



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

**APPROVED**  
**01.17.25**

## Level III/Level IV/Rural Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2024

2:00-3:00 pm

Cordele, GA

[Link to Meeting Recording and Meeting Material](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT*	REPRESENTING
Dr. Alicia Register	Committee Vice-Chair/Crisp Regional, TMD
Terry Cobb	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member
Courtney Terwilliger	Georgia Trauma Commission, Member
Cindy Hoggard	AdventHealth Redmond
Nicole Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional
Charly Ussery	Crisp Regional
April Dukes	Crisp Regional Hospital
David Kiefer	Effingham Hospital
Olalekan Akinyokunbo	Emanuel Medical Center
Brooke J. Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center
Gail Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center
Steve Paynter	Hamilton Medical Center
Mary Beth Goodwin	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
Kelli Vaughn	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
Susan Jackson	Morgan Medical Center
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center
Jerry McMillan	Piedmont Cartersville Hospital
Justin Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital
James Polston	Piedmont Walton
Stevanie Reynolds	Piedmont Walton
Emily Brown	SGMC Health
Chelsea Carter	SGMC Health
William Briggs	Wellstar Cobb
Shelby Lemon	Wellstar Cobb
Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Ga Medical Center

\*Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code.



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

STAFF MEMBERS & OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth Atkins Gabriela Saye Crystal Shelnett Gina Solomon Becca Hallum Cheryle Ward Tammie Russell Thara Dukes Marie Probst Brett Buehner Tetra Jenkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director Georgia Trauma Commission, Business Operations Manager Georgia Trauma Commission, System Planner Georgia Trauma Commission, GQIP Director Georgia Hospital Association Georgia Trauma Foundation Liberty Regional Medical Center Memorial Satilla Health OEMST Piedmont Augusta Washington County Regional Medical

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., with 29 committee members present. Dr. Alicia Register welcomed everyone and started the meeting by approving the meeting minutes.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

*Presented by Dr. Alicia Register*

Dr. Register requested a motion to approve the July meeting minutes.

### **MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2024-11-01:**

**Motion to approve July 19, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted.**

**MOTION BY:** Ashley Bullington

**SECOND BY:** Lynn Grant

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

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

## **GTC Update**

*Presented by Liz Atkins*

- Liz reviews the tremendous success of the GQIP, GTC, GCTE, TMD, and other meetings that have been held over the last two days. The engagement and progress noted across the state are significant.
- The legislative session is approaching, and the GTC plans a more modest budget request than last year's \$61 million.
- Rural Resource Needs Assessment survey results have been reviewed with participants in several virtual meetings.
- TCAA finance webinars are held to help centers maximize revenue.
- Level 4 registry startup grants are available to reduce barriers to entry to the trauma system.
- Pay-for-performance criteria are being revised to use a tiered approach for meeting attendance.
- An annual report has been published highlighting system-wide accomplishments.



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## **MARCH PAWS UPDATE**

*Presented by Courtney Terwilliger*

- A vendor has been identified for videography and potential platform development. Courtney discusses his hopes Dr. Patterson and Dr. Register will participate in these recorded sessions.
- Courtney requests that parties interested in teaching let him know that equipment needs to be purchased.
- Dr. Register discusses her recent success training rural providers at a course using a pig instead of simulation equipment. She discusses the flexible nature of the course, which allows tailoring to specific needs, concerns, and abilities of rural providers.
- Exploring ways to increase physician participation and address scheduling challenges should also be prioritized.

## **Rural and Non-Trauma Center Resources and Demographic Survey**

*Presented by Liz Atkins*

This presentation highlights key findings from a survey of 66 rural hospitals statewide, collected between March 11 and April 5, with a 94% response rate. We shared initial results at the May meeting and validated them through webinars on November 4 and 7 to ensure alignment with participant needs.

Key insights include: 82% of respondents were non-trauma centers, most of which were critical access hospitals with limited ED capacity. While many had blood and fluid warmers, equipment was often outdated or underutilized due to training gaps. Cost and scheduling were major barriers to ATLS participation. Transport decisions showed a 50/50 split between air and ground, often driven by ground transport delays.

The PowerPoint presentation (**ATTACHMENT A**) used for this presentation is included as an attachment with the meeting minutes.

## **Trauma Connections Group Update**

*Presented by Rachel Hand*

The Trauma Connections Group met over the past three months, averaging 12 attendees per meeting. Discussions focused on transport time tracking, Level 4 standards progress, monthly trauma recognition processes, and collaborative documentation improvement strategies. Members shared approaches to tracking and improving missed documentation but noted no universal solution.

Additional topics included EMS training, blood bank use in trauma bays, power automation for repetitive tasks, and activation criteria for falls with hip involvement. The group also discussed recertification visits, shared trauma chart audit forms templates, and explored creating a repository for Level 3 and 4 documents, potentially linked to the trauma foundation's website.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18. Those not receiving invitations can contact Christi Mathis or Rachel Hand for access.

## **NEW BUSINESS | APPROVING 2025 MEETING DATES**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

*Presented by Dr. Register*

The proposed meeting dates were presented (**ATTACHMENT B**) to the committee for discussion and approval.

- Friday, January 17th
- Friday, April 25th
- Friday, July 18th
- Thursday, November 20th (in-person in Cordele)

Dr. Registerd discussed the inconvenience of a 7 a.m. meeting and asked to consider a later meeting time on the same cadence. With little discussion, all were in support of the adjustment.

## **MOTION LIII/IV Committee 2024-11-02:**

**Motion to approve the 2025 proposed meeting dates with amendment of start time to 8:30 AM.**

**MOTION BY:** Rachel Hand

**SECOND BY:** Christie Mathis

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

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

## **NEW BUSINESS | GQIP SURVEY**

*Presented by Gina Solomon*

Last month, a survey was sent out to update information on specialty care availability and mass casualty capabilities. This annual task, originally tied to summer meetings, has shifted timelines, and follow-ups are underway to address missing responses. The survey includes specialty coverage details and feedback contacts, with updated information to be posted on the commission website once finalized. Completion efforts will continue in the coming weeks.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT**

- Follow up on MARCH PAWS equipment needs and teaching preferences for rural centers.
- Continue refining the rural trauma education approach based on survey feedback.
- Seek case presentations from Level IV centers for upcoming GQIP meetings.
- Send out meeting invitations for approved 2025 dates.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Crystal Shelnutt*