



# Georgia Trauma Commission

**GEORGIA TRAUMA CARE NETWORK COMMISSION**

## EMS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2011**  
**Scheduled: 10:00 am until 1:00 p.m.**  
**MGA Training Room**  
**252 Holt Avenue**  
**Macon, Georgia 31201**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ben Hinson called the March monthly meeting of the EMS Subcommittee on Trauma to order at MGA Training Room, 252 Holt Avenue, Macon, Georgia, at 10:05 a.m.

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

<b>OTHERS SIGNING IN</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Russ McGee Jim Barnes Kristal C. Smith	Region 5 EMS Towns County EMS Region 5 RTAC

### Welcome and Introductions

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

### Approval of Minutes from February Meeting

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the 8 February 2011 subcommittee meeting.

**MOTION #1 EMS Subcommittee 2011-3-01:**

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

**MOTION BY:**  
**SECOND:**  
**ACTION:**

**BLAKE THOMPSON**  
**HUEY ATKINS**

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

Mr. Ben Hinson reported that he had been contacted by a representative of Senator Greg Goggans' office, inviting him to travel to Maryland to look at a software system and a communication center. It appeared that this was something that the State of Georgia wanted everyone to do but after investigating this, it was found that the company was from Augusta, Georgia, trying to take a group of people to Maryland to see how well their software worked in hopes that we would use this as an adjunct to the TCC we are setting up here. Mr. Hinson sent a letter to Mr. Alex Sponseller, Attorney General's Office, requesting his input to see if it was okay if he went on this trip with the vendor paying his way. Mr. Alex Sponseller responded that it was okay but Mr. Hinson would have to go through a ream of reporting to tell them why he went and report every penny of money spent. Therefore, Mr. Hinson did not attend.

Mr. Ben Hinson reported that Dr. Pat O'Neal attended at the direct request of Senator Goggan not at the request of the vendor. Dr. O'Neal did not request, nor allow, any portion of his expenses be paid by the vendor. This is the GER group out of Augusta, Georgia and they are currently doing a pilot program with three counties in Georgia.

Mr. Rich Bias stated he would like to make three comments related to the previous discussion: 1. MCG Health and GHSU have no connection with GER; 2. Mr. Bias shares Mr. Hinson's concern regarding prioritization of funds and this should be considered with all other budget priorities by the Commission; and 3. As described, this matter seems to have been handled politically and with preference for a "sole source" rather than as an open-bid process. Mr. Rich Bias also reported that GER had requested time on the Region VI EMS Council Agenda.

**UPDATE FY 2010 EMS FUNDING PROGRAMS UPDATE:**

**FY 2010 EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grants**

A written report was provided by Mr. Jim Pettyjohn regarding the FY 2010 EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grant. (Copy of report attached)

**Discussion:**

There was some discussion regarding the short time frame for submission of application which is thirty (30) days. The sub-committee, realizing that many governmental agencies cannot get this type of document approved in this short time frame, is encouraging everyone who is interested to go ahead and fill out the application and send it in within the allotted time frame. If an agency receives a grant and cannot get approval to accept the grant, the sub-committed would ask them to notify the Trauma Commission of this decision and the Trauma Commission would move down the list and give the grant to the next highest scoring applicant.

The applications will be reviewed and scored with the award list being available to the EMS Subcommittee for review and to the full Trauma Commission for approval on May 19, 2011.

**MOTION #2 EMS Subcommittee 2011-3-01:**

**I make the motion to recommend to the Trauma Commission that the EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grant Award Program process begin July 1.**

**MOTION BY:**  
**SECOND:**  
**ACTION:**

**COURTNEY TERWILLIGER**  
**JIMMY CARVER**

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

There was further discussion to clarify the language in the motion regarding the timeframe. This motion is being made to allow the process to begin for applications at the beginning of the fiscal year. It is understood that there is no definite amount of money designated at that time and this allows only the process of applying to begin.

**First Responder Training Grants**

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that there had been an additional eight (8) First Responder Grants for a total of 60 grants awarded. Two courses have been completed and twelve are in the process. Jump bags have been sent to the two services that have completed the course and vests have been ordered and should be shipped this week.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Huey Atkins questioned if it is possible to get a map of where the classes have been approved, in the process, and are completed within the state similar to the map that was presented regarding the location of helicopters within the state? Mr. Courtney Terwilliger responded that he would be willing to do this.

