

Regional Trauma Advisory Committee

June 17th, 2025 Meeting Agenda Minutes

1:00 pm at Athens Technical College Building A

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM by Heather Morgan, Vice Chair.
2. Present at the meeting were the following:

Heather Morgan	Jen Carter	Josh Robinson
Kristin Spires	Dawn Armeni	John Bandzul
Crystal Shelnuitt	Huey Atkins	Katie Revard
Alex Nichols	Bobby Smith	Marlana Crews
Aaron Ross	Christie Mathis	Ronnie Almand
Kevin Locke	Ryan Hollingsworth	Shannon Thomas
John Sartain	John Clemmons	Anna Sheridan
Emily Alger	Kim Ruesmann	
Eva Carignan	Lisa Weitzman	

Virtual:

Kurt Horst	Chuck Almond	Miranda Baras
Whitney Barfield	Linsdey Mason	Terry Cobb
Tru Patel	Hailey Brown	Beth Seymour
Ben Whiddon		

3. Updates

Sports Medicine Conference — Kristin Spires

- Held the 3rd Annual Sports Medicine Conference on May 22nd with over 100 attendees. Featured great speakers, including Ron Courson, Dr. Jim Kyle, Glenn Henry, Dr. Jim Ellis, Dr. Chris Bostdorff, Dr. Kim Castro, Lisa Henry, Dr. David Sailors, Dr. Paul Henkel, and several UGA Athletic Trainers. Eight hands-on skill stations were offered, including new additions like spine management in the pole vault pit with the KED, orthopedic splinting, and gymnastics pit demonstrations. Big thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with registration and logistics.

Injury Prevention

Stop the Bleed — Kristin Spires

- Held a STB demo at UGA for Public Health Week on April 8th.
- Piedmont Walton hosted STB classes on May 6th, training 24 participants.
- Provided STB training at BASA on May 8th, with 16 Sports Medicine students trained.
- Applications for STB opened on June 2nd and will close on June 30th.
- Reminder: Equipment is available for use.
- Please send date, location, and participant numbers for any additional STB events to include in the quarterly report.

Safe Kids — April Dorsett (not present)

Emily Alger (ACCFD) reported collaborations with Safe Kids including:

- Fire extinguisher training
- Hands-Only CPR
- Water safety class
- Stop the Bleed projects with ACCFD

Future Projects/Committee Discussion Topics — Eva Carignan Reported for the Injury Prevention Subcommittee. The committee met for the first time today. Items discussed:

- Falls remain the leading cause of trauma in the region (61.94%), especially among adults 64+ (57.62%).
- Group discussed the need for county-level fall prevention strategies.
- Proposed toolkits for each county with safety tips, resources, and EMS contacts.
- Plan to use EMS data on falls, lift assists, and trends to guide outreach.
- Consider follow-up with fall patients post-discharge to link to prevention resources.
- Identify gaps in elderly trauma care (pain management, geriatric-specific EMS training).
- Review injury mechanisms vs. scene times and ongoing hospital/fire department prevention efforts.

Performance Improvement

Blood Project — Heather Morgan Reported

- Blood Project Committee reviewing 100% of administration charts.
- The committee has developed feedback tool for EMS.
- Documentation gaps noted: start/stop times, unit numbers, fluids/calcium/TXA given. Heather reminded the services to make sure these things are documented in the PCR.
- Providers encouraged to start fluid resuscitation with 500ml bolus.
- Josh Robinsion expressed Oglethorpe County is interested in joining the program.

Future Projects/Committee Discussion Topics — Ryan Hollingsworth reported for the Performance Improvement Subcommittee. The committee met for the first time today. Items discussed:

- Set scene time goals for full trauma activations:
 - Current: 71%
 - 1-year goal: 75%
 - 2-year goal: 80%
 - 3-year goal: 85%
- Discussed patient warming; reviewing core temps upon ED arrival — Piedmont Athens may track this.
- Discussed pelvic binder use — Shannon to retrieve related data.
- Reinforce administration of 2g TXA instead of 1g.

EMS Education Subcommittee — Ryan Hollingsworth

- Regional Instructor Database created for AHA, GA EMS, and NAEMT specialty courses. A Google form has been sent out to all providers in the region to complete and submit.
- Still finalizing logistics for the Critical Care Paramedic Course.
- Registration is open for the 2025 Classic City Providers/Educators Conference on August 28–29; still seeking sponsors.

Trauma Centers

- Heather Morgan reported for Piedmont Athens: She introduced Eva Carignan as the new Trauma Injury Prevention & Outreach Coordinator / Trauma Educator. PAR has revised trauma activation criteria.

- Christie Mathis reported for Morgan Medical: Hosted the Lutz 43 Safe Driving Summit on April 4th.
- Lisa Weitzman reported for Piedmont Walton: Hosted STB classes for employees and community members in early May; planning a future Shattered Dreams event for teen distracted/impaired driving.

GTC — Crystal Shelnutt

- Reported that GEMSA has opened EMS Initial Education Grants EMR/EMT/AEMT grant applications, with less than a month left to apply. Contact Crystal for assistance or if you have any barriers to hosting courses.
- GEMSA has also shared a list of upcoming scheduled classes and applications to host Cadaver Labs, TECC, and Farm Medic courses. Kristin will forward the GEMSA email to all members with course information and hosting applications.
- The EMS Committee meeting is scheduled for July 10th, and the next GTC meeting will be held in August.

4. New Business

- Kristin reported the funding request submitted to the EMS Subcommittee in March was approved for \$27,618 to help address current education barriers.

Funds will support:

- Development of Train-the-Trainer courses for EMS leadership (airway, trauma resuscitation, MCI/triage, critically ill/injured management).
- Potential Trauma Trailer with low-fidelity manikins and training supplies — or just equipment if preferred.
- Sponsorship for the Classic City EMS Providers and Educators Conference.
- Crystal shared options for housing RTAC funds through the Region 10 Directors Association or the North Georgia Community Foundation. Both options are currently being used by other RTACs in the state. Funds will not be disbursed until the end of July, so we have time to discuss.
- Kristin noted the need for an RTAC Treasurer due to grant funding; Josh Robinson asked to defer discussion until after EMS Council Meeting.
- Kristin shared Grady Hospital's offer to provide a free 6-hour Burn Operations Class (max 20 students). Any service interested in hosting should email Kristin. If there is strong interest, multiple sessions can be arranged. Kevin shared Barrow

County's positive experience with Grady's class. Crystal mentioned the possibility of a train-the-trainer option with Region 10 Educators.

- Kristin reminded the group of the GEMSA Mental Health First Aid for EMS & Fire on July 10th at St. Mary's.

5. Questions

- Next meeting scheduled September 16th, 2025

6. Adjournment