



EMS Subcommittee on Trauma
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Morgan County Public Safety Complex
Madison, Georgia

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chairman, GTC Vic Drawdy, GTC Regina Medeiros –GTC Tommy Sanders – Region One Chad Black – Region Two (conference line) Pete Quinones - Region Three Sam Polk- Region Four Lee Oliver – Region Five Blake Thompson – Region Six Huey Atkins – Region Ten	VACANT Region Seven David Edwards- Region Eight VACANT- Region Nine

OTHERS	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins Erin Bolinger Katie Hamilton Tim Boone Rich Elliott Renee Morgan David Newton Scott Lewis (conference line) Mark Peters Cathy White Keith White Tracy Stewart-Meinken	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff AVLS Clayton County Fire and EMS OEMS/T OEMS/T Region I RTAC Region III GEMSA GEMSA GEMSA

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Terwilliger called the 27th of February 2020 meeting of the EMS Subcommittee on Trauma to order and established quorum with 9 of 13 members present or by conference line .

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2020-02-01:

I make the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held January 28, 2020.

MOTION BY: Vic Drawdy

SECOND BY: Sam Polk

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of the motion.

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

AVLS Report

By: Tim Boone

Mr. Boone’s AVLS report is attached to the end of the minutes (**Attachment A**). Budget is spent for FY19, still some accountability getting under control. Operating 1067/1484 which is about 70%- Jeff Davis County is not covered. Hall County in onboarding process. There are 1,051 units on Verizon, and 147 with AT&T First Net-. A total of 1,198 units are paid for by the Trauma Commission. Mr. Boone reported that Georgia Technology Authority (at the state level)has the same state pricing- \$ 37.99 per unit per month. The company Southern Linc of GTA is prepared to provide and install SIM cards statewide and is competitive with other providers.

Sierra Wireless maintenance is paid for coverage FY19 to FY20 (1046 units,) we are covered through June 2020 on these costs-. Mr. Boone reported that he is finalizing and auditing the AVLS program so by June 2020 we have a clean list of verified inventory. Mr. Boone presented the FY21 AVLS program budget request. Mr. Boone suggested there are several ways to present the state coverage strategy, do we want airtime costs picked up by agencies or what is best practice. Now is the time for discussion. For larger agencies it is more available to them to expend the service costs, but more rural areas may need our financial support.

Mr. Terwilliger refers back to the coverage map- ITS (Island Tech) rep, Luke of Jacksonville has been meeting across the state with agencies and he’d like to host a presentation for Jeff Davis (Camden, Jeff Davis, Dekalb, Cherokee are the counties not operating on the AVLS system) Hall County is in process of

coming on board. Cherokee has their own AVLS system it uses amongst its own trucks. Mr. Terwilliger asks, with exception of Jeff Davis, every 911 operator in state has wireless capability. This is correct.

Assuming we can get Jeff Davis County on board, we will be 100% wireless in our 911 trucks statewide. Mr. Atkins asked if this AVLS technology is helping rural trauma care. All truck data, if collected says TB- we can merge data with GEMSIS and begin mathematical analysis and efficiency of our AVLS use across the state. This data could identify gaps in ambulatory coverage statewide. We would probably have to have a secure server hosted somewhere to download the data from Sierra Wireless.

Mr. Terwilliger says he met with Tonya who was with Island Tech/Sierra Wireless and now on her own creating her own company. He suggests collecting data and collaborating with AG office and putting this under a Performance Improvement (PI) issue. We can look at data and identify what is going on across the state Mr. Atkins would like us to partner with local hospitals and get into video conferencing with our more critical patients- we use telemedicine now for remote stroke, why can't we do remote medical care for trauma injuries. Mr. Boone says there is a lot of room to expand this technology.

Mr. Terwilliger speaks on one P.I pilot currently underway with trauma being studied is transport- (ambulance vs. helicopter)is body temperature making different outcomes for the patient- CT doesn't think we take enough time managing a patient's core temperature. Mr. Terwilliger discussed temperature probes and the Region 2 project of storing plasma on ambulance and suggests the core temperature could be studied along with their current pilot. Mr. Newton asks if the AVLS data could be made available to the state. Mr. Boone will get Mr. Newton a log of run time data.

Sam Polk suggests we do AVLS system training and a refresher of the AVLS online site. Within your site you can manage and establish county zones and you can pull reports on zones and ambulances outside of those territories. Captain Polk says this data for Region 4 is valuable since they are without a trauma center. Mr. Terwilliger suggests we talk about reenergizing the data subcommittee. Ms. Atkins discussed the recent request of the AG's office to look into our data confidentiality agreements and open records for PI purposes. David Newton says we would craft our request carefully. Discussion of data protection and think through everything we need to fall under our peer protection statute that exists already. Mr. Boone says you can make a pretty good case for improving the effectiveness of PI in trauma care.

