



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 18 March 2010

Scheduled: 10:00 am until 12:00 pm

Letton Auditorium
Atlanta Medical Center
Atlanta, Georgia

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Dennis Ashley, Chair, called the scheduled monthly meeting of the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission to order in Letton Auditorium at 10:10 AM.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT
Dr. Dennis Ashley Linda Cole, RN Dr. Joe Sam Robinson (via teleconference) Kelli Vaughn, RN Rich Bias (via teleconference) Bill Moore Dr. Leon Haley Kurt Stuenkel	Ben Hinson (not present/excused)

STAFF MEMBERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Jim Pettyjohn, Commission Administrator Curtis Chronister, Compliance Officer Greg Bishop (via teleconference) Carol Dixon, Administrator's Assistant	Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission DCH DEPR Office of EMS and Trauma Bishop & Associates (Consultant) Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission

OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Rena Brewer Brandon Dixson Bambi Bruce Marie Probst Renee Morgan Kim Brown Ester Yu Yvonne Weed Silla Sumerlin Calvin Thomas Huey Atkins Rachel Duke Greg Pereira	Georgia Partnership for Telehealth Georgia Partnership for Telehealth Walton Regional Medical Center OEP/Trauma OEP/Trauma Hamilton Medical Center Alston & Bird BRMC Memorial Health Savannah Grady National EMS GTRI CHOA

Marty Billings Pat O'Neal Lee Oliver Gina Solomon Jim Sargent Scott Maxwell Julie Mcinnis Regina Medeiros Courtney Terwilliger Fran Lewis	Metro Atlanta Ambulance Service DCH MCCG Gwinnett Medical Center North Fulton Hospital Augusta Burn Center/Healthcare GA CHOA MCGHI GAEMS Grady
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WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Ashley welcomed all present and thanked Mr. Bill Moore for hosting the meeting today at Atlanta Medical Center. Senate Resolution 277 passed out of the Ways and Means Committee this week and today will be presented in the Rules Committee by representative Allen Peak. This is the resolution by Senator Coggins that passed the senate last year for the constitutional amendment for the \$10 tag fee to go before the voters in November as a constitutional change that will generate approximately \$80M.

On February 23, 2010, Ms. Cole, Mr. Pettyjohn and Dr. Ashley testified before the Joint Subcommittee on Appropriations to go over the budget for the upcoming year and answer questions. We are waiting to see if any cuts are going to take place at this time.

We received a request this week from Mr. Scott Frederking DCH and as directed by the Governor requesting a budget for FY 2011 reflecting a 3.3% cut from \$23 million. Mr. Pettyjohn and Dr. Ashley made and submitted these adjustments for the FY2011 with a 3.3% cut across the board in each category. You will see this reflected on your budget handout sheet within the administrative report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT REVIEW

Mr. Pettyjohn introduced Carol Dixon as the latest member of the Trauma Team Commission. Ms. Dixon will provide administrative and logistic support to Mr. Jim Pettyjohn to include Commission meeting arrangements and minutes. He gave an overview of the components of the March 2010 Administrative Report. Mr. Greg Bishop will be calling in to give a report regarding the Readiness Costs Determination Report and a proposed Performance Based Payments program.

Copies of the March administrative report are available to the attendees and report was sent in electronic format to the members of the Commission prior to the meeting. Mr. Pettyjohn gave an overview of the highlights and said that the entire document would become part of the minutes. (*Administrative report as well as all approved minutes will be posted to www.gtcnc.org.*)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 18 FEBRUARY 2010 MEETING

The draft minutes of the 18 February 2010 meeting were distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting via electronic means and are also available to attendees in printed form. No corrections were requested.

Mr. Pettyjohn requested a motion:

[MOTION GTCNC 2010-3-01:](#)

I move that the minutes of the 18 February 2010, meeting of the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission be approved as amended.

MOTION BY: Mr. Haley
SECOND BY: Ms. Cole
ACTION:

The motion ***PASSED*** with no objections, nor abstentions. (*Approved minutes posted to www.gtcnc.org*)

QUORUM: Dr. Ashley, after consulting with Mr. Alex Sponseller of the Office of the Attorney General, declared that a quorum was present.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Cole presented the Treasurer's Report. She is hopeful that we will not have to decrease our FY 2010 budget of \$23M. Ms. Cole reviewed a list of encumbered dollars and expenses. Handout is attached to administrative report. She pointed out that there was an error reflecting a duplicate purchase order/contract to Bishop and Associates on the books. There are two Tenet entries. She speculated one Tenet entry should be for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston and that hospital is not listed and that amount is what is supposed to go to Egleston. There is urgency to get these contracts through the system so that we don't lose unencumbered dollars by having to release them back to the state general revenue. Most of the hospitals received their contracts back. Invoicing should begin and, hopefully, we will see dollars spent soon.

