



Georgia Trauma Commission

Right Patient, Right Hospital, Right Time, Right Means

EMS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, 2 December 2016
Scheduled: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Georgia Public Safety Training Center: Classroom 219C
1000 Indian Springs Dr.
Forsyth, GA 31029

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chair & GA Trauma Commission Vic Drawdy – GA Trauma Commission Dr. Jeffrey Nicholas – GA Trauma Commission Lana Duff – Region One (Conference Line) Chad Black – Region Two Pete Quinones - Region Three (Conference Line) Paul Beamon – Region Four Lee Oliver – Region Five Blake Thompson – Region Six (Conference Line) Brandon Fletcher – Region Eight Huey Atkins – Region Ten	David Moore – Region Nine Jimmy Carver – Region Seven

OTHERS	REPRESENTING
Dena Abston Erin Bolinger Katie Hamilton Cathy White Kim Littleton Kelly Joiner Renee Morgan Keith Wages Billy Kunkle Brock Archer David Newton Mark Peters William Riner Tim Boone Keith White Jamey Crosby Todd Dixson (conference line)	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff GAEMS GAEMS OEMST Region 5 OEMS/T OEMS RTAC Region 3 Three Arrow Films Gwinnett Tech Gwinnett Fire Department AMR GTRI-AVLS GEMSPF Gold Cross RTAC Region 5

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Terwilliger called the 2nd of December 2016 meeting of the EMS Subcommittee on Trauma to order and established quorum with 10 of 13 members present at the GPSTC in Forsyth, GA at 10:02 am.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2016-12-01:

I make the motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2016 EMS Subcommittee meeting as written.

MOTION BY: Dr. Jeffrey Nicholas

SECOND BY: Pete Quinones

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION: The motion PASSED with no objections, nor abstentions.

Discussion on Technology Date

Mr. Terwilliger reminded everyone at the last meeting of the discussion for a technology day at Spaulding Regional Hospital. We would like to spend a day with triage and tracking systems and have Verizon Wireless discuss the AVLS capabilities. Ms. Abston is willing to coordinate the technology day and work with vendors and asks for volunteers to help with the planning. Mr. Terwilliger said perhaps WEB EOC can come and that there are plenty of different vendors we can possibly call and present. Mr. Terwilliger said to please send in your vendor requests.

AVLS Report

Tim Boone began with the AVLS presentation. There are 1,248 AVLS units installed. 85 to 90% of these units are online and operating. We are adding 80 new AVLS units for a total of 1,328 at final expansion. This covers a significant percentage of the state. 108 state and local agencies have been recently polled and 31 agencies did not respond. Currently there is a need for 90 replacement units, 87 of these units are the original models and cannot be upgraded. Those will be destroyed and replaced with new units. There was a request for 117 new units; only 80 are approved for expansion. There are 183 units out there that have not been upgraded properly despite efforts to communicate with the agencies to upgrade the units. Please make sure your agencies in your regions are updating their equipment when asked or notified of a need to upgrade. The upgrade makes a significant difference; each ambulance takes about 30 minutes offline to install the upgrade.

Lee Oliver asked if there is an updated list of those agencies that need to perform AVLS upgrades. Mr. Boone will send the list electronically to the committee and the regional directors if requested. Mr. Oliver says he doesn't mind making calls to make those aware of the necessary upgrades. Mr. Boone says a lot of our contact information is very outdated so getting new contact information while calling is very helpful.

Mr. Boone reviewed county and agency needs based on 911-zoned ambulance information. Mr. Fletcher noticed Crisp County duplicity and noted to be corrected. Mr. Drawdy asked about Camden County and

the age of their AVLS units and it was noted that their units were in the second phase of the distribution and their machines are outdated. Camden County has some wiring and power issues noted.

There was discussion as to what is running on the truck power and what is running on battery power. There is a \$100 solution that you can install that may assist with battery power. Mr. Fletcher has concerns about the past AVLS installations. The units can power down if not properly installed or if they were installed bypassing steps.

There will be AVLS training on February 13th and 14th 2017 and distribution of new units will occur at this training. Location of training is to be confirmed and communicated. On February 15, 2017 there will be an AVLS expert training session. Each region should send their AVLS expert or their most proficient technological volunteer. The expert class will teach diagnostics and give a more extensive look into the AVLS capabilities.

