

MINUTES
Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission

Tuesday, 21 October 2008

DCH Board Room, 5th Floor,
DHR Building, 2 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia

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

Dr. Ashley called the meeting to order at 1000.

Administrative support for trauma commission

Greg Bishop introduced Jim Pettyjohn as the new administrator under contract through Bishop + Associates to provide administrative support to GTCNC through June 2009. Jim Pettyjohn has previous trauma system and medical surge capability development and administrative experience in New Mexico.

Meeting documentation strategies

Jim Pettyjohn thanked the Commission for providing him the opportunity to work with them and trauma system development in Georgia. He proposed ideas and plans to provide quick turn-around of Commission meeting “notes.” These notes would contain only the salient discussion points, action items and next steps gleaned from each meeting and would go out to the Commissioners and stakeholders within one week of each meeting. There was agreement to this idea.

Dr. Ashley requested Jim Pettyjohn to review all outstanding GTCNC meeting transcripts and provide report back to Commission on these minutes and recommendations regarding future meeting documentation.

DHR report

Dr. O'Neal reported that approximately \$9 million of the approved GTCNC funds remain "frozen" and non-distributable by DHR. These monies include funding for: Level I and II trauma centers capital grant awards, the EMS competitive grant program and the GPS automatic vehicle locator system. There is no information available as to when these funds would be made available for distribution. Approximately \$50 million earmarked for hospitals and EMS have been distributed or are in a cleared process for distribution.

Dr. O'Neal spoke to the "700 or more lives," which could be saved yearly with an organized inclusive trauma system. This 700 number was included in the "Final Report of the Joint Comprehensive State Trauma Services Study Committee" prepared by the Senate Research Office in 2006 and has been questioned. Where did it come from? When the Senate Report was report was written in 2006, available data (2004 CDC data) indicated Georgia was 20% above the national average for trauma-related deaths. The 700 preventable death number came from the CDC data. 2005 data, which is now available, shows some improvement in those numbers and Georgia's ranking.

Dr. O'Neal spoke to the need to seek additional trauma center designations for hospitals serving the I-75 corridor. It was suggested these hospitals would be located in Lowndes, Ware, Tiff and Dougherty counties.

Discussion proceeded on the lack of 911 access in some Georgia counties. 13 Georgia counties have no 911 service. Of those 13, all but 5 are working with adjacent counties to develop collaborative dispatch centers. Sustainment funding of small rural 911 centers by local governments appear to be the issue for rural counties currently without 911 service and is driving the collaborative centers process. There was a suggestion that GTCNC push for special focus on the counties that are in the I-75 corridor to acquire 911 capability to help reduce trauma-related deaths. Dr. Ashley asked Jim Pettyjohn to draft a "letter of support" endorsing statewide 911 coverage and Dr. Medows suggested including a "fact sheet" in the letter indicating which counties do have 911 coverage and which do not.

Sub-Committee reports

Data

Ben Hinson stated he would wait to provide his data report during the Commission workshop following this regular Commission meeting.

Hospital capital grants

Kurt Stuenkel reported that Bishop +Associates received 13 proposals from 10 trauma centers for the capital grant program. But as was reported in Dr. O'Neal's earlier DHR report, money for the capital grant awards remain "frozen." Greg Bishop stated that the

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grant applications would be reviewed and scored by Jim Pettyjohn in anticipation that the funds will eventually be made available. Jim Pettyjohn will update the capital grants subcommittee after the application scoring is completed for its action and recommendations to the full Commission.

Pediatric update

Linda Cole reported that pediatric subcommittee was continuing to work on the development of the pediatric statewide trauma plan.

EMS report

Ben Hinson reported he would wait to provide his EMS report during the Commission workshop following the regular Commission meeting.

Proposed GTCNC logo

Ben Hinson reported has sent the logo to the Governor's office for approval and has yet to hear back.

Summation/next meeting

Dr. Ashley stated the next regular GTCNC meeting would be on 20 November in Callaway Gardens. This meeting will occur during the Georgia Association of EMS Leadership Conference. There will also be another Commission workshop following the regular meeting on the same day.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 1130