

Minutes
Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission
Thursday, January 17, 2008

Medical Center of Central Georgia
4th Floor Board Room
Payton Anderson Education Center

Members Present	Members Absent
Dr. Dennis Ashley Linda Cole, RN Dr. Leon Haley Ben Hinson Bill Moore Dr. Joe Sam Robinson Kelly Vaughn, RN Kurt Stuenkel Others Present: Dr. Pat O’Neal Renee Morgan Debbie Hall – attending for Dr. Medows	Dr. Rhonda Medows

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dr. Dennis Ashley, in the Board room at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon at 10:05 a.m. He informed everyone of the announcement that the Governor approved \$53 million in the 08 amended budget. Dr. Robinson made a motion for the committee to acknowledge and thank the Governor for his appropriation of funds. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion. Self introductions were made by all attending. The committee reintroduced themselves as well.

Martha Katz, Director of Healthcare Georgia Foundation, was invited to give a presentation on her foundation’s work on GA’s trauma system. She began by telling of her experience in Montana with the paramedics. While dealing with a personal matter, she was informed by the EMS personnel that they received their training from the best institution in the country – Grady Memorial Hospital. Ms. Katz gave some background information on the Healthcare Georgia Foundation. They have invited Bishop & Associates to conduct an analysis of Georgia’s Trauma System. The survey revealed that Georgians are concerned about a statewide trauma system and willing to pay for it. A summary of last year’s data was given.

Jim Bason gave the dates of the survey as December 3 -16, 2007. The survey asked Georgians about the following issues:

1. Who do they feel has a responsibility for maintaining the Trauma System?
2. Should the funding support come from the state?
3. Should additional fees be added for traffic violations, auto insurance, gun tax, and car and boat registration fees, 911 surcharges?
4. Do you want an effective trauma system in place without an increase in taxes?

Dr. Robinson wanted to know if the legislators were given the information from the survey. Jim indicated that a copy has not been provided, but a summary would be available in the next week. Dr. Robinson wanted to know why the survey did not ask Georgians if they thought it would provide a financial advantage to the state to create a trauma system. Martha Katz responded that the survey was designed to figure out how Georgians felt about support funding and establish the framework for future discussions. She also stated that the question would be included the Annual Poll for Georgia in April. Dr. Ashley thanked them for their presentation.

Greg Bishop with Bishop & Associates provided an update of the GA Trauma Project. He gave a brief overview of his company and its function. He also provided a copy of the U.S. Trauma Report done in May 2004. The report included information on ER care and the State Trauma Care Economic Risk. Dr. Haley asked for additional information on the economic risk. Dr. Robinson wanted to know if the presentation understated the economic impact of trauma center closings. Mr. Bishop replied yes. He also discussed the problematic physician call structures and the impact of surgeons not participating. A survey on readiness pay based on specialty was also conducted.

The trauma system components were discussed. These included 911, EMS, Transportation Management, Air & Ground Transportation, Regional Trauma Centers, and Rehabilitation. He gave an overview of the National Trauma Center Reimbursement Profile for 2002. The trauma center capacity findings and recommendations were discussed. Sites needed to be identified. The entire process could take six to nine months. The goal is to find the best alternatives and determine demand and supply. Dr. Robinson wanted to know for whom Bishop & Associates would be working. Dr. Robinson wanted to know if Bishop and Associates could provide data to the Commission. Greg Bishop responded that he is on the Healthcare Georgia payroll, but can provide data to the Commission. Dr. Robinson indicated that the Commission needs help and it seems that Bishop & Associates would be an excellent resource. Mr. Hinson wanted to know is the trauma network split into two territories for Oklahoma (Oklahoma City & Tulsa) by politics.

Mr. Stuenkel requested an explanation of the role of both Healthcare Georgia Foundation and Bishop & Associates as opposed to the Trauma Committee. Martha Katz responded they are both independent organizations willing to support the work of the Commission. Mr. Stuenkel wanted to know who funds HGF. Martha Katz responded that they are a privately endowed foundation in existence since 1999. Dr. Robinson wanted to know if they were available for consultation. Martha Katz responded that yes, they are available. Ms. Cole asked if we need to have decisions made by July 2008 as to how the funding must be distributed. Dr. Ashley responded that he would try to find out the answer to that. She also wanted to know if Bishop & Associates had

experience in how the money allocation has worked in other states. Mr. Bishop indicated that they were currently working on a report for New Mexico.