Mr. Beamon expressed concern that units were switching to unsecured internet connections when transmitting telemedicine information. Mr. Boone suggested that this information be sent to him to look into, as this is a security issue. Dr. Nicholas said if patient information is being transferred on an unsecure connection that is problem. Mr. Boone will look into this.

Some of the AVLS requests sent in were for replacement equipment and several equipment issues those agencies may be experiencing can be solved with a \$ 250 equipment field upgrade versus replacement. Ms. Abston asked how long the upgrade would extend the life of the units. Mr. Oliver says most of the equipment being used today is 7 to 8 years old and that the \$ 250 upgrade should extend the life of the units by 3 to 6 years.

Mr. Atkins requested updated numbers on unused AVLS units. Mr. Boone has the data and says there may be 8 to 10 units for redistribution. Mr. Drawdy asked about the 31% that never responded to the survey. Everyone will reach out to their regions for additional survey responses and request they complete by the end of January 2017. It was also suggested to contact the agencies that have the equipment but are reporting no use. Dr. Nicholas suggests establishing metrics for agencies to continue participating in the AVLS program. Dr. Nicholas suggests we confirm that the AVLS are affecting our trauma care program in a positive manner. The AVLS units are 1/3 of our EMS budget every year and there are issues that continue to pop up and take up a lot of our time. Dr. Nicholas says our original intent for the AVLS was for hurricane evacuation, we just had a hurricane, how did the system work? Mr. Terwilliger says the AVLS was not for hurricane evacuation but for the sugar refinery incident in Savannah several years ago. Dr. Nicholas asked how the system worked during Hurricane Mathew and specifically how it helped the trauma care community. Mr. Boone said prior to the hurricane the state requested a systems check and there was no additional feedback as to how the system worked during the hurricane. Dr. Nicholas asked if the systems are being used for the forest fires in the state. No one has heard if they are being used for the fires or not. Mr. Drawdy wanted to let everyone know how the Governor is very pleased with the way the EMS community handled the recent hurricane and working together very well.

Dr. Nicholas does not question the AVLS utilization, his ongoing concern; is the system worth 1/3 of our committee's budget? Dr. Nicholas suggests that if the answer is no that we work to phase out the program over set period of time. Some regions use the system extensively while others regions do not. Dr. Nicholas suggests we see a presentation as to what is the medical benefit of the AVLS program in the state. Ms. Abston suggests presenting a survey to those attending the AVLS training in February to get feedback of how this program helps our state trauma care. Dr. Nicholas suggests we see some real results. Mr. Fletcher says he would like those that are not using their equipment and not properly updating their equipment that we limit their capability of future grant or equipment funding. E-mail will

go out to all AVLS users and let them know the updates required. Mr. Atkins asked if some of the systems are broken due to bad initial install. The advanced training in February will cover detailed install and trouble shooting techniques and processes. Mr. Boone says now is the time to dig deep into these concerns. He requests the regional personnel update the contact information and we start looking at the hard numbers. The upcoming AVLS training would be a good opportunity to begin the conversation with users. Mr. Thompson asked if a committee could be assembled to look deeper into this so we can decide if it is worth 1/3 of our budget. Mr. Terwilliger says he can get some people and Mr. Boone and Mr. Beamon and Dr. Nicholas together for this. Mr. Thompson says we need to define how this system helps our communities and confirm its purpose for our trauma system. Mr. Drawdy suggested we put a timeline to gather this data of the 187 agencies by February 15, 2017.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2016-12-02:

I make the motion to approve the placement of the 84 AVLS units in the regions listed with the removal of the duplicate mention of Crisp County.

MOTION BY: COURTNEY TERWILLIGER

SECOND BY: VICTOR DRAWDY

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of motion. Mr. Atkins abstained from voting.

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

Members present discussed the Region Three Grady requests and determined that there was a request from the hospital and the EMS director. There is a need to confirm the 911 zone operated ambulances to provide the AVLS as requested.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2016-12-03:

I make the motion to approve the placement of the AVLS units in the Region Three Grady locations if they are confirmed to be the correct amount of 911 zone-operated ambulances.

MOTION BY: BRANDON FLETCHER

SECOND BY: VICTOR DRAWDY

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of motion. Mr. Atkins abstained from voting.

