

**MINUTES**  
**Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission**

**Friday, 21 August 2008**

Georgia Tech Research Institute  
GTRI Conference Center, Room 119  
250 14th Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Dr. Dennis Ashley, Linda Cole Dr. Leon Haley Ben Hinson Bill Moore Kurt Stuenkel Kelli Vaughn  Others documented as present: Dr. Pat O'Neal Renee Morgan Greg Bishop Courtney Terwilliger	Dr. Rhonda Medows Dr. Joe Sam Robinson

Chairman, Dr. Dennis Ashley, called the meeting to order at 1000.

Greg Bishop spoke to the need for administrative support for the Commission due to the amount of work the Commission will need to accomplish. He suggested that Bishop and Associated establish an administrative fund by asking the Level I trauma centers to contribute \$20,000 and Level II trauma centers to contribute \$12,000. An administrative subcommittee would be established to provide oversight and those members would be Linda Cole, Bill Moore and Kurt Stuenkel. The total administrative fund would be \$188,000. Greg Bishop stated that any money left over within the administrative fund would be turned back to the hospitals and that to find a person in Macon would be ideal.

Kurt Stuenkel made a motion to accept Mr. Bishop's recommendations and Mr. Moore seconded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bishop stated his firm would contract rather than employ the individual. The person would work under the direction of the Commission. Ms. Cole agreed with the need for administrative support. Discussion continued regarding why administrative support money was not included in the original funding. Dr. Ashley said the Commission was under legal constraints by the state as to what money could be spent on what and that is why funding for administrative support did not make it into the small administrative budget. Mr. Hinson supported the motion but had concerns about having to

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go to the hospitals and ask for money back for this purpose. Mr. Moore felt the issue (requesting money back from hospitals) could be explained well and would be accepted. An amendment was attached to the motion indicating that the administrative fund for administrative support would move forward only if the contributing hospitals agreed to the plan. Mr. Bishop stated his firm would craft a memo to be used by the administrative subcommittee in communicating this idea to the trauma centers. Ms. Cole stated a need for personal communication with the CEOs before they get any memo. Motion passed with Dr. Haley abstaining, "I'll abstain since I missed the discussion." All other votes were in support of the motion.

Mr. Bishop suggested there be a "kitchen cabinet" for the Commission to recognize and use the wealth of talent in the state. Mr. Bishop gave several names as people to consider: Doug Hatton, Art Kellerman, and Richard Martinez. Dr. Ashley opened discussion about role and purpose of this group. The group would be advisory to the Commission. Concerned was expressed based upon the current political environment and the fact that the Commission, the responsible party for making the decisions, would have an advisory committee. Concern was raised about communication with the advisory committee and the open records act. Mr. Bishop further described the advisory committee as "sort of a brain trust." "They would never meet or vote" and would not be subject to open records act. Discussion continued about the Commission not being ready for an advisory committee and the perception of Commission being tied to the advice of just that group. Mr. Bishop suggested that he come back to the Commission at the next meeting with something more specific for the Commission to consider on this matter. Dr. Ashley asked for a list of individual who might be on that advisory committee. No action taken by the Commission.

Mr. Bishop spoke to his report developed with Health Care Georgia Foundation and addressed the need for additional trauma centers in Georgia. The intent of the report is to provide to hospitals assistance they need to consider to enter as a trauma center. The report has not been made public. Discussion ensued about new and additional trauma centers in Georgia and funding of those and the use and possible misinterpretation of the report. Mr. Bishop stated the benefit of the report would be to provide technical assistance to hospitals considering trauma center designation. Dr. Ashley summed up the report as; "a general report that has the methodology, statistical methodology intact where when we go out to recruit and Dr. O'Neal and his office and Renee to get other centers to come on, we can at least sit down with them with a template and say, okay, your financial mix is X, Y, Z. And once they give you that data, you can sort of see how the trauma center will be in effect." Mr. Bishop agreed, the report would provide technical assistance to the hospitals considering trauma center designation.

Dr. O'Neal stated the most immediate challenge for DHR is to decrease the vehicular death rate along I 75's southern corridor.