COMMISSION PROCUREMENT, GRANTS AND CONTRACTS UPDATE

Mr. Chronister provided an update as summarized on the project worksheet (*attached*).

CHOT - Mr. Chronister said he cannot give a firm date, but he feels comfortable in saying these dollars should be encumbered dollars by June 30th.

Dr. O'Neal stated DCH has implemented additional furlough dates effective April 2010 that will continue to prolong all processes due to employee staffing cuts. DCH is also down almost 40% on staffing. Dr. O'Neal noted that there are 27 different entities that use DCH services for administrative purposes, one of them being the Trauma Commission. Other entities may take priority over the Commission's work at any given time and this will affect getting the Commission work completed. Ms. Cole confirmed that she is getting lots of correspondence and emails reflecting frustration that things are not moving through.

EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grants – DCH procurement and Grants Administration is working with C. Chronister and J. Pettyjohn to get this posted ASAP. No firm date given.

GAEMS First Responder – sole source/sole brand Contract – Mr. Chronister will have the documents for this contract this afternoon, March 18. He will submit to DCH at that time.

GPT Matching Grants – Dr. Ashley stated there was an urgency to get all procurements and contracts approved and posted by June 30. Dr. O'Neil suggested that Dr. Ashley communicate to Dr. Meadows, who will be leaving as Commissioner at the end of March, to see if she has the ability to prioritize the Commission's work for DCH personnel to handle now.

New Trauma Center Start-Up Grants - Mr. Chronister stated Mr. Pettyjohn has provided all information necessary to DCH to develop and post these contracts. We are waiting for DHC to post at any time.

OEMS/T - Per spreadsheet – no change. Positions not yet requested.

Regional EMS Agreement – Mr. Chronister said there may be a 10% fee for the health district to disburse funds if the Commission decided to go with the Regional Health Offices. Mr. Rich Bias thinks

that MCG could administer the funds at no cost. Ms. Cole will review all opportunities and will present those opportunities at the April Commission meeting.

Web-based Registry Support - Ms. Cole stated that we would not be utilizing these funds for registry at this time. This was supported with Ms. Renee Morgan's summary stating that there have been some challenges with the vendor. Ms. Morgan further mentioned that the capability to use the web-based registry is there, but trauma coordinators as a whole elected not to use the registry for existing centers at this time. Those unused dollars will be placed back in the available funds.

Website Design – Mr. Chronister confirmed that there were complicating factors involving getting this contract complete. Mr. Pettyjohn said the website, as is, could be discontinued as early as July 1. Mr. Chronister and Mr. Pettyjohn to work further to resolve barriers in getting this contract complete.

Communications Center Lead Position – Job description posted on Trauma Commission website. Interested parties are to contact Ms. Keisha Dixon for further information. This job will be hired through a temporary service agency.

Broselew and Lutin System – Mr. Chronister submitted all paperwork and updated FEIN number. Clarification regarding vendor name change or separate vendor is needed. Mr. Chronister is consulting with his legal department and Broselew for clarification.

Trauma Centers and Physician Funding Contracts – Executed contracts are being sent out to the trauma centers. Ms. Morgan confirmed OEMST has been told by the budget department that hospitals could invoice for the entire amount of the contract.

MCG Health Inc. Contract for FY2010 – (EMS Uncompensated Care reimbursement Program) – This will be an amendment to their FY 2010 contract and will be in the amount of \$1M. Mr. Chronister has not been able to make any progress on this amendment. He envisions having this to budget/procurement by Wednesday, March 24.

Federal Stimulus Funding Solicitation – Mr. Chronister had no update.

Commission Travel/per Diem – Ms. Renee Morgan stated there is still conflict within DCH on how to process payment for Commission members. She sent a copy of the Senate Bill 60 to the necessary section within DCH for review and recommendations and she is awaiting decisions. Ms. Morgan believes the Commission members may be paid retroactive to October.

