



Georgia Trauma Commission
GEORGIA TRAUMA CARE NETWORK COMMISSION

EMS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 04, 2012
Scheduled: 11:00 am until 1:00 p.m.
Letton Auditorium
Atlanta Medical Center
Atlanta, Georgia

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pete Quinones called the January monthly meeting of the EMS Subcommittee on Trauma to order at the Letton Auditorium, Atlanta Medical Center, Atlanta, Georgia, at 11:00 a.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Pete Quinones – Region Three Richard Lee – Region Four Lee Oliver – Region Five Blake Thompson – Region Six David Moore – Region Nine (via tele-conference) Huey Atkins – Region Ten Courtney Terwilliger – EMSAC Keith Wages-SOEMS Dr. Leon Haley-GA Trauma Commission	Ben Hinson, Chair Subcommittee & GA Trauma Commission Member Randy Pierson – Region One Chad Black – Region Two Jimmy Carver-Region Seven Craig Grace – Region Eight

OTHERS SIGNING IN	REPRESENTING
Kim Littleton Kirk Pennywitt Russ McGee Jim Pettyjohn Judy Geiger Mark Chapman Dr. Dennis Ashley Jill Mabley Renee Morgan	GAEMS GTRI Region 5 EMS Georgia Trauma Commission Georgia Trauma Commission CHOA Georgia Trauma Commission Region 5 EMS OEMS

Debra Kitchens Randy Clayton Pam Blackwell Lawanna Mercer-Cobb	MCCG Trauma GOHS Cobb CO PH Region 6 EMS
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Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Pete Quinones welcomed all present at the meeting and recognized a quorum of the voting members were present.

Approval of Minutes from September Meeting

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the 06 September 2011 subcommittee meeting.

MOTION #1 EMS Subcommittee 2012-01-04:

I make the motion to approve the minutes from the 06 September 2011 meeting as written.

MOTION BY:

SECOND:

ACTION:

RICHARD LEE

BLAKE THOMPSON

The motion ***PASSED*** with no objections, nor abstentions.

FY 2012: EMS UNCOMPENSATED CARE AUDIT PROCEDURES

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn introduced Ms. Jessica Story and Mr. Paul Lunde with Gifford, Hillegass & Ingwersen who presented an overview of the EMS preparation process in draft form. *(Copy of GTCNC Agreed Upon Procedures EMS Preparation Processes attached as part of these minutes)* Mr. Paul Lunde reported that the scope of this work is an "agreed upon" procedure with specific attention given to the EMS community. Ms. Jessica Story stated that during this process they contacted and interviewed a representative of twenty (20) services to get a better understanding of how each service processed their claims.

Discussion:

Mr. Pete Quinones questioned if a variance was found between the services who bill in-house and those who sub-out their billing and was there any quality assurance differences in the process? Ms. Jessica Story responded, "the twenty (20) services that were interviewed all did their billing in-house." Mr. Paul Lunde stated there was some inconsistency in the level of review that went into the process with some of the services actually having two levels with a "preparer" and a "reviewer" and some with basically one person doing the preparation and reviewing.

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn questioned, "Was there a difference in how the services obtained their list of trauma patients?" Ms. Jessica Story responded that there was only one service that used their own call log to determine if a patient met trauma criteria while others used a list supplied by the hospitals.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger asked if any of the services had turned over their claims to outside collection agencies. Ms. Jessica Story reported it was found that there was inconsistency with this part of the process with some claims being only 60-90 days and some older. Mr. Pete Quinones asked what the time frame is for claims to be considered bad debt. Ms. Story responded that there was inconsistency with this as well and they will be making a recommendation that a policy be set for the time frame of bad debt.

Mr. Pete Quinones stated that the Subcommittee needs to come together and agree on what is considered bad debt. Mr. Huey Atkins recommended forming an ad-hoc committee to discuss and determine this time frame. Mr. Huey Atkins, Mr. Pete Quinones, and Mr. Richard Lee agreed to serve on this committee and will be presenting their recommendations at the next EMS Subcommittee meeting.

