

## **Regional Trauma Advisory Committee**

**September 16th, 2025 Meeting Agenda Minutes**

**1:00 pm at Athens Technical College Building A**

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM by Dr. Horst, Chair.

2. Present at the meeting were the following:

|                    |                |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Kurt Horst         | Beth Seymour   | Kim Ruesmann    |
| Heather Morgan     | Aaron Ross     | Kevin Locke     |
| Kristin Spires     | Ronnie Almand  | Chris Mobley    |
| Eva Carignan       | Josh Robinson  | Chuck Almond    |
| Christie Mathis    | Lisa Thomas    | John Clemons    |
| Bobby Smith        | Shannon Thomas | Garrett Polston |
| Beth Farrington    | Tracy LaFlam   | Anna Sheridan   |
| John Sartain       | Jen Carter     | Emily Alger     |
| Ryan Hollingsworth | April Dorsett  | Gina Solomon    |
| Crystal Shelnutt   | Shannon Thomas | Joshua Roberts  |

|                        |                |             |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Virtual: Lindsey Mason | Brian Brown    | Ana Delgada |
| Natasha                | Ni Cole Hester |             |

### **3. Updates**

Stop the Bleed — Kristin Spires

- Five Police/Sheriff's Departments, one Fire Department, and one school approved for kits (total of 180 kits).
- Kit deliveries are currently in progress.
- Applications reopened on September 15; flyers have been distributed — please share with any approved agency that has not yet participated in the program.
- Equipment is available for use.
- Members are asked to provide date, location, and number of participants for upcoming trainings to Kristin.
- Upcoming event: UGA Parents & Families Weekend — Friday, November 7, 12:00–2:30 p.m. Members interested in assisting should contact Kristin.

## Education — Ryan Hollingsworth

- Committee met on September 9 to debrief the Classic City EMS Provider & Educators Conference (August 28–29).
  - 85 attendees, including 64 educators.
  - Received positive feedback.
  - Committee is considering a change of venue to allow for growth at next year's conference.
- Planning a Pediatric Simulation Day as part of the bimonthly education series (tentative for November).
- EMS Skills Pop-Up late October.

## Performance Improvement

- Blood Project - Updates from Madison and Elbert Counties.
  - Elbert County reported a recent administration.
  - Madison County recorded its first administration to a trauma patient on August 28.
- Performance Improvement Committee — Ryan Hollingsworth
  - Committee met prior to this meeting and discussed tracking prehospital pelvic binder use and adding pelvic binders to the PCR procedure list.
  - Ryan has been in communication with local orthopedic physicians and received recommendations for a protocol on proper application.
  - Group reviewed development of sample trauma skill protocols and RTAC-endorsed guidelines for trauma equipment use to ensure consistency and best practices across EMS services.
  - Plan to create a slide deck for services to use for in-house training.
  - Committee continues to focus on improving scene times for Level 1 trauma patients.
  - Services asked to document reasons for any scene delays in their reports.
  - Cases with scene times greater than 20 minutes will be flagged for review by service leadership and Piedmont Athens.

### Injury Prevention – Eva Carginan

- Falls remain the leading cause of injury in the region, with the subcommittee discussing county guides, EMS education resources, and post-fall support for patients and caregivers, as well as clarifying documentation of lift-assist calls.
- She also highlighted ongoing MVC initiatives, including driving summits, school programs with Lutzie 43 and Team Maze, and the Clarke Central High Team Rodeo.
- Upcoming events include the Rural Interactive Simulation in October, Car Seat Safety Certification in December, and Injury Prevention Day on November 18.

### Trauma Centers

#### Piedmont Athens — Eva Carignan

- Fall Prevention Month activities underway.
- Identified issues with EMS reports: missing critical information and delays in transfer of care due to inclusion of non-critical details.
- Developed an EMS “60-Second Timeout” tool to prioritize key information during patient handoff.
- EMS will now be prompted over the radio for trauma activations.
- Partnering with the American Trauma Society to provide more resources to trauma patients after discharge and peer support programs.

#### Piedmont Walton — Lisa Weitzman

- Hosting a “Matter of Balance” class.
- Rural Interactive Trauma Simulation (RITS) scheduled for October 9. Flyer has been shared.

#### Morgan Medical — Christie Mathis

- Reported data on trauma activations, with falls identified as the leading mechanism of injury.

#### GTC — Crystal Shelnutt / Gina Solomon

- Crystal reported collaboration with the Georgia Trauma Foundation to expand Stop the Bleed kits in schools and increase training requirements. More details expected by the end of the month.

- Educational needs assessment survey will be released next month, with a goal of 2,000 responses. Potential addition of an instructor pathway. Members were encouraged to promote participation.
- EMS Education Committee Blood Project start-up grant of \$2,000; developing equipment list and access to product. Estimated start-up cost: \$10,000.
- Encouraged participation in the Northeast Georgia Trauma Symposium, hosted by NGHS and Region 2 RTAC, on October 3.
- Gina reported ongoing provision of regional data to RTAC coordinators and welcomed feedback. Developed a tool to help clarify data definitions.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### Grady Burn Class — Kristin Spires

- Reminded the group about the free 6-hour Operations Course offered by Grady.
- Services interested in hosting should contact Kristin.
- If there is significant interest, multiple sessions can be arranged.

##### RTAC Funding — Kristin Spires / Open Discussion

- Encouraged the group to think about how we want to use the grant funding.
- The initial request included:
  - Conference sponsorships
  - Support for instructor and EMS leadership training
  - Shared regional trauma trailer
- If the trailer project needs to be put on hold or removed, we need to decide as a group where to reallocate those funds (additional training courses or equipment).
- Final funding decisions should align with the goal of improving trauma outcomes across the region.

#### **5. Questions**

#### **6. Adjournment**

- Next meeting scheduled December 9th, 2025