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

Regional Grant Update

Ms. Abston began with Region Three and Five and that they both have executed contracts. Regions Seven and Nine are under the foundation contract. Region one was not in a hurry so that has been delayed. Region six is also complete. Regions Ten, Four, and One are not complete at this time but in process. Mr. Terwilliger asked when Region Six was completed. Ms. Abston says Regions Six specifically had to go through their own legal department so that caused a little time delay. Mr. Oliver asked if we could ask all of these Regional grant recipients for a paper write up of what they accomplished. Mr. Terwilliger says he likes the face-to-face presentation. Mr. Atkins suggests we receive results from all that we do from the Commission, the committees, and results on completed projects and grants received. Dr. Nicholas says this information is critical and the feedback is important as well. Ms. Abston says there are requirements of meeting attendance and reporting back to the Commission before any funds are released.

Lunch Break at 11:33 AM.

Meeting called back to order at 12:38 PM.

FY2016 Contract/Georgia EMS Preparedness Foundation Update

Mr. Fletcher reported that we do have a contract and we are working on the revisions.

FY2017 Programs Update

Ms. Abston is working on several programs. The child safety seat purchase grant gave \$100,000 so 143 units are purchased and shipping at the end of December. That piece will go with the 2016 contract. There were 40 AVLS purchased and we received 3 units complimentary for a total cost of \$ 73,036.00, this leaves \$44,796.00 available still in the FY2016 budget. Mr. Terwilliger asked if we used the FY2016 funds to pay Mr. Boone and Ms. Abston confirmed that to be accurate.

Ms. Abston suggests in late February or March we see where the available funds remain and we can allocate to other needs at that time. Ms. Abston is also working on the FY2017 equipment grants. Ms. Abston asked the group to review the trauma care related equipment list to make sure all items are included. Ms. Abston was unable to locate in prior minutes or motions approval of any additional equipment that was not on the provided list. Ms. Abston asked if there were any additional equipment needs that we should approve that are not listed on the equipment grants list presented. Mr. Oliver asked if this list was also in addition to the state required list. Ms. Abston confirmed the approved equipment was the additional list. Mr. Terwilliger said in the beginning, the only thing originally allowed to be purchased were items not required by the state for ambulances and trauma related services. The following year it was included to be both the approved equipment list and the state required list items. It was then decided that if the item could be tied back to improving state trauma care that we would approve it. We did waivers on a commercial washing machine and then it was added to the list. Mr. Terwilliger said Grady requested one to wash their straps and to keep cross infection down and the commercial washing machine was added to the list because that does improve trauma care. Mr. Atkins brought up a past request for an ambulance engine that was denied funds. Ms. Abston said she located in prior minutes several items not allowed to be purchased with the funds but did not find any additions not already on the equipment list or state equipment list.

Mr. Atkins brought up the laptop replacement(s) grant money was used for. Ms. Abston says this is a good example of an item grant funds were used for that is not on the approved equipment list. Mr. Terwilliger remembers the discussion had to do with Lucas compression devices and Mr. Atkins recalls discussing pediatric equipment and 3 different brands. Mr. Terwilliger says there have been a couple items brought to Ms. Abston's attention and has drawn some to question. He mentioned grant funds were used to purchase an ATV off road vehicle. Mr. Terwilliger says that he and Ms. Littleton approved under the belief that they had the authority to approve themselves and still believe they have that authority to do so. The ATV was for a South Georgia agency that requested it for events like a deer stand fall in the rugged terrain and the need to get back there to the patient.

Another item approved was for Mr. Beamon's region, a pick up truck, it was explained that the truck would be trauma equipment installed and it will be available for the crash that needs additional help or for a first responder type situation where it can assist. Mr. Terwilliger approved it and stands behind his approval as it created ability to take care of trauma and that is our goal. Mr. Terwilliger says this process is no different than how we fund the readiness costs to our trauma centers (hospitals). Mr. Drawdy says in 2014 this list was mentioned and used and items not on the list should be presented to the committee for the protection of all members. Mr. Terwilliger says he is happy to have all items approved before the sub committee. Mr. Oliver says from his memory that this list presented is not the last list we had

approved. Mr. Oliver says the discussion held with the group was an equipment list and additions and there should be motions in past minutes about this. Ms. Abston has reviewed past minutes and motions and believes this equipment list presented is the last approved list. Ms. Abston says members had discussion and there were denied motions regarding equipment (requested to be added to the) list but that was the final list documented. Mr. Terwilliger says he is happy to say we do not approve funds for vehicles in the future. Dr. Nicholas editorializes by saying we just need to make sure we are transparent with public dollars. Any large cost items for protection of our system should be vetted for the group. Dr. Nicholas and Ms. Abston suggest an amount cap. Mr. Beamon is in agreement with finalizing the equipment purchase list.