TRAUMA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER UPDATE

Mr. John Cannady presented an update on the TCC. Mr. Cannady reported that all full-time staff is in place and the TCC began staffing 24/7 on December 19, 2011. The TCC has been in contact with all trauma centers and their availability is being updated every 8 hours. Mr. Cannady reported that he is very pleased with the cooperation they have received from the hospitals. The TCC has made available their contact number, and has been available for calls since January 1, 2012. These numbers were also released to RTAC within Regions 5 and 6 and they expect these services to be on board by the end of January. Mr. Cannady stated they will continue to search for ways to improve the system and how the system can be more accommodating to the EMS services. Mr. Cannady reminded everyone that the TCC is providing a service to the EMS community and they do not dictate hospital designation.

AVLS PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Kirk Pennywitt presented an update on the AVLS program. *(Copy of power-point attached as part of these minutes)* Some of the highlights of Mr. Pennywitt's presentations are:

- 197 units have been deployed within Phase 1 with 96% of these vehicles online
- 198 units have been deployed within Phase 2 and includes 20 agencies
- Phase 2 Advanced User Trainings were held in November
- 150 units have been deployed within Phase 3 with 60% of these vehicles online
- Phase 3 Advanced User Training will be held sometime on February and March, 2012
- GEMA announced in December that funding has become available for the UASI area and these units will be deployed in the near future

Discussion: Mr. Huey Atkins requested that the Advanced User Training dates and times be sent out to all Phases in case someone would like a refresher or was unable to attend a previous session. Mr. Kirk Pennywitt agreed this would be a good idea and he will be sending this information out to the Phase 1, 2, and 3 participants.

Mr. Pete Quinones asked, "after all agencies are on-board including Phase 4, is there a possibility of going back to those who did not participate and integrate their current equipment and IT technology with this program?" Mr. Kirk Pennywitt felt this was a good idea and he would look into pursuing this.

Mr. Lee Oliver asked, "is there a process to add additional equipment if there is an addition made to your fleet?" Mr. Kirk Pennywitt stated that if the equipment is available this is possible. There is no specific "spare" policy at this time.

COMMISSION-MANAGED EMS GRANT PROGRAMS:

EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grants

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported that the FY2010 EMS Vehicle Equipment Grants are invoiced and purchased. On the FY2011 grant process, all but six (6) work-plans have been approved and are waiting on invoices. Seventeen (17) replacement grants will be offered for FY2012 and as of midnight December 30, 2011, fifty-four (54) applications had been received. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn stated they are in the process of going through these applications to verify that all information is complete, and if not, the applicant will be contacted requesting additional and/or corrected information. Once this process is completed and verified the applications will be scored and reviewed by Mr. Keith Wages, State EMS Director. The list of awards will be presented to the EMS Subcommittee and then to the Commission with anticipation of announcing the winners at the March Commission meeting.

EMS Uncompensated Care Program

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported that the ad-hoc committee will be providing its' recommendations on how to incorporate the recommendations from the Agreed Upon Procedures presented earlier in this meeting. The committee will also be recommending how we want to formulate the Medicare rate and mileage rate. There was some discussion early on that we are going to wait until after the first of the year for the rate to settle out and then use that and put that on the application spread sheet to be sent out.

Discussion: Mr. Huey Atkins suggests using a flat rate because this will be a moving target every year. Mr. Huey Atkins feels this would be better for ease of process due to when the rate structure was looked at, one concern was that we weren't reimbursing above what was considered UCR. The target was to stay within what Medicare was doing and if we can come to a conclusion of \$415.00 base rate across the board and whatever mileage, lock it in there because Medicare rates will fluctuate every year. Mr. Lee Oliver agrees with this suggestion.

Mr. Pete Quinones asked Mr. Jim Pettyjohn if he preferred that the ad-hoc committee come up with the definition of bad debt first or prefer that we save that. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn responded that a whole package recommendation would be preferred. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn stated that we could ask the Commission for their approval during their January meeting to take the recommendation as it is presented and roll it into the application. If this does get approval, the information would be needed by February 1, 2012.

GAEMS CONTRACT DISCUSSION

FY 2010, FY 2011, & FY 2012 Contracts

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported on contract discussions with hand-outs being presented. *(Copy of handouts attached as part of these minutes)* Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported there has been some communication and discussion with Mr. Jim Pettyjohn, Ms. Kim Littleton, and Ms. Judy Geiger to look at some on-going issues to be able to make a recommendation of moving some money around in the FY2012 budget.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that in the FY2010 budget there were grants for sixty (60) First Responder classes with fifty (50) started and ten (10) that are left to do. Some agencies have forfeited even though they received the grant stating they could not "get it together". Letters have been sent out to other agencies giving them till January 15, 2012, to submit an approved course application and the course has to begin no later than February 15, 2012. This grant expired December 31, 2011, and the Commission approved a no-cost extension to get these ten classes done. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that there has been recognition of the fact that there may not be enough need to fund future classes. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger presented a proposed change in the FY2012 budget by reducing the amount of the First Responder Training Grants from 43 classes to 24 classes.