Mr. Ben Hinson requested a list of the counties where classes have been approved, applied for, or completed. Mr. Courtney Terwilliger stated he already had a list and could send it out electronically.

Mr. Ben Hinson reported that the Trauma Commission approved all the motions that had been presented to them from the Sub-Committee including the expansion of the Trauma Care Related Equipment list.

**Trauma Care Related Equipment Distribution**

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported this is moving along steady. When all the information is received that is required, a check is sent out within two days.

**FY 2011 EMS UNCOMPENSATED CARE PROGRAM:**

Mr. Ben Hinson reported that a new contract is being forwarded to MCG. The Trauma Commission did approve the list that was submitted for rural and non-rural counties designation. We will be working to get the format put together for the people at MCG and when they get the money, they will be ready to send out the request for information and get it back in.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Rich Bias reported that at the last Trauma Commission meeting someone proposed changes to the language of SB60 for the purpose of coming up with language that would allow individuals who qualified for trauma services, and today that means Georgia State or National Registry, to receive uncompensated

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care reimbursement even if that patient was carried out of state. The language got into some definitions about trauma center as well as un-defining what a trauma patient was by getting rid of that trauma registry language. Mr. Bias reported while there is absolute 100% support of the intent, the concern was that it opened up potential issues with regard to patients who we wouldn't consider trauma today falling into the pool, as well as, the potential for expanding what a trauma center was. There was concern on both sides of that and it was kicked back for more thinking with the hopes that there will be some discussion with the commission before it moves forward again. We want to support the intent but there was concern that the wording opened it up so much it more than address the intent.

Mr. Ben Hinson responded that Mr. Josh Mackay did a good job getting that bill drawn and there has been some updated language this morning, however, there is a problem because there is a difference between what the secretary of the senate has on their web page and what Mr. Josh Mackay has.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger stated that Mr. Josh Mackay has a substitute bill and that he takes exception to the comment made by Mr. Rich Bias that the Trauma Commission was not aware that this was going on. He stated there had been many conversations going back two years about the concern regarding services not being able to get uncompensated care.

Mr. Rich Bias stated the Trauma Commission was not aware that someone was coming forward with this as an agenda item to request endorsement and possible approval.

Mr. Ben Hinson reported that when Mr. Josh Mackay talked about the definitions and everything, only then did we learn, there are numerous hospitals in the state that have their own trauma registry and they are saying the patients on their trauma registry are meeting the national registry standards but they are not a trauma center and they don't send that information to anyone. The way the original law was written, it could have been interpreted, "if any hospital in the state keeps records on patients that meet the national standard or meet the Georgia standard, that EMS could be compensated for moving those patients". So the concern was, if you're in Georgia, you have to go to a designated trauma center and if you go outside the state, you need to be in a designated trauma center in that state.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger then responded that the first part is already in the bill, "Emergency Medical Services uncompensated trauma care services provided to patients transported to designated trauma centers". In regard to EMS transporting trauma patients to out of state facilities, it was the intention of the commission that reimbursement for uncompensated care would be only if the trauma patient was transported to a hospital that was approved by the commission.

Mr. Ben Hinson stated that the intensity of the discussion got raised because representatives of the burn center business were at the commission meeting but never mentioned a bill that they introduced two hours after the end of the Trauma Commission meeting that added the language that made burn centers a trauma center and other changes to SB60 and they never reported this to the Trauma Commission.

Mr. Ben Hinson stated he felt what Mr. Josh Mackay did was exactly right. He briefed us, told us what it was, and heard the concerns of the commission.

Mr. Rich Bias stated that the burn center wants a special designation because they cannot qualify for the existing Level 1, 2, 3, and 4, as a stand-alone center. Even though Doctor's could apply as an entity that the burn center is a part of and qualify for a level 2, they don't want to take that on. Doctor's is going for every single patient that they saw who is in the trauma burn registry. From their perspective, every burn patient is a trauma patient.

Mr. Huey Atkins expressed his concern regarding the dwindling pool of money that is going down, the more the big facilities are allowed to get their hands in the till, then the people who end up without is the rural EMS and EMS as a whole because these big facilities are taking this money in large chunks.

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Mr. Ben Hinson stated that we are all in support with what Mr. Josh Mackay finally came up with which is "that the trauma commission can expand the payment for EMS for uncompensated for out of state destinations" and this will solve the problem.

