

APPROVED
07.21.22



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Georgia Trauma Commission Called EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan County Public Safety Complex/Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/uOopW54CynY>

Attachments: trauma.ga.gov

| COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT | COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Courtney Terwilliger, Chair, GTC Member | Marty Robinson, Region One |
| Jeff Adams, Region Two (via Zoom) | Pete Quinones, Region Three |
| Sam Polk, Region Four (via Zoom) | David Edwards, Region Eight |
| Lee Oliver, Region Five | Dr. James Smith, GTC Member |
| Duane Montgomery, Region Seven | |
| Vic Drawdy, Region Nine (via Zoom) | |
| Huey Atkins, Region Ten | |
| Jim Adkins, GTC Member (via Zoom) | |

| OTHERS PRESENT | REPRESENTING |
|---------------------|--|
| Elizabeth V. Atkins | Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director |
| Katie Hamilton | Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff |
| Gabriela Saye | Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff |
| Regina Medeiros | Georgia Trauma Commission, Secretary/Treasurer |
| Chad Black | Former Region 2 Representative |
| Kelly Joiner | State Office of EMS & Trauma |
| Richard Rhodes | State Office of EMS & Trauma |
| Jeffrey Adams | Region 2 |
| Cathy White | GEMSA |
| Kim Littleton | GEMSA |
| Dr. Tim Boone | AVLS |
| Brian Dorriety | RTAC 7 |
| Farrah Parker | RTAC 6 |

CALLED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM on Thursday, May 24, 2022, with eight of thirteen members present.

EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT: 911 V. GENERAL TRANSPORT

Courtney Terwilliger discussed the concern of 911 and non-emergency vehicles running under one license and the need to separate the non-emergency vehicles for future EMS equipment grants. At this time, the regional coordinators supply the ambulance numbers for our grant process.

During the AFY2022 grant, there were 177 applications received by the agency or county. Four counties did not apply. Suggestions to resolve the 911 and general transport discrepancy were:

- Refer to state vehicle numbers in patient records.
- Use the state formula for the minimum reserve to establish a number of 911 trucks, 1.4 rule.
- Send the grant application to the Committee for review at least two weeks before distribution.
- The state could create a report to track truck utilization.
- Appoint a small committee to investigate applications. The signed affidavit claims the submitting agency will use the equipment on 911 trucks, and they can be subject to audit.
- Application suggestions:
 - How many trucks are required under your 911 process?
 - There may not be a requirement for some
 - Do you have a 911 zone requirement?
 - Whatever number they come up with is the modifier
- Liz Atkins reminded the members that the amount per service is adjudicated before the application. The first step is to get the number of trucks before the application.

We will send out the AFY2022 grant allocations in excel format (ATTACHMENT A) to the Committee for review. C. Terwilliger asked Committee to start a draft of the first page of the application.

IMMEDIATE TRANSPORT FROM NON-TRAUMA HOSPITALS

Courtney Terwilliger brought up a concern with EMS providers not transporting critical trauma patients. Some feedback during the discussion:

- Hospitals state they have an agreement or policy to utilize external ambulances in the county.
- Ambulances have policies to have x number of ambulances within the county.
- Private services take the money to run a non-emergent call in another county.
- Services don't want to leave the county to run a transport and then leave their county uncovered.
- Lack of staff to run transports and coverage for county
- Interpretations of definitions can vary. State rule doesn't state 911. It states emergency. There has not been an official complaint addressing the rule.
- In-service times vary by county. Fayette, for example, is not in service until the truck is back in the county.
- Lack of trust with the hospitals-stating emergent transfer, but non-emergent patient.
- Delays in waiting for the patient to be assigned room. Services have multiple vehicles already at the hospital, and apprehension about sending another truck to the same area with delay.
- Falls back on commissioners and their contract with their service. Talk to your providers.

C. Terwilliger recommended everyone work within their communities to discuss our transportation concerns.

FY 2023 BUDGET PLANNING

Courtney Terwilliger referenced the allocated FY 2023 Proposal (ATTACHMENT B)

1. AVLS

- Annual Support: \$167,620
- AVLS Airtime: \$635,550
- AVLS Equipment: \$150,000
 - We need to replace and enhance AVLS equipment within the next year.

