

APPROVED
11.20.25



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Called Georgia Trauma Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Morgan County Public Training Complex

Madison, Georgia

Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/209oxfII1UI>

Meeting Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Dennis Ashley, Chairman
Mr. Pete Quinones, Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. James Dunne
Dr. John Bleacher
Mr. Courtney Terwilliger
Dr. S. Rob Todd
Dr. James "J" Smith
Mr. Terry Cobb

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING	ATTENDING
Elizabeth Atkins	GTC, Executive Director	In person
Katie Hamilton	GTC, Finance Operations Officer	In person
Gina Solomon	GTC, GQIP Director	In person
Gabriela Saye	GTC, Business Operations Manager	In person
Crystal Shelnutt	GTC, Regional Trauma System Development Manager	In person
Alkesh Patel	Georgia Office of the Attorney General, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Section Chief	In person
Kelli Vaughn	Archbold, Trauma Program Manager	Virtual
Kristal Smith	Atrium Navicent The Medical Center, IP and Outreach Coordinator	Virtual
Huey Atkins	EMS Committee Member, Region 10	Virtual
Brian Hendrix	EMS Committee Member, Region 9	Virtual
Kim Littleton	Georgia EMS Association, Director	Virtual
Sam Polk	Henry County Fire Rescue, Asst. Chief EMS Operations	Virtual
Melton Tripp	LCEMS, Captain	Virtual
Kelly Joiner	Office of EMS and Trauma, Deputy Director	Virtual
Bernard Restrepo	Office of EMS and Trauma, Regional Director 09	Virtual
Richard Rhodes	Office of EMS and Trauma, Deputy Director of Education	Virtual
Heather Riddick	Office of EMS and Trauma, Region 6 Training Coordinator	Virtual
Josh Mackey	Partner and Founder, Capital City Public Affairs	Virtual
Christopher Kelly	WMK Law Group, Attorney	Virtual
Tannah Cobb	Company/Affiliation Unavailable	Virtual

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING	ATTENDING
Tonya Cobb	Company/Affiliation Unavailable	Virtual
Carly Davis	Company/Affiliation Unavailable	Virtual
Forrest Jones	Company/Affiliation Unavailable	Virtual
Carly Restrepo	Company/Affiliation Unavailable	Virtual

CALL TO ORDER (00:00:08)

Dr. Dennis Ashley, Georgia Trauma Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM, with eight Commission members present, establishing a quorum.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (00:02:15)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley thanked Commission members for attending the meeting on short notice, emphasizing the importance of the matters to be discussed. He introduced a meeting guest, Mr. Alkesh Patel, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Section Chief. Mr. Patel serves as the Commission's point of contact for contracts and legal alignment.

MEETING PURPOSE (00:02:15)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

A few sensitive items require Commission attention, and this matter could not be deferred until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Dr. Ashley outlined that the primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Georgia EMS Association (GEMSA) agreement, which is set to expire on November 30, 2025. The contract renewal process in the prior fiscal year extended several months beyond the start of the year and required significant effort to finalize. He acknowledged and commended Mr. Courtney Terwilliger for his efforts in facilitating the prior contract renewal process.

Dr. Ashley indicated that the focus of today's discussion is to determine whether to continue with the GEMSA contract renewal on December 1st.

Dr. Ashley reminded Commission members of their fiduciary duty as stewards of public funds allocated to the Georgia Trauma Commission. He emphasized that vendor agreements continue to reflect the most effective use of Commission funds and resources. Mr. Alkesh Patel was invited today to provide legal counsel during discussions related to the contract and answer any questions.

CLOSED SESSION (00:02:33)

Dr. Ashley requested a motion to move into a closed session from the Commission. Mr. Patel confirmed that "closed session" aligns with the definition of an executive session for the purpose of seeking legal advice from counsel. Non-Commission members were then asked to leave the room.

MOTION GTCNC 2025-10-01: **Motion to move to a closed session**

MOTION BY: Dr. James "J." Smith
SECOND BY: Dr. James Dunne

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion

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

The Commission moved to a closed session at 10:15 AM. The closed session affidavit is included in **ATTACHMENT A**. The Commission reconvened in open session at 10:23 AM.

GEMSA CONTRACT DISCUSSION (00:04:15)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

A motion was made not to renew the GEMSA contract.

MOTION GTCNC 2025-10-02:

Motion to not renew the GEMSA contract.

MOTION BY: S. Rob Todd

SECOND BY: Dr. James “J” Smith

Discussion:

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger raised concerns regarding the potential non-renewal of the GEMSA contract, requesting clarification on contingency plans for EMS education. He noted that Commission member Terry Cobb raised concerns about administrative and procedural issues, and meetings have been held among relevant stakeholders to address these concerns. Mr. Terwilliger expressed concern about the exclusion of EMS Committee members from decision-making processes. He acknowledged progress made toward transparency and accountability through the implementation of new management systems. He highlighted GEMSA’s significant contributions, including over 100,000 contact hours of education and positive outcomes reported by counties. Mr. Terwilliger opposed the motion not to renew the contract, advocating instead for a collaborative approach to address concerns, emphasizing reform and communication improvements rather than continuing without a viable alternative.

Dr. Ashley acknowledged and thanked Courtney for his remarks, noting his thoughtful assessment of the current situation. The floor was opened for further discussion.

Mr. Pete Quinones raised a question regarding the alternative plan in the event the GEMSA contract is not renewed. Concern was expressed about the need for a contingency plan to prevent disruption in EMS education and services. In response, Dr. Ashley clarified that the vote at this meeting was limited to the decision to renew or not renew the GEMSA contract. He noted that the development of any alternative plan would be addressed following the outcome of the vote.

With no further discussion, Dr. Ashley called for a vote on the motion.

MOTION GTCNC 2025-10-02:

Motion to not renew the GEMSA contract.

MOTION BY: S. Rob Todd

SECOND BY: Dr. James “J” Smith

VOTING: Dr. Dennis Ashley, Dr. James Dunne, Dr. John Bleacher, Mr. Terry Cobb, Dr. S. Rob Todd, and Dr. James "J" Smith voted in favor. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger and Mr. Pete Quinones voted against.

ACTION: The motion **PASSED** with the majority in favor.

CLOSING REMARKS (00:16:28)

Presented by Dr. Dennis Ashley

Dr. Ashley tasked Elizabeth Atkins, Executive Director, with urgently developing a contingency plan to ensure uninterrupted EMS education and grant funding support. Emphasis was placed on the Commission's highest priority: supporting EMS providers through accessible education and continued funding. The Chair requested that the plan be developed and reported to the Commission as soon as possible.

Dr. Ashley thanked the Commission members and staff for their attendance and flexibility in responding to the short notice.

MOTION GTCNC 2025-10-03:

Motion to adjourn

MOTION BY: Dr. James "J." Smith

SECOND BY: Dr. James Dunne

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion

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

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- The Commission moved to a closed session. The closed session affidavit is included as **ATTACHMENT A**.
- The Commission voted in favor of not renewing the GEMSA contract.
- Dr. Ashley tasked Elizabeth Atkins, Executive Director, with urgently developing a contingency plan to ensure uninterrupted EMS education and grant funding support.

Meeting adjourned approximately at 10:37 AM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye