



# Georgia Trauma Commission

**GEORGIA TRAUMA CARE NETWORK COMMISSION**

## EMS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, August 09, 2011**  
**Scheduled: 11:00 am until 1:00 p.m.**  
**Letton Auditorium**  
**Atlanta Medical Center**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

<b>OTHERS SIGNING IN</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Renee Morgan Scott Sherrill Lawanna Mercer-Cobb Jim Barnes Jill Mabley Russ McGee Marty Billings Michael Watts Chace Bramlett Russ Toal Jim Pettyjohn	OEMS GTRI Region 6 EMS Towns County EMS OEMS Region 5 EMS Metro-Atlanta Ambulance Service TCC Banks County Fire/EMS Ga Southern University Georgia Trauma Commission

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Ben Hinson welcomed all present at the meeting. Mr. Hinson recognized a quorum of the voting members were present.

### **Approval of Minutes from August Meeting**

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the 07 June 2011 subcommittee meeting.

### **MOTION #1 EMS Subcommittee 2011-8-09:**

**I make the motion to approve the minutes from the 08 June 2011 meeting as written.**

**MOTION BY:**

**SECOND:**

**ACTION:**

**BLAKE THOMPSON**

**LEE OLIVER**

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

### **PRESENTATION: "GEORGIA EMS ARTEMIS SAFEDOSE" MOBILE APPLICATION**

Mr. Peter Lazar presented a presentation regarding the Georgia EMS Artemis Safedose. Mr. Peter Lazar announced that the mobile application of this is available for Blackberry, I-Phone, and Droid cellular phones and also I-Pads at this time. *(Copy of the link to this presentation <http://www.ebroselow.com/georgiaems>)*

Mr. Peter Lazar announced that the contracts are in place for services in Regions 5 and 6 to begin using this application. Mr. Lazar stated that there will be a kick-off date for the mobile application and during this time they will have a five day period in which the application will be a free download for mobile phones.

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Ben Hinson suggested that an electronic broadcast be sent out with all the available information and that the kick-off date be centered around an EMS event. Mr. Hinson suggested setting a date for the kick-off and a "package" with the available information be forwarded out as soon as possible to get the information in the hands of the EMS community. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger stated that there is an upcoming Educator's Conference scheduled in October and this would be a good time for the kick-off. Mr. Lazar agreed to put together the information and forward it to Mr. Jim Pettyjohn for approval and distribution. Mr. Ben Hinson stated he would like to see something stating that the EMS Subcommittee supports this application when it is sent out.

### **TRAUMA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER UPDATE**

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn introduced Mr. Mike Watts who is the new coordinator of the TCC located in Forsyth, Georgia. Mr. Mike Watts stated that he is excited to be working with this project.

Mr. Scott Sherrill states the implementation is proceeding well and for the past two months, they have been working on getting the building ready and customizing the software. Physical implementation is

expected to begin next week with the servers and work stations arriving at that time. It is expected that the implementation process should take approximately three weeks. At the end of this time, a rollout will begin with the hospitals and EMS services with the hope that the TCC will be operational October 1, 2011. Mr. Scott Sherrill also stated it is their hope that most of the operators hired will actually be medics.

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Ben Hinson stated he feels that it is a bad decision and mistake to hire medics to do this job. It has been documented that if you use a full emergency medical dispatch system with quality assurance, that long-time field medics generally do not make that transition well because they naturally input their experience and thoughts into the process. We simply want someone to write the protocol and the people hired will take the information and give it out. Mr. Hinson states that high performance dispatch centers across America do not use medics in their dispatch system. Mr. Chad Black stated he agrees with this comment and it would also cost less money for the FTE. Mr. Hinson stated, "We want to hire people who can follow a protocol and not make subjective decisions". Mr. Ben Hinson commented that one reason this dispatch center was placed in an area that did not have a currently operating dispatch center was because of politics and if we hire medics that work for an EMS system, you have just injected politics into this whole thing.

Mr. Scott Sherrill thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions and stated they would be going back to the drawing board on this. They still anticipate staffing over the next few weeks.

### **COMMISSION-FUNDED EMS PROGRAMS:**

Mr. Ben Hinson reminded the EMS Subcommittee that as the State of Georgia continues to have money challenges, even though the money has begun to come in a little better, they want to see data; they want to know what the result is and what has been done. We have got to keep in mind that as we spend this money, as we look at what we have done and what we are going to do, we have got to look at what did we add to the program, what have we added, and not what have we replaced. Eighty million dollars has been spent and no hospital has given up their trauma center status which might lead the state to say let's quit spending the money and see how many of the hospitals leave the program. Mr. Hinson reminded everyone that as we talk about all the programs, we need to find out what we have added to our capacity to do the job.

### **EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grants (FY 2010 and 2011)**

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn gave a brief update. On the FY2010, of the twenty-nine grants, all but three have been invoiced and out. On the FY2011, all but two of the nine awarded have been invoiced and work-plans submitted. In our 2011 work-plans, we have a robust return on investment query and we do plan to follow-up to find out if the return investment plan forecasted was correct.

### **AVLS Project**

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported on Phase 1 that we have several services that have yet to submit their request for reimbursement for installation and two services have received their units but the installation process has not begun. Mr. Pettyjohn has talked with Mr. Ben Hinson and Mr. Lee Oliver and he will be following-up with these services to find out what the issues are and try to get them online by the end of August or the beginning of September.

Mr. Pettyjohn reported that he was not prepared to report on the GEMA AVLS program and if anyone could, please do so. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that they have had three rollouts within the past couple weeks, one being at the GTRI offices and one in Douglas, Georgia. They have put out

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approximately two hundred units to date. There will be approximately another two hundred units available when the Phase 3 rollout begins in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Keith Wages requested a rollout schedule in respect to regions. Mr. Terwilliger responded that it has not been on a region-by-region basis that it was done on a first-come first-serve basis depending on the response to the email sent out. The idea was they would do a rollout at GTRI for the people in the northern part of the state and the southern area would be held in Douglas.

Mr. Huey Atkins stated there is a list of services that received the units sent out in an email.

Mr. Keith Wages questioned whether or not Region 3 was included. Mr. Terwilliger responded that they were not because GEMA felt like the people in Region 3 should be funded by UASI. GEMA contacted the UASI people requesting them to fund the purchases for Region 3. Mr. Terwilliger reported that he understood that UASI stated they would rather go with a global emergency response device and this was the last discussion that he is aware of.

Mr. Keith Wages reported that there will be a workgroup meeting held on August 25, 2011.

### **First Responder Training Grants (FY2010 and 2011) and FY 2010 Trauma Care Related Equipment Distribution**

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that over one-half of the courses have been completed with a handout of a map showing the status of the grants. *(Copy of map attached as part of these minutes)* Mr. Terwilliger further stated that there has been a 60% completion rate for this course and as surplus funds are identified there will be more grants provided.

Mr. Terwilliger reported that we will be rolling out the nineteen we have contracted to do this year in the very near future. Mr. Ben Hinson questioned the selection process for this year with Mr. Terwilliger responding that it was a competitive grant and was geared toward rural counties.

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn stated that a summary of the Commission's activities and funding had been compiled and posted on the website at Dr. Ashley's request. This information gives a good update of the funding provided to physicians, hospitals, and EMS over the past years.

### **FY 2011 EMS Uncompensated Care Program**

Mr. Rich Bias reported that the Uncompensated Care Program is moving along and that as of Friday, all EMS services had been notified and the necessary documents have been posted to the website and available for download and use. As of Friday, seven services have completed the requirements to participate in the program. The feedback received on the forms and process has been positive. No service has submitted a request for an extension with the deadline to submit all claims being August 26, 2011.

### **EMS UNCOMPENSATED CARE AUDIT PROCEDURES: FY 2012**

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported that last year the Commission contracted with Gifford Hillegass & Ingwersen, LLP, an Atlanta based audit firm, to audit the uncompensated claims of the trauma centers to ensure that the correct investigative processes were undertaken when the hospitals identified the uncompensated care claims, using the Senate Bill 60 definition, as well as that the claim and the associated ISS matched up with the records they had in the hospitals. Based on that review, we had to re-do some of the uncompensated care dollars distributed. We found this year, when we did our survey; there was great improvement in their efficiency and feel that they are doing the process better and we will continue to audit them this year. This is a background in what we want to move into in auditing the EMS

uncompensated procedures. This year we will be auditing 44 claims from the uncompensated care program in 2010. There were 44 services who received funding in 2010 and we will be contacting 20 of those services, seven who received the most dollars and thirteen randomly selected. We want to know more about the EMS services processes. We are in hopes that what we discover in this review process, if the committee moves to continue Uncompensated Care in 2012, we can incorporate into the 2012 Uncompensated Care Program.

## **FY 2012 EMS FUNDING DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ben Hinson stated, "One thing the committee needs to revisit is to determine the parameters of what we are trying to do". "We have been racing down this road with certain pre-conceived ideas of what our job is and I think it would be a good idea to outline those and agree on those. The first one that comes up is the idea that we really need to work hard in the rural areas with our funding, training, and ambulances and we need to ask the question, where was that policy set and why do we score everything with a pro-rural prejudice?" Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded, "That came directly from the Trauma Commission, it is in their five-year work-plan, and in their mandate to support the rural EMS systems and is posted on their website." Mr. Ben Hinson stated he is all for that but as people ask questions, this may be one asked.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger presented a proposed Amendment for the EMS budget for FY2012. The noted changes are decreasing the percentage amount for EMS Vehicle Replacement Grants from 55.90% to 41.32%; adding 4.86% to fund EMT-B Courses; adding 4.86% to fund PHTLS/ITLS classes; and increasing the Trauma Care Related Equipment percentage to 13.76%. *(Copy of proposed budget attached as part of these minutes)*

## **MOTION #2 EMS Subcommittee 2011-08-09:**

**I make the motion to present the amended FY 2012 EMS Subcommittee budget to the Trauma Commission for approval.**

**MOTION BY:**

Courtney Terwilliger

**SECOND**

David Moore

**ACTION:**

The motion ***PASSED*** with eight for, two objections and no abstentions.

## **Discussion:**

Mr. Blake Thompson questioned who was teaching the PHTLS classes now and Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded that these are being funded through the ASPER grant. Mr. Blake Thompson further stated he felt that it was a great idea to fund EMT-B classes. Mr. Ben Hinson questioned whether or not there were enough people who wanted to attend the EMT-B class and that we need a way to move the money if there is no interest in the classes. Mr. Randy Pierson suggested holding off on the EMTB classes until the First Responder classes were complete to see if the interest continued into the EMTB classes from those who have completed the First Responder classes. Mr. Ben Hinson agrees that this is a good idea.

Mr. Blake Thompson questioned whether or not the money that was moved from the vehicle replacement to fund the EMTB classes would be lost if the classes did not follow through or is there a way to move that money back? Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded that the budget is a planning document but he would like to see the Commission approve the suggested amendment. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn stated that the budget has been cut by 2% and this cut will be reflected in the proposed budget. *(Copy of proposed budget with 2% cut attached as part of these minutes)*

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Mr. Keith Wages stated that he agrees with Mr. Ben Hinson's statement earlier that there are expectations of this money that are not being met. Mr. Wages stated, "Having a line item identified as a replacement grant is problematic and it acknowledges that we are not enhancing anything; having criteria that exclude the taxpayers who generated the bulk of this money is problematic; it excludes the populated areas and they are the ones who generate the majority of this money." Mr. Lee Oliver also agrees with Mr. Keith Wages' statement and states, "in the most part it is replacement of things that could be replaced by the local government".

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting date and venue to be determined

**Minutes crafted by Shawn Hackney**

<b>Available EMS Budget @ 20% of available funds for stakeholders: Commission APPROVED 01 June 2011</b>		\$ 2,976,403	
Staffing and Meeting Support Available for distribution	\$ 2,972,903	\$ 3,500	Staffing and minutes development Available for distribution
% Distribution from FY 2010 funding	%		
EMS Uncompensated Care	26.30%	\$ 781,874	
EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grants	55.90%	\$ 1,661,853	#23 Ambulance grants at \$72,254 per
First Responder Training Grants	8.90%	\$ 264,588	
Trauma Care Related Equipment	8.90%	\$ 264,588	
Total	100.00%		
<b>Remaining :</b>		\$ -	

**Georgia Trauma Commission FY 2012**

**EMS Allocation**

**Subcommittee Recommended on 09 August**

<b>Available EMS Budget @ 20% of available funds for stakeholders: Reflects Governor-directed 2% budget reduction</b>		\$ 2,914,407	
Staffing and Meeting Support Available for distribution	\$ 2,910,907	\$ 3,500	Staffing and minutes development Available for distribution
% Distribution from FY 2010 funding	%		
EMS Uncompensated Care	26.30%	\$ 765,569	
EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grants	41.32%	\$ 1,202,787	17 awards @ \$70,752.16 per
First Responder Training Grants	8.90%	\$ 259,071	43 classes
Trauma Care Related Equipment	13.76%	\$ 400,541	\$445.05 if 900 apply
EMT- B Courses	4.86%	\$ 141,470	10 Classes Multi-iCounty Grants
PHTLS/ITLS	4.86%	\$ 141,470	32 Courses
Total	100.00%		
<b>Remaining :</b>		\$ (0)	