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported the attachment showing the changes reflect the 2% reduction the Governor order, however, if revenues are up, it is anticipated that the Governor will be presenting his FY2012 budget and there is some talk that the 2% may or may not stay. All this will be known more during the

Commission meeting during a hard budget review. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that there are two things we are looking at doing with this additional money. One will be in supporting the GAEMS State Office of Rural Health Georgia Southern University Leadership Project. This project is an ongoing project to develop a curriculum to train EMS leaders. A grant has been secured from the State Office of Rural Health for \$100,000.00 which includes twenty (20) students from rural counties. The additional money that is being proposed will help support eight (8) additional students with five (5) being from an urban/suburban county and three (3) would be program managers that Mr. Keith Wages would help select which will give a total of twenty-eight students. The remaining money will be used for the purchase of twenty-eight (28) laptops for each student. The total cost to support this project would be \$27,284.32.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported there is a need to bring back the Georgia Extrication School which was previously held in Athens, Georgia. We would like to work with GAEMS, GEMA, and the fire services to bring this back and are proposing to use \$84,000.00 to fund this. \$12,000.00 of this money would be used to hire a Program Manager to oversee the project, \$4,000.00 will be used for travel and meeting expenses, and the remaining \$60,000.00 would be used as seed money to put on the Conference.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger stated they are also proposing to utilize the excess money from the FY2010 First Responder Training Grants to host two planning sessions for the extrication classes. Once we have completed our sixty (60) classes for First Responder Training we will have met our commitment to the contract and this money would be used to host these sessions with Session One hosting around twenty-five (25) people who have expertise in extrication to include farm extrication, bus extrication, big-rig extrication, as well as automobile extrication. Session Two will be the working group which will be approximately seven (7) people who will actually be working with the budget and time-frame to plan the extrication school.

MOTION #2 EMS Subcommittee 2012-01-04:

I make the motion to amend the FY2012 budget based on the percentages which will delete several First Responder Training Grants and utilize the money to support the EMS Leadership Project and Re-institute the Georgia Extrication School.

MOTION BY:

COURTNEY TERWILLIGER

SECOND:

LEE OLIVER

ACTION:

The motion ***PASSED*** with one objection and two abstentions.

Discussion: Mr. Pete Quinones asked whether or not there were any laptops left over from the Laptop Project. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded that there are none available and this project has been closed out.

Mr. Huey Atkins asked if the students would be keeping the laptops or would they be handed down. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger stated that the students will be allowed to keep the computers. Mr. Pete Quinones asked who would be the IT person on this. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded that Georgia Southern will be taking the lead in the on-line education and there is \$10,000.00 to fund this.

Mr. Blake Thompson asked if there would be any revenue coming back into the program. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded that there would be a cost for each participant but hopefully we will be able to keep the cost at a minimum.

Mr. Blake Thompson asked if this would be a yearly school and would Trauma pay for it. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded the goal would be to have it yearly and we can't assume that the Trauma

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Commission would fund it each year. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger stated we would have to look to see if the course was done effective and efficiently.

Mr. Pete Quinones asked for clarification from Mr. Jim Pettyjohn whether or not the Trauma Commission has to approve the budget before any distribution is made. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn affirmed that is correct.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Pete Quinones reported that we would do a value proposition to reflect what the gain is, what the outcome is, and what the value of investing this money is. There needs to be some kind of report of quality assurance at the end showing that we invested this amount of taxpayers' money and this is what the taxpayer got in return. Mr. Pete Quinones stated that he will be meeting with Mr. Ben Hinson in the near future and will be drafting something in the future to push out to the members. Mr. Pete Quinones feels this is an important piece of work to do as money becomes tighter we can justify the outcome of the money spent.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn asked that a timeframe be specified for the draft of these minutes to be forwarded out which will be by the first of the next week.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next meeting date will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2012, with time and venue to be determined

Crafted by Shawn Hackney