Ben Hinson made a motion for Bishop and Associates to be authorized to provide assistance to hospitals considering trauma center designation. Mr. Moore seconded and motion passed unanimously.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### **Data**

Ben Hinson, chair, stated the importance identifying data needs and getting the right data. He requested the Commission members to forward to them any data point requests they have. Dr. O'Neal spoke to the importance of utilizing the CDC staff assigned to the epidemiology section of Georgia public health. Dr. Ashley asked Dr. O'Neal to get with the data committee and share data resources. Dr. Ashley also stated the importance of getting information back from the trauma centers as to how they are spending the trauma fund dollars.

### **Hospital capitol grants**

Kurt Stuenkel, chair, updated the Commission on subcommittee's work and that there exists \$4,148,602 available for grants to Level I and Level II trauma centers. The Committee has decided upon awarding 15 grants. Mr. Stuenkel described the process: Each trauma center would be invited to submit a proposal for the funding of trauma-related capital, equipment or projects. In the proposal that each trauma center will submit to us, their items need to be grouped and prioritized with a written and detailed justification including the cost for each and every group of items. Mr. Stuenkel made a motion that the capital grants subcommittee be authorized to implement the reported methodology to solicit applicants or applications from the trauma centers and to score the applications with the assistance of Bishop & Associates, and then to make a recommendation in the future Trauma Commission meeting. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Stuenkel stated the subcommittee will only make award recommendations to the Commission and the Commission will approve. Money needs to be allocated by the end of the fiscal year 30 June 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Pediatric planning**

Linda Cole is chair and offered report: The pediatric trauma providers in Georgia (CHOA, Augusta, Savannah and Macon) meet regularly and have made progress. Did a S.W.O.T. analysis, identified the need for a statewide pediatric trauma plan concerning coordination, transportation and education. Each pediatric trauma center has a transfer center. There currently exist no ongoing communication between or among the transfer centers. Linking all those would be ideal.

### **EMS**

Ben Hinson is chair and identified two issues:

1. Money for EMS uncompensated care, still working with MCG/ Augusta. SB 60 was clear that funding EMS for this could only be made to services that transported a patient that eventually ended up at a trauma center. A system has been developed to more accurately identify those patients and correct EMS service. Mr. Hinson described that system that would better include the transporting EMS services into the EMS uncompensated money distribution plan. Mr. Hinson passed out a written amendment to the MCG contract that would accommodate the new system and suggested via motion that the Commission agree to the amendments. Motion seconded by Ms. Cole and Ms. Vaughn. Discussion ensued. Motion passed the Commission unanimously.

2. Mr. Hinson passed out a draft EMS grant application for new vehicles under the EMS capital equipment award program. This money will be handled by GEMA. Mr. Hinson described the methodology for awarding the vehicle replacement awards. Mr. Hinson made a motion the Commission approve the formula for ambulance replacement awards. Mr. Moore seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

Ben Hinson asked the Commission to review a trauma Commission logo he had developed. Discussion ensued. Letterhead was also identified as a need. A Commission retreat was also discussed. Dates and times were suggested. Consensus around the end of September or early October for Commission retreat was reached. Ben Hinson will work on scheduling the Commission retreat.

Dr. Ashley made the following motion: The Georgia Trauma Center Network Commission authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources that the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission's duly appointed agent to take such action including the execution of any necessary documents for and on behalf of the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission to distribute, pursue to a contract with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, GEMA, a portion of those funds appropriated to the department of human resources and the fiscal year 2008 supplemental budget on behalf to the Georgia Trauma Center Network Commission for the purposes of purchasing ambulance vehicles for certain emergency medical services in the Georgia Trauma Care System this 21st day of August 2008. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion. No discussion occurred and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore asked if there was an update on the trauma centers receiving the state health plan fee schedule to work with in providing uncompensated care payments to their trauma physicians. Dr. Ashley stated Dr. Medows was not present at the meeting today and that he would check with her on that.

Mr. Hinson made a motion that the Commission chair be authorized to make some technical changes to contracts as they come up if the Commission is not available. Dr. Haley and Dr. Ashley seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned (no time specified in transcript)