

## **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 Clemmons
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 Shelnett	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 Lutz 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 Shelnett / 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