

RTAC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Quarterly Trauma System, Injury Prevention & Adaptive Recreation Review

Meeting Date: June 10, 2026

Host Venue: DeKalb County

Meeting Facilitator: Steve (RTAC)

Session Focus: Regional Trauma & Injury Prevention

1. Meeting Logistics & Participant Roster

The quarterly Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) meeting convened at DeKalb County. Below is the formal record of meeting facilitation, key agency presenters, and regional vice-chair nominations.

Role / Designation	Name & Title	Organization / Subject Focus
Meeting Host & Facilitator	Steve	RTAC Meeting Facilitator
Trauma Commission Lead	Crystal Shellnut	Georgia Trauma Commission (Education Grants & Cadaver Lab)
Geriatric Trauma Lead	Dr. Kohler	Geriatric Fall Prevention & Clinical Workflows
Community Outreach Lead	Deanna Smith	Northside Hospital Gwinnett ('A Matter of Balance')
Roadway Safety Presenter	Mike Lutzenkirchen	Lutzie 43 Foundation (Safe Driving Summits)
Adaptive Recreation Lead	Ellen Graham	Georgia DNR State Parks (Outdoors Beyond Barriers - OBB)

RTAC Region 3 Vice-Chair Nominees

Two formal nominations were submitted for the RTAC Region 3 Vice-Chair position. The nomination window remains open for two weeks following the meeting, after which an electronic ballot will be distributed:

- **Lindsay Jaeger** (System Medical Director for Transport, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - CHOA): Nominated by Dr. Smith. Recognized for pediatric trauma outreach and transport leadership across Region 3.
- **Dr. Aviva Bashan** (Kennesstone Hospital): Nominated by Danielle Johnson. Recognized for regional clinical engagement and trauma system support.

2. Executive Summary & Operational Proceedings

The meeting opened with an agenda overview emphasizing fall prevention, RTAC training equipment updates, roadway safety advocacy, and adaptive outdoor recreation. Remote participation via Microsoft Teams encountered severe audio disruptions. Following technical troubleshooting, facilitators confirmed that remote attendees could not hear the proceedings. To preserve meeting productivity, leadership formally pivoted to continue the session in person while committing to distribute slide decks and recorded materials electronically.

3. Workstream Discussion Summaries

A. Education & Training Programs (Georgia Trauma Commission & RTAC Updates)

Steve presented regional education updates on behalf of Crystal Shellnut. Key developments include:

- **RTAC Airway Equipment Grant:** RTAC received approximately \$20,000 in advanced airway and intraosseous (IO) training equipment. The equipment will be maintained in central storage and made available for regional course checkout (e.g., PHTLS and instructor courses).
- **Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) & NAEMT Grants:** Grant application windows are currently open on the GTC website. Regional trauma providers and EMS agencies were encouraged to submit applications for initial and continuing education funding.
- **Cadaver Lab Instructor Development (UGA / Athens):** Crystal Shellnut is leading a statewide instructor-development initiative utilizing human cadaveric specimens at the University of Georgia. The program focuses on systematic anatomical dissection, enabling EMS instructors to teach complex procedural skills (such as landmarks for needle chest decompression) grounded in gross anatomy.

B. Geriatric Fall Prevention Initiative

Dr. Kohler led a discussion framing geriatric falls as a rapidly escalating high-volume challenge across regional trauma centers. The initiative focuses on bridging EMS home hazard observations with hospital emergency care and post-discharge follow-up:

- **Cross-System Hazard Integration:** Discussion emphasized connecting prehospital observations (e.g., environmental trip hazards, frequent lift-assist calls) with hospital discharge planning to prevent repeat trauma admissions. Regional data has identified approximately 13 high-volume lift-assist facilities for targeted intervention.
- **Specialty Transport Discharge Checklist:** Participants reviewed a transport discharge checklist designed to capture social determinants of health and fall risk factors, ensuring continuity of care between transport teams and receiving facilities.
- **Community Program — 'A Matter of Balance':** Deanna Smith (Northside Hospital Gwinnett) reported on the implementation of 'A Matter of Balance' across two senior centers (Buford Senior Center and Martinsville). The 8-week evidence-based curriculum includes hands-on floor recovery instruction led by physical therapists, enabling seniors to safely navigate post-fall recovery.

C. Roadway Safety Education & Safe Driving Summits (Lutzie 43 Foundation)

Mike Lutzenkirchen presented the Lutzie 43 Foundation's 12-year strategic outreach model, established following the preventable 2014 crash death of Philip Lutzenkirchen:

- **Behavioral Safety Framework & '43 Key Seconds':** The foundation advocates prioritizing 'People' and human choices over infrastructure and vehicle technology. Drivers are encouraged to take '43 Key Seconds' before starting a vehicle to self-check clear head (no impairment), clear hands, clear eyes, and seatbelt attachment.
- **Safe Driving Summit Structure:** Summits reach students in grades 9–12 through a 5-hour format featuring a 75-minute opening keynote and small-group interactive breakouts (trauma room reenactments co-delivered with local trauma centers, rehab/recovery awareness, commercial trucking safety, and law enforcement perspectives). To date, 40 summits have reached 25,000+ students across 95+ high schools.
- **Regional Expansion & Metro Access:** Upcoming grant-funded rural summits are scheduled for September 2026 at Banks County High School and Crisp County. The foundation requested local partner support to overcome metro school district curriculum-time barriers in Gwinnett, Fulton, and Cobb counties.
- **Lasseter High School Road Race:** The foundation announced an upcoming road race fundraiser (\$43 entry fee) to foster friendly competition among RTAC, hospital, and EMS teams.

D. Georgia DNR State Parks: Accessibility & Outdoors Beyond Barriers (OBB)

Ellen Graham presented the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Outdoors Beyond Barriers (OBB) program, connecting trauma recovery with adaptive outdoor recreation:

- **ADA Remediation Infrastructure:** Following a 2019 assessment identifying 66,000 ADA noncompliance items, DNR completed Phase 1 remediation (~20,000 items resolved) by year-end 2024. Cloudland Canyon established a safe audio overlook, with additional accessible overlooks funded for 2026 at