



# Georgia Trauma Commission

**GEORGIA TRAUMA CARE NETWORK COMMISSION**

## EMS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, June 07, 2011**  
**Scheduled: 10:00 am until 12:00 p.m.**  
**MGA Training Room**  
**252 Holt Avenue**  
**Macon, Georgia 31201**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Ben Hinson called the June monthly meeting of the EMS Subcommittee on Trauma to order at the MGA Training Room, 252 Holt Avenue, Macon, Georgia, at 10:00 a.m.

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

<b>OTHERS SIGNING IN</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Renee Morgan Scott Sherrill Kirk Pennywitt Jim Barnes James Gregory Greg Lamb Charles Futch Mark Bandy Danny Edwards Belinda Somers	OEMS GTRI GTRI Towns County EMS Putnam County EMS Wilcox County EMS Wilcox County EMS Mid Georgia Ambulance Mid Georgia Ambulance Mid Georgia Ambulance

Joe Robinson Lawanna Mercer-Cobb Jill Mabley Russ McGee Liana Rogers Mark Chapman Terry Cobb Forrest Jones	Mid Georgia Ambulance Region 6 EMS OEMS Region 5 EMS Region 5 MCCG EMS Children's Transport Laurens County EMS/E-911 Laurens County EMS
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**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 May Meeting**

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the 10 May 2011 subcommittee meeting.

**MOTION #1 EMS Subcommittee 2011-6-07:**

**I make the motion to approve the minutes from the 10 May 2011 meeting as written.**

**MOTION BY:**

**SECOND:**

**ACTION:**

**KEITH WAGES**

**HUEY ATKINS**

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

**TRAUMA COMMISSION-FUNDED EMS PROGRAMS:**

**EMS Vehicle Equipment Grants 2011**

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported that the Commission voted to approve the list of awardees presented at the May meeting which consists of nine (9) awards of \$72,500.00 each. This list has also been published on the website. The Notices of Intent to Award are being sent out to each of the nine services. The Notice of Award and actual grant documents that need to be signed and executed will be sent out later this week.

Mr. Ben Hinson commended Mr. Pettyjohn for making this the smoothest process we have had.

**First Responder Training Grants (FY2010 and 2011)**

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that we are continuing to move along. Three courses were completed yesterday. Mr. Terwilliger stated that approximately 75% have started their classes but we are waiting on the final paperwork from some to get their money to them.

Mr. Ben Hinson requested a spreadsheet to be presented at the next meeting which will show who received the grant and where they are in the process of completing the course. Mr. Terwilliger responded that he will send out an updated map of the one that was presented at the May Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn stated this could also be posted to the website. Mr. Huey Atkins stated that he feels this program more than any other is affecting more of rural Georgia and the map presented at the last subcommittee meeting was very impressive.

### **FY2010 Trauma Care Related Equipment Distribution**

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger reported that we are still getting some in and will be sitting down in the next week and try to figure out who has not sent theirs in. We have been very good about getting checks out within two-three days.

Mr. Ben Hinson thanked Mr. Terwilliger and GAEMS for taking their time in doing this. Mr. Terwilliger reported that there will be some dollars left over on this due to some services coming in under what is allowed and we need to think about what we will do with this.

Mr. Terwilliger also stated that there will also be some funds left over in the Training Grant and we need to look at what to do with it. Mr. Terwilliger questioned should we roll this back into this year's program or how should we handle this? Mr. Ben Hinson stated that we need to make sure budget-wise what we can do. Mr. Terwilliger stated the grant was for 60 classes and we have provided that, so with that, we have met our goal in providing this. Mr. Terwilliger stated that he could not give a final amount until the last class is completed.

### **FY2011 EMS Uncompensated Care Program**

Ms. Regina Medeiros reported via tele-conference and asked Mr. Jim Pettyjohn review the notice and the spreadsheet and she would be available for questions. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported that everyone received the draft documents regarding the notice. Mr. Pettyjohn reported that the plan for the notice is to be posted on the website and list Ms. Medeiros as the recipient of all the information that each service puts together for their application for the grant. There is an affidavit which assures that each service has kept documentation verifying billing attempts and that each patient is or is not part of the Georgia Health Partnership status. This is very similar to the process last year.