Dr. Ashley stated that SB60 may have stipulations on how the funding will be used. It still has to go before the House and Senate for approval. A written plan has to be in place by June 30, 2008. This will be a one time distribution and future funding will be much different. The goal is not to set precedents with this one time funding. Dr. Robinson wanted to know if the Commission has the power to modify the regulations as circumstances warrant. Dr. Ashley wanted to know if the money has to be spent, allocated, or contracted by July.

Sid Barrett with the Attorney General's Office informed the commission that he has been asked to serve as the Commission's legal expert. His office can answer any questions related to Budget, Procurement, Employment, and Administrative Rules and Regulations. Dr. Ashley opened the floor for questions for Mr. Barrett. Mr. Hinson wanted to know if the Commission could employ another lawyer. Mr. Barrett responded that they are the lawyer of choice. Their job is to interpret the law. He reminded the Commission that the Open Records Act applies to every government meeting. He further stated that it is best to ensure that there is no appearance of wrong doing and to do everything in the open. Dr. Robinson wanted to know if giving money to trauma hospitals means that indigent funds (Indigent Care Trust Fund impact) would be connected to it? Mr. Barrett stated that he would have to find out the answer to that question. He also stated that the Governor and Legislature gave the Commission the power to decide the criteria for reimbursement. Greg Bishop wanted to add the following items to the list of things that Mr. Barrett should inquire about: antitrust, malpractice, auto insurance, and Medicaid issues. Mr. Barrett reminded everyone that the Open Records Act is triggered by a quorum meeting of the Commission. This means that if four or more voting members meet, the information discussed is subject to the Open Records Act. A notice of the meeting must be placed in the local paper so that the public can access the meetings. There is limited protection to personnel and employment issues.

Dr. Ashley asked the hiring committee for the Executive Director to give an update on their progress. Mr. Hinson informed the group that Dr. Haley, Dr. Medows, and Ms. Hall coordinated the "draft" job description. It will be sent electronically and the Committee members were asked to score the needs for the position. It should be returned within two weeks. The information will be compiled from the responses. Dr. Ashley commended the subcommittee on the job description. He stated that it was well written and extensive. Dr. Robinson wanted to know where the money is coming from to fund the position and whether or not the \$53 million can be used for administrative expenses. He stated that if not, the Commission would be in a Catch 22. The standards are in place to hire for the Executive Director job, but no support funding is available. Dr. O'Neal was asked if the Preparedness Office would be willing to offer support as necessary. He affirmed that the staff is available. Mr. Hinson recommended that the Commission move forward to fill the position. It is probably a 90 to 120 day process. Dr. Ashley stated that in his review of SB60 it appears that the money is attached to the Department of Human Resources. Mr. Barrett stated that the Commission can hire people to set up the network. Mr. Stuenkel wanted to know how the Executive Director will interface with Dr. O'Neal. Would this person report to Dr. O'Neal? Mr. Hinson stated that this had not been decided yet. He also mentioned that the person would be a higher pay scale than the state may allow. Dr. Haley stated that the

Commission should still work on the structure of the Executive Director's position and job duties, along with how this person will fit into the future plans for Trauma. Dr. Ashley wanted to know if there was any indication of how the other states were fairing. Dr. Haley responded that he had not had the chance look into that, but would do so in the very near future.

Dr. Ashley opened the floor for general discussion. Ms. Hall requested a copy of the presentation from Bishop & Associates. Renee Morgan responded that she has a copy and will ensure that everyone gets it. Mr. Robinson wanted an update on funding for the study. Dr. Ashley stated that information was forwarded from Bishop and Associates to the Governor's Office. He is waiting on a response, but is confident that approval will be given. Dr. O'Neal stated that the American College of Surgeons is asking for \$65,000 for the assessment. Fees would be paid as follows: 1/3 upfront, 1/3 midway, and 1/3 when finished. It takes six months to be scheduled, three months for data collection, and three months to issue the findings. This means that this project would not be complete for at least a year.

Ms. Morgan asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Ms. Vaughn motioned to approve. Dr. Haley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Dr. Ashley asked the group's thoughts on the frequency and location of meetings. Mr. Hinton suggested that they be held monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The location will alternate between Atlanta and Macon. Mr. Robinson asked that everyone is aware that there may be called meetings. Mr. Hinson wanted to know if Mr. Barrett's office could assist the Commission in remaining compliant with any rules if there is a called meeting. Mr. Barrett requested that whoever organizes the meeting should contact him and he will handle. Dr. Ashley wanted to know if conference calls are acceptable. Mr. Barrett responded that yes, as long as location is designated that the public can listen in on the call.

The next meeting will be held in Atlanta on February 21, 2008 at 10am. Dr. O'Neal reminded the group that this is also EMS Day at the Capitol. Attempts will be made to obtain a meeting site at the Capitol for the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.