2. Education

- The Committee reviewed the GEMSA Proposal (ATTACHMENT C) and discussion points listed below:
 - The current 1.8 million proposal is 400,000 more than last year's 1.45 million.
 - Junior Leadership was the pilot program done in February by the class 10 alumni. It's an introduction to leadership for those coming into the system with minimal experience. It is a separate course from the leadership program and is not a prerequisite.
 - Request for 2 EMS classes per month, more focus on providing education for the providers in the field, and that Public Service Announcements should be DPH, not Commission.
 - Request for more focus on initial education at each of the levels.
 - Currently, there are more requests than there are classes.
 - We need to reach out to regional coordinators to have them work within each region and identify classes that need to be held.
 - Richard Rhodes clarified that the regional coordinators are responsible for initial and continuing education course approvals. They obtain a course request, approve it, and manage the course closing. The main touch points are initial education courses, which require the bulk of our time. We can facilitate a gap analysis in a region to determine the education needs and distribution of courses for initial and continuing education.
 - Lee Oliver asked if he could obtain a gap analysis of where initial education was and how many students it produced. Richard stated he sent it out previously (ATTACHMENT D), and it shows you how many people were in a course. We can get you an updated version in a week or two.

3. Equipment Grants

- Leftover after AVLS and Education would be around 975,143.
- The amount is half of what was allocated this fiscal year, 1.6 million.
- We can't rely on amended funds next fiscal year. We are receiving all funds upfront. There is no guarantee of an amended budget and minimal if so.
- Easier to work with AVLS budget for amended funds than equipment grants or education.
- Regina Medeiros strongly encouraged the Committee to do your budget based on what you have and not what you might have since the amended is unpredictable next year.
- Duane Montgomery added the most expensive equipment we have is our people. We need to boost education and prevention rather than focus on equipment grants. We don't have the resources to hire somebody to teach these courses.

Courtney proposed the following changes to the budget (ATTACHMENT E):

- Reducing AVLS Equipment from 150,000 to 100,000.
 - Intention to use amended funds for AVLS equipment
- Reducing GEMSA from 1,839,888 to \$1,700,000.

- EMS Equipment Grants will be \$1,165,031.

Regina Medeiros suggested it would be beneficial to develop a mechanism to identify the impact of the dollars spent on education on trauma patient care and transportation delivery. That way, you can identify the priority of impact and demonstrate how it has made a difference to the legislators.

Courtney asked for a motion to approve a revised budget (ATTACHMENT E). Lee Oliver clarified the approval would be for the overall allocation and that we still need to discuss the line items of each bucket.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-05-01:
Motion to approve the revised FY2023 EMS Budget allocations.

MOTION BY: Sam Polk
SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy
VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.
ACTION: The motion ***PASSED*** with no objections nor abstentions

The Committee reviewed the GEMSA proposal to recommend areas of change with a revised budget. Due to formula limitations and questions about administrative fees, it was suggested that GEMSA revise the proposal and send the full spreadsheet to Committee for review.

LEFTOVER AFY2022 EQUIPMENT GRANT FUNDS

We have \$39,174.82 leftover from the equipment grant from agencies that did not apply. We are recommending those funds be rolled over to AVLS and applied to our annual maintenance bill for next year.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-05-02:
Motion to approve leftover equipment grant funds, \$39,174.82, to AVLS maintenance fees.

MOTION BY: Vic Drawdy
SECOND BY: Huey Atkins
VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.
ACTION: The motion ***PASSED*** with no objections nor abstentions.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIR

Dr. Dennis Ashley encourages every committee to have a Vice-chair. At this point, I would entertain a motion for vice-chair. Vic Drawdy nominated Huey Atkins, but Huey Atkins declined the nomination due to a conflict of interest. Huey Atkins nominated Lee Oliver.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-05-03:
Motion to nominate Lee Oliver as EMS Committee Vice-Chair.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins
SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy
VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

- Committee will review ambulance counts from AFY2022 grant (Attachment A) and work on a draft application.
- Revised FY2023 Budget approved by Committee (ATTACHMENT E).
- Richard Rhodes to send updated Gap Analysis for education.
- GEMSA to revise the proposal to meet the new 1.7 million budget and send it to the committee for review.
- Leftover AFY2022 equipment grant funds rolled over to AVLS maintenance.
- Lee Oliver was nominated as Vice-Chair of the EMS Committee.

MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2022-05-04:
I make the motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Sam Polk

SECOND BY: Vic Drawdy

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Minutes by G. Saye