Ms. Medeiros reported that all the trauma centers are aware that they will be contacted and Ms. Medeiros will send the name of the Trauma Coordinators and phone numbers to Mr. Pettyjohn to be posted to the website. The process will basically be the same but Ms. Medeiros is requesting that the excel spreadsheet be password protected with a standard or common password to ease the process if this meets the HIPPA requirements. Mr. Ben Hinson stated that with the new electronic data auditing requirements that CMS has put out in the rules for comment, this document will get to the point that we will have to be more guarded in the HIPPA arena but in the TPO function of HIPPA we are okay in sending this. Mr. Hinson agrees that a common password would make this process much easier. Ms. Medeiros stated she will keep a separate spreadsheet of passwords to make this easier and will have to work this detail out. Ms. Medeiros requested that in the email to please make sure it is documented as to who the check should be made payable to and the address it should be sent to. Mr. Hinson stated that a tab could be added to the spreadsheet to include this information. Mr. Hinson stated that we can send out two separate emails with one having the spreadsheet and one with the password. Mr. Hinson stated we could also possibly use the service's license number with an added digit as their password. Mr. Huey Atkins agrees that using the license number as the password would work.

Mr. Pettyjohn stated that this would be posted to the website with an email being sent out to everyone letting them know it is on the website. Ms. Medeiros stated that we are staying with the same time as last year with an end date being the end of August.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger questioned whether or not the services that transported outside the State of Georgia will be eligible for this money this year? Mr. Jim Pettyjohn responded that they passed the criteria before the law was passed and did not know. Mr. Terwilliger questioned whether or not that the payment will be based on the Medicare rate? Mr. Ben Hinson responded that the highest Medicare rate in the state will be paid with a 50% bonus in mileage if it is a rural county. Mr. Hinson stated that the law was changed after the time period that we are paying for which is 2009 so we need to make sure we don't get crossed up. Mr. Pettyjohn responded that the Commission could probably rule to acknowledge the law and move it forward for this year's funds distribution. It was agreed that Mr. Alex Sponseller would be contacted for clarification and Mr. Hinson will take this to the Commission for approval or

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change. Mr. Hinson stated that we are trying to be sure that the patients that are transported outside the State of Georgia meet the same criteria that they would have to meet if they were transported to a trauma center within the State of Georgia. Mr. Pettyjohn also stated that helicopter services would not be eligible during this period of time since the state did not require licensure during this time.

### **GEMA AVLS PROJECT**

Mr. Kirk Pennywitt presented a power-point presentation on the AVLS project. *(Copy of power-point attached as part of these minutes)*

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Ben Hinson thanked Mr. Terry Cobb and the Laurens County EMS staff for their help in making this work as the first service to install and use the AVLS system.

Mr. Pete Quinones questioned whether or not there is a provision for services that already had the In-Motion system that they purchased on their own, is their funding for airtime reimbursement. Mr. Pennywitt responded that GEMA has agreed to reimburse agencies up to the cost of a new system to upgrade their previous system. If you have an older device, GEMA would be willing to upgrade to the new device which will give you the airtime that comes with it. Mr. Pennywitt stated that we have never addressed the topic of reimbursing just the airtime itself. Mr. Hinson responded that the intent of the Trauma Commission was to encourage people who had a compatible system to participate so we will work with the Commission and GEMA to pay for the airtime. Mr. Jim Pettyjohn questioned how Mr. Quinones' question is different from the reality that hit us when GEMA relayed to the commission that the units purchased by the Commission dollars were not eligible for airtime payment under GEMA funding? Mr. Pennywitt responded that he is unsure and we will find out when we get into that when we discuss with GEMA but GEMA has very strict rules about using money that is one bucket for purchasing items that was from another bucket of money and this is basically the issue.

Mr. Terry Cobb questioned where we stand on the vehicle tracking and future litigation. Mr. Ben Hinson responded that it is only kept for fourteen (14) days on the In-Motion server which is located in Canada and that no legislation has been passed but this is on our list of things to do.

Mr. Pennywitt further clarified that the Phase 2 units and airtime are being purchased using DHS FY09 funds that expire on June 30, 2012. Thus the airtime for the 200 Phase 2 AVLS units will have a definite expiration date of June 30, 2012 (regardless of what date they are put into service). Mr. Pennywitt stated he had also been told that DHS FY10 monies cannot be used to buy airtime for AVLS units purchased with FY09 funds. Therefore funding for the Phase 2 units' airtime cannot be picked up with Phase 3 monies, and will have to be paid using some other source after July 1, 2012.

### **GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER Q&A**

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn reported that at the last EMS Subcommittee meeting it was mentioned that we need to keep everyone informed of the status of the Georgia TCC and will maintain this as a standard agenda item going forward through the pilot project period. Mr. Pettyjohn stated that the interview process has been completed and that an offer has been extended to a gentleman for the TCC lead position which he has accepted pending background and credit checks in compliance with the State of Georgia employment requirements with hopes that he will start July 16, 2011. Mr. Pettyjohn introduced Mr. Scott Sherrill and he presented an update on the TCC program.