Mr. Terwilliger mentions we have \$ 81,000 in equipment grant unused and is proposing spending \$ 20K of those unused funds to purchase the replacement equipment for AVLS.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2020-02-02:

I make the motion to use \$20,000.00 of the unused FY2020 EMS equipment grant funds for AVLS replacement equipment.

MOTION BY: Blake Thompson

SECOND BY: Pete Quinones

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of the motion.

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

Mr. Boone will get quote from Island Tech so we can remit payment for the replacement equipment. Mr. Atkins referring to the AVLS coverage map says Region 7 looks like a low participator of AVLS program.

Ms. Atkins suggests of Mr. Boone that we get this data and the mechanics of the AVLS system and how Georgia utilizes the system in paper format for publishing. Mr. Boone says we need more users and hospital input. Ms. Atkins suggests the basic state infrastructure of AVLS and how it functions would be a good start. Multidisciplinary participation is a model to follow across the state that others could benefit from seeing.

Mr. Terwilliger says the trauma skills labs are a great success and made mention of Columbus appreciation letter received from the FBI attendees.

RTAC Reports

Mr. Drawdy spoke on the Region 9 DART program and the train the trainer occurred last week.

Mr. Drawdy saw 45 people representing 95 counties working together. Region 1 came to teach train the trainer. The DART program went really well, and all the equipment is in and distribution will occur within a couple weeks. This was great for the community and Mr. Drawdy thanks the Commission for the funds to be able to do such.

Mr. Atkins hosted a similar program and utilized the community in different aspects and discussed the replications and all the community involvement, from the high school to community leaders. It was very well reported on and very good reviews of class. It was 100% attended at max capacity. Mr. Terwilliger says Region 6 finished in Columbia with 3 more TECC scheduled in various counties in his region. It was requested that all classes and instructors of the Stop the Bleed program should be tracked. Ms. Atkins says we also need to upload these to the national registry for Stop the Bleed. Dr. Medeiros suggests having it all nationally uploaded as we do receive credit for trained instructors. We want Georgia to be the leader on this.

Georgia Trauma Commission Report

Elizabeth V. Atkins

Special Recognition – many thanks for Cathy, Tracy & Katie for successfully tracking and ensuring spend down of FY17 & FY18 funds and to the dedication & commitment of those instructors out there in the community delivering these important programs to those who need them.

Representative Carson's (Marietta) HB113 bill has been substituted, the increases to benefit trauma were eliminated and replaced with a \$25-\$100 fine subject to judge's discretion; reinstates the ban on handheld devices for drivers under 17 years of age

AFY2020 is in the senate, should know by mid-March. GTC requested \$6.7M (Super Speeder generates approx. \$23M, GTC is allocated approx. \$16M). The Governor recommended \$4.7M, the House passed \$7M, awaiting senate.

FY2021 budget is in development. For future FY's, we need to back up the timeline so that the upcoming FY budget can be accurately presented in February & March budget hearings.

Funds from the FY must be spent by and on services rendered during the FY (e.g. July 1 – June 30 of the FY). If there is additional money in AFY20, funds could be used for start-up and standardization of regional PI. Currently, each RTAC is working on individualized PI projects. There is a significant gap in our ability to perform structured PI with templated case reviews and regional dashboards that can elucidate where are biggest opportunities in patient care are. There is a group in Arkansas that has a mature process that is willing to discuss how they could stand up a process for us and then hand it off to the RTAC coordinators.

For consideration of the group:

The GTC has not had major impact yet on trauma transportation enhancements as defined in O.C.G.A. § 31.11.102. This subcommittee has the expertise to make those recommendations for grant funded projects to improve trauma transportation. Think about pilots, projects, etc. that could be funded to improve trauma transportation. We are not likely to impact transportation for every citizen but there are gaps where we may be able to employ modalities to improve transportation systems.

Trauma centers have pay for performance contracts. This concept is well received by the legislators, they like to know that there are measurable metrics for funding. The subcommittee should think about how this can be employed (future state) for EMS funding.

RTACS performance improvement – creating infrastructure to do true, consistent, regional PI with measurable metrics.

