighting unit usage statistics, counties without AVLS, and recent troubleshooting efforts. He addressed concerns about equipment updates and the need for support for non-transport units. Tim advised Sierra Wireless, now Semtech, is updating its hardware and phasing out the MG90, with the last available units being shipped in December 2025 (**ATTACHMENT B**).
- GEMSA Update: Kim Littleton discussed completed and upcoming classes, student tracking via heat maps, challenges with course completion, and the success of the 4-Week Leadership Program (**ATTACHMENT C**). Feedback on class needs and upcoming events was encouraged.
- Liz Atkins requested the Committee review and vote on a motion to approve the entire GEMSA budget and course content, as previous votes have only covered portions of their proposal.
- The Committee approved the contract amounts and course content for the FY25 GEMSA educational proposal (**ATTACHMENT D**).
- Equipment Grant Workgroup Update: Lee Oliver discussed removing the UTV and commercial washing machine from automatic approval and upcoming EMS Equipment funding distribution using peak counts.
- The Committee approved removing the UTV and the commercial washing machine from the standing list of automatically approved equipment (**ATTACHMENT E**).
- The Committee approved the peak ambulance counts for use of the FY 2025 EMS Equipment Grants.

**(ATTACHMENT F)**

- The proposed 2025 meeting schedule was reviewed, and the Committee approved it with one correction and an addition for March (**ATTACHMENT G**)
- Crystal Shelnutt provided a report on the completion of the first grant-funded EMT program and its implications for improving education in the state (**ATTACHMENT H**).

**MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2024-10-06:**

**Motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION BY:** Huey Atkins

**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 11:40 AM

Minutes by C. Shelnutt