Mr. Beamon asked if GAEMS was not going to be responsible for upcoming grants. Ms. Abston said that on multiple occasions she has said she intends to hold as many items in house as she can. Ms. Abston reminded the group that she is the fiduciary responsible party by state statute that specifies she is responsible for the administration of state funds. Ms. Abston advised to not rely on state funding as no one can rely on the state funding and should comprise a budget based on state funding. The foundation is the Commissions' sub contractor and things have been slow but the contract moved rather quickly through the Attorney General's office. Ms. Abston reminded all that due to past actions that all know about that her contractor is the foundation and that she works directly with Mr. Fletcher. It was a large contract and Ms. Abston is named in state statute that she is fiduciary responsible for these funds and it is the Commissions' choice as to who to contract with. Ms. Abston reminded everyone that she has mentioned in several meetings in the past her interest in keeping as many items in house as possible.

Mr. Terwilliger discussed the list and said that items not on the list can be approved as long as the need is tied back to the state trauma system. Mr. Drawdy suggests we continue to expand the list as items are requested. Mr. Terwilliger agrees with expanding the list based on needs of the communities. Ms. Abston will send the list out to all members' next week and requests feedback and suggestions.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2016-12-04:

I make the motion in regards to the trauma related equipment grants that the Commission approved equipment list remove brand names and add any previously approved equipment with the exception of the ATV.

MOTION BY: LEE OLIVER

SECOND BY: VICTOR DRAWDY

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of motion.

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

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2016-12-05:

I make the motion in regards to the trauma related equipment grants if a service requests an item that is not on the Commission approved equipment grant list or the State required equipment list, the item will be sent to the grant coordinator and be presented to the EMS Subcommittee for approval prior to funding those purchases.

MOTION BY: LEE OLIVER

SECOND BY: DR. JEFFREY NICHOLAS

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of motion.

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

Discussion of approval of purchases and the difference in process between the trauma centers and the EMS community was mentioned. Ms. Abston explained that all Trauma Center's have to report on how they used their funds. Dr. Nicholas confirmed that items to be purchased are presented for approval and gave a recent example with warming units.

Technology dates were discussed. Once confirming location, February 16th will be technology day. Mr. Beamon will let the group know confirmed details.

It was decided that the EMS subcommittee meets Thursday January 12th, 2017 at GPSTC.

EMS Video for LMS

Mr. Drawdy introduced Brock Archer, an extrication specialist. There is a lot of potential for video work within the commission via the sub-committees and the trauma foundation. Nicole Archer created a video to present to everyone showing recent clips of trauma care in the state of Georgia. Instructional videos can be very beneficial. A short presentation of services offered and a presentation of the types of videos that could be beneficial to the states trauma community were covered. Costs of \$1500 to \$ 2000 per finished minute are typical costs for production. Mr. Archers' team is offering this service to us at \$1000 per finished minute.

GAEMS Update

Ms. Littleton gave the GAEMS update. All FY2014 courses are complete including the three additional TECC courses. EVOC courses are complete with the exception of one scheduled for January 2017. The child seat and safety classes are all complete with a couple scheduled for early 2017. All FY2015 leadership classes completed and funds expended. Extrication courses have been completed. EMR there were 20 courses almost all are complete. Leadership Alumni was approved in the FY2015 extension. Ms. Littleton also reported the FY2015 triage tag program is in final stages of completion.

MOTION EMS Subcommittee 2016-12-06: **I make the motion to adjourn the meeting.**

MOTION BY: COURTNEY TERWILLIGER

SECOND BY: LEE OLIVER

VOTING: All members present voted in favor of motion.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.

Minutes crafted by: Erin Bolinger