AFY2020 and FY2021 Budget

Courtney Terwilliger

Mr. Terwilliger, while we do not have confirmed and legislative and governor approved AFY20 budget information, when we get AFY20 budget, the Budget Subcommittee will look at it and allocate. We can determine how we allocate our funds today or we can make decision at our EMS April2020 meeting. Mr. Terwilliger presented options, (OPT 1), allocate any AFY funding to equipment grants or (OPT 2) AVLS equipment purchases, or (OPT 3) split between the 2 needs. It was decided the AFY funds would go all to equipment grants.

Mr. Terwilliger presented a budget spreadsheet (ATTACHMENT B) - Arbinger Institute- understanding leadership concepts and taking care of people within our organizations. Mr. Atkins asks if this can be tied into a current leadership course. Captain Polk says he has been through leadership, axiom, and Arbinger, and all great programs, he is also board member for leadership alumni group.

This started the certified ESM director concept- this is helping to create a standard of how you look at a fire/ems/police, creating a commonality that we have not done within our industry, if you go into smaller EMS organizations, leadership could be just who has been there the longest, the only way to improve trauma care and trauma systems is to improve the leadership. Mr. Terwilliger says everyone should attend the class.

Discussion of how to make sure we have 100% attendance; how do we limit cancellations on free training for education we provide at no cost to the student.

Mr. Atkins looking for ways to get more students into prehospital career path- one thing the Fire Department does is , pay for Firefighter pension for volunteers. GEMSA is working on a pension program for EMS. The only way to start the pension fund is to have 10,000 GEMSA members to start. MR. Atkins is proposing a 1-time influx of funds to pay for every licensed EMT in Georgia through GEMSA to get us over 10,000 thresholds, moving forward it would be up to them to pay after the first year. In rural areas we may consider a different funding mechanism. GEMSA has agreed to lower membership rate to help us get over 10,000 mark and he suspects it will only take \$200,000. It was suggested we'd have to consult with Attorney General and have something in writing that would allow us to do this and help rural areas to participate. Cost projection about \$ 200,000

There are plenty of ways to disburse the information and speak to regions. There are no obligations, just commit to saying yes, I want to a be member of GEMSA and once the pension is rolling with the 10,000 that level of participation doesn't matter after start up, the pension can also show benefits to those that participate. Cathy says students of EMS get 1 free year of membership. Mr. Atkins suggests that maybe this could work to have more considering and EMS career.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2020-02-03:

I make the motion to utilize if allowed \$200,000.00 of FY2021 EMS budget to assist the Georgia Emergency Medical Service Association (GEMSA) in creation of an EMS pension fund.

MOTION BY: Huey Atkins

SECOND BY: Blake Thompson

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of the motion.

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

The next step would be to ask the Commission on March Meeting for approval and then submit our request to the Attorney General for review. This will be a one-time \$ 200,000 funding initiative to jumpstart the pension plan. Mr. Terwilliger requests we go back to our regions and really discuss needs to improve trauma care within your region, maybe a symposium in every region is not the answer. Mr. Terwilliger discussed not providing EMS trauma equipment grant funding to 911 operating Ambulance agencies in counties where they are located near level I and level ii trauma centers. Mr. Quinones asked what the EMS Subcommittee's mission statement is and disagrees with excluding agencies as the mission of the EMS Subcommittee within the Georgia Trauma Commission is to be inclusive to all of Georgia. Mr. Quinones also suggests that the funding we do give is not enough that if you took it away from the urban EMS ambulance agencies and re-allocated those funds to rural ambulance agencies that this was not significant funding to make a substantial difference in care. Mr. Quinones was curious as to what data we have collected and how are we proving that we are taking care of our rural and urban patients any differently in regard to patient outcomes.

It was suggested by Ms. Atkins that perhaps a pilot on ambulatory transport data would support our current funding mechanisms or show us where we need to change. The EMS trauma related equipment grants equipment approval was discussed. Ms. Atkins made mention that may agencies were using funds to purchase items that are a state requirement to maintain on ambulances.

Discussion about removing the ambulance required equipment list from equipment grants. It was suggested to be more specific with allowable purchases. We need to confirm ambulance services are to spend funds on items trauma equipment and modify the list to reflect this. Mr. Quinones would like to see plans on equipping ambulances above and beyond state regulations to enhance the outcome and survivability of trauma patients. Fluid warmers should be on list. There should be a minimum equipped list and services should submit for items that are above and beyond the regulated list.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2020-02-04:

I make the motion to require an EMS developed list of trauma equipment to install on ambulance for future Trauma related EMS equipment grants.

MOTION BY: Pete Quinones

SECOND BY: Blake Thompson

VOTING: All members present voted

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Atkins will make a reservation for all 2020 EMS dates for the Morgan Public Safety Complex.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:23 P.M

Minutes crafted by Erin Bolinger