Mr. Sherrill reported that we are in the process of having the software customized and expect to begin implementation in late July/early August timeframe with hopes to become operational in the month of September. We will be bringing on the participating hospitals on board with training as well as providing the training and developing the operational policies for the EMS participation in Regions 5 and 6. We anticipate accomplishing this within a six week timeframe.

Mr. Huey Atkins asked if there had been any operational procedure guidelines set up for the center itself. Mr. Sherrill responded that we are in the process of doing this and they will be straightforward at first with modification based on experience in the field.

Mr. Sherrill stated that the center will be operational 24/7 but it is unsure as to the number of FTE due to budget realities. Mr. Ben Hinson reported that the budget has been adjusted for double coverage from 9-5 and single coverage the remaining time. Mr. Hinson stated that he felt from an EMS operational perspective he has great concern with the need for that staffing continuously but the reality is this is the thought of the people that have developed it and the Trauma Commission.

Mr. Jim Pettyjohn stated that this budget has been talked about for two years and this is a pilot project and the Commission has carried over their thought of the budget for two years. There was a significant cut from nine FTE's to six FTE's with a projected annual salary that we pulled out. The Commission approved the budget and it is on the website with a hard budget review in six months that will be done during the Commission workshop in January 2012. The TCC lead position person has experience in 911 operations, staffing 24/7 responsibility for a dispatch center. We hope to achieve the best coverage during the best time after we have data to support what those times are.

Mr. Russ McGee questioned will the employees under the TCC lead person be DCH employees since the TCC lead person will be a DCH employee? Mr. Jim Pettyjohn responded that we are not certain since this is a pilot project and we want to move slow, however, there is conversation these will be part-time contract positions but we are not certain yet.

Mr. Huey Atkins asked how this will work if someone had an accident on I-16? Mr. Sherrill responded that assuming that the patient meets the trauma criteria we would like for the medic in the field contact the TCC and we will work with them to recommend the nearest trauma center. The medic will maintain control of where to take the patient even if they choose to go elsewhere. As far as operationally, we would like for you to contact us first and we will bridge you to the destination hospital. We don't expect it to take you longer in terms of being in the field to do that. We basically want you to contact us first and we will help you and do what is the best for the patient to get them to the most appropriate facility.

## **FY 2012 EMS FUNDING DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ben Hinson reported that we have the general amount that we are looking at spending. This group took a position in the past of recommending to begin with as placeholders similar distribution as in the past. There has been a lot of conversation from members of this sub-committee and the Trauma Commission that everybody is going to have to look at different things to do with their money.

Mr. Courtney Terwilliger stated he was proposing that the sub-committee consider backing off of some of the vehicle grants and expanding our training program to include an EMT-B class. *Copy of proposal attached as part of these minutes.* Mr. Terwilliger feels this could be done similar to the First Responder classes as far as scoring, etc. If one ambulance grant was taken out which is \$72,500.00 we could have 5.3 classes. Mr. Terwilliger suggests looking at taking out two to three ambulances to provide these classes. Mr. Blake Thompson states that he is 100% behind the vehicle grant but does not have any problem taking one ambulance grant to provide EMT-B classes. Mr. Thompson feels that the students should have to put money into this up front. Mr. Ben Hinson feels a survey needs to be done to find out if there are people who are interested in attending a class but cannot get in. Mr. Hinson also states that the people on the commission are asking how many ambulances on duty have been created or how many have been replaced that couldn't be used. Mr. Hinson states we need to find a need and fill it.

Mr. Huey Atkins states he feels that the vehicle grant is a good thing but we need to back away from it and re-visit it in a year or two. This is a lot of money that could go into equipment in these rural areas.

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Mr. Pete Quionones stated, "that when this was first begun, one of the main focus of trauma and this whole program was the "death corridor" south of Macon, so, are we still focusing on that or have we discovered other dynamics due to Georgia Tech getting involved and playing with numbers for us?" Mr. Ben Hinson responded, "It is not just Georgia Tech playing with numbers but people are going back and saying what does the corridor of death really look like". "There are numbers all over the board and as we mature in our work, we are going to look at numbers and see what they really say, but the corridor of death is what we used to get Senate Bill 60 passed and we are certainly not turning our back on that."

Mr. Chad Black questioned where is the data that shows what we have done so far and have those been wise dollars spent, whether it is in vehicle grants or equipment or training? Where have we made an impact and if we haven't we need to be dynamic and be willing to adapt.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

The next meeting will be held in August, with date and venue to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.