REQUEST FROM GRADY HEALTH SYSTEM

Mr. Calvin Thomas IV, Sr. VP Operations, presented to the Commission. He stated Grady Health System received funding from the Commission for capital improvement projects during FY 2009. He requested to be allowed to use funding from one project for the other. One project will cost less money and another project will cost more. This is not a request for increased funding. Mr. Alex Sponseller, Legal Counsel, stated that an amendment to the contract and an extension to the contract, which expires March 30, 2010, would be needed and requires approval from the Commission. Mr. Pettyjohn recommended that two motions be made as follows:

MOTION GTCNC 2010-3-02:

I propose an amendment to a no-cost extension to the original contract expiring March 31, 2010 as approved by the Commission.

MOTION BY: Ms. Cole
SECOND BY: Mr. Moore

ACTION:

The motion ***PASSED*** with no objections, nor abstentions. (*Approved minutes posted to www.gtcnc.org*)

MOTION GTCNC 2010-3-03:

I propose acceptance of re-allocating funds from one project to another without increasing the total projected dollars.

MOTION BY:

Ms. Cole

SECOND BY:

Mr. Moore

ACTION:

The motion ***PASSED*** with no objections, nor abstentions. (*Approved minutes posted to www.gtcnc.org*)

Dr. Ashley directed DCH to begin contract amendment and extension. Mr. Pettyjohn stated he would contact Mr. Chronister this afternoon with directions.

GTCNC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA EXCELLENCE: Ms. Kelli Vaughn reported the coordinators met yesterday, reviewed the Readiness and Uncompensated Care contracts. The coordinators discussed the contracts and the need for invoicing as soon as possible.

GEORGIA TRAUMA CARE ECONOMIC PROFILE SUBCOMMITTEE: Ms. Kelli Vaughn said the Readiness Cost Subcommittee reports have been completed by Mr. Greg Bishop. Mr. Bishop reviewed his reports, named *FY2008 Readiness Cost Survey Results Summary* and *Performance Based Payment for Georgia Trauma Centers*, which are also attached to the Administrative report. Mr. Bishop presented a review of the summary results to define trauma centers costs. Patient treatment costs, readiness costs, and a total cost for trauma system per year were compared. He stated areas of education and outreach are inadequate for most centers. Trauma centers are not doing much outside their roles in terms of specific functions that are required of trauma centers on a national level. He stated that the trauma care managers are preparing reports for economic costs for next Commission meeting.

TRAUMA CENTERS/PHYSICIANS FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE: Dr. Leon Haley introduced Greg Bishop and asked him to report on his Performance Based Payment (PBP) program model. Mr. Bishop summarized the five concepts of his PBP model. (see Administrative report attached).

Dr. Joe Sam Robinson expressed that diversions are a big problem in Georgia. Mr. Rich Bias has been tracking all diversions on a daily basis for his facility and will forward his template to Mr. Bishop. He stresses importance to define diversion and how we would record this in the reporting process. Mr. Bias supported "diversion" as a performance criterion.

TQIP (Trauma Quality Improvement Program) - Dr. Ashley discussed and encouraged Mr. Leon Haley, through this subcommittee, to move forward with all opportunities to improve Georgia trauma care.

PILOT PROJECT UPDATE: COMMUNICATION CENTER SOFTWARE – REGIONAL AGREEMENT/CONTRACT:

Ms. Cole reports that the RFI for the Trauma Communication Software was posted today by GTRI. We will wait to see who responds and provide report to the Commission at the April meeting.

STATE OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND TRAUMA REPORT: Dr. O'Neal addressed the issues at DCH. In response to Dr. O'Neal's earlier reporting about staff cuts, Ms. Morgan said the cost in Georgia for a site designation or a re-designation visit is minimal compared to other states. Ms. Cole wondered if the trauma centers could pay for their designation. Ms. Morgan said, perhaps, but some of the smaller facilities have difficulty coming up with even their registry fees. DCH does not charge for site surveys but may have to in the future. Dr. Ashley recommends that Dr. O'Neal and Ms. Morgan keep the Commission posted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Scott Sherrill will be meeting this afternoon with Debra Elovich from the State Properties Commission to discuss office space for our new EMS Communication Center.

Ms. Cole and Mr. Pettyjohn will meet this afternoon with Dr. Chris Wild from CMS to discuss EMTALA and possible impacts to our system development activities.

LAW REPORT: Mr. Alex Sponseller presented his letter regarding the Commissions ability to contract with Regional Health Offices. The letter is attached.

NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission will be on 15 April 2010 in Macon. Ms. Cole recommends that we allow four hours for the meeting with a scheduled break. Time and venue to be determined.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Hearing no call for additional business or concerns for the Commission to address, Dr. Ashley declared meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Minutes crafted by Carol Dixon and Jim Pettyjohn.