Mr. Huey Atkins stated, "That from a percentage standpoint, EMS provides more uncompensated care than any other healthcare provider, doctors, hospitals, across the board, but yet those are the entities that are taking the largest amount of money out of the uncompensated care formula". Mr. Huey Atkins stated his intention for sitting on this board is to make sure that we minimize that as much as possible and the money goes out where it needs to be going. It doesn't need to go out to hospitals that are making money; it needs to go to rural services that are struggling.

Mr. Rich Bias stated that one of the challenges that the commission has faced is that on the hospital side, the reimbursement is based on identified cost. The EMS group has yet to be able to come forward with a similar methodology to say this is how much it cost us to be able to render services to that community.

Mr. Huey Atkins responded that those numbers are out there and it is a lot more that what has been approved for EMS to be reimbursed at.

Mr. Rich Bias responded that this is a basic element that has been part of the conversation. The hospitals have put out there three surveys to do cost accounting on readiness and specified accounting of uncompensated care and today the only mechanism associated with EMS has been a proportion that has been agreed to. The part with uncompensated care is on pure bill and the same rates have applied on readiness which is a 25% cut.

#### **FY 2011 FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM:**

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that the intent is to do another grant application and move forward with that. There have been some very nice compliments to GAEMS and to the Trauma Commission that some agencies would not have been able to have these classes without the funding through the commission.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ben Hinson reported that the position of TCC coordinator is open again. This will be located in Forsyth, Georgia and will be operated 24/7 with the software coming soon. There is a vendor appeal regarding the software and this should be resolved soon. When this is resolved it should be up and running with 60/90 days.

There will be no meeting in April. Next meeting will be in May with date and venue to be announced.

Meeting adjourned 11:05 a.m.



## Georgia Trauma Commission

GEORGIA TRAUMA CARE NETWORK COMMISSION

My apologies for not attending your subcommittee meeting today: 01 March is my first day as a State of Georgia employee and I am attending New Employee orientation in Atlanta.

### FY 2010 EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grants

Of 29 EMS Ambulance grants: 21 work plan and budgets have been approved, 18 invoices submitted to DCH for payment, and 10 invoices paid. We are in touch weekly with awardees and working through all issues. This process is proceeding nicely!

### FY 2011 EMS Vehicle Equipment Replacement Grant Award Program

The Trauma Commission will be handling the grant process completely and independently from DCH. Grants applications and guidance will be posted to Commission's website on Wednesday 02 March with application process open until for 30 calendar days. Plan is to have award list available to the EMS subcommittee review during its May meeting and approved by full Trauma Commission on 19 May.

### FY 2011 EMS Uncompensated Care Program

New EMS Uncompensated Care dollar amount will added to MCG Health, Inc. contract amendment to be sent to MCG Health, Inc. to sign on or about Wednesday, 02 March. Once amendment is executed, MCG Health, Inc. can invoice for these funds and begin the EMS Uncompensated Care program.

### New Business:

The Georgia Trauma Communications Center Coordinator position has been approved by the Governor and as a state employee position! I have most likely sent an email to you with the web address for the job position and application by the time of this meeting. Please forward that email broadly. Thank you!

The EMS eBroselow rollout committee is off to a great start! The committee had its first meeting on Monday 21 February. Georgia is the first State to pilot the EMS eBroselow system. Actually, the EMS eBroselow system will be developed in Georgia over the next year!

Dr. Jill Mabley, Deputy State EMS Medical Director, volunteered to begin to evolve the eBroselow hospital interface to accommodate Georgia EMS approved pre-hospital pediatric treatment protocols, medications and dosages. This evolved interface is essential to begin the EMS eBroselow system project and is subject to change over the course of the EMS project year and based upon EMS provider use and feedback. Russ McGee (EMS Region 5 director) and Lawanna Mercer-Cobb (EMS Region 6 director) are fully engaged and will champion the rollout project in their regions and coordinating their activities. Russ and Lawanna are excited to be participating in this groundbreaking work and have the support from the State OEMS.



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We were able to get an unlimited number of the eBroselow EMS software licenses added to the Commission's existing Zolstice LLC contract. This will ensure all Georgia licensed ambulances in our pilot project EMS regions 5 and 6 can participate. This project will be for one full year ...ending late February 2012. The eBroselow committee meets next on 12 April in Atlanta to review Dr. Mabley's work and develop next steps for the EMS project. That meeting will be immediately following the EMS Subcommittee meeting from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. Dr. Broselow and Peter Lazar will be attending.

Thank you,

Jim Pettyjohn  
706.398.0842