**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

**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](https://trauma.georgia.gov/events/2024-11-21/gtc-level-iii-and-iv-committee-meeting)

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

**\*Attendance is pulled from committee meeting QR code.**

| **STAFF MEMBERS &**  **OTHERS SIGNING IN** | **REPRESENTING** |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | Elizabeth Atkins | | Gabriela Saye | | Crystal Shelnutt | | 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 $61 million.
* [Rural Resource Needs Assessment survey results have been reviewed with participants](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/fathom.video/share/L5EDY2mp3X8M4xJcnWD3WehCwCidVe7i?tab=summary&timestamp=660.0__;!!HWVSVPY!jZNXeVymYo25p6ceY2oO8Bnee6-sn9Z7Ri_HP_bshzg6Vqo-fRQg_EBx-gQQCCBG6tXxkuqLlwof4axU3cCP1Ye_Tkt-Lto$) in several virtual meetings.
* [TCAA finance webinars are held to help centers maximize revenue](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/fathom.video/share/L5EDY2mp3X8M4xJcnWD3WehCwCidVe7i?tab=summary&timestamp=728.0__;!!HWVSVPY!jZNXeVymYo25p6ceY2oO8Bnee6-sn9Z7Ri_HP_bshzg6Vqo-fRQg_EBx-gQQCCBG6tXxkuqLlwof4axU3cCP1Ye_Tb-Yu3I$).
* [Level 4 registry startup grants are available to reduce barriers to entry](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/fathom.video/share/L5EDY2mp3X8M4xJcnWD3WehCwCidVe7i?tab=summary&timestamp=752.0__;!!HWVSVPY!jZNXeVymYo25p6ceY2oO8Bnee6-sn9Z7Ri_HP_bshzg6Vqo-fRQg_EBx-gQQCCBG6tXxkuqLlwof4axU3cCP1Ye_wrAn7_U$) 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.

**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](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/fathom.video/share/L5EDY2mp3X8M4xJcnWD3WehCwCidVe7i?tab=summary&timestamp=1262.0__;!!HWVSVPY!jZNXeVymYo25p6ceY2oO8Bnee6-sn9Z7Ri_HP_bshzg6Vqo-fRQg_EBx-gQQCCBG6tXxkuqLlwof4axU3cCP1Ye_mivBhbU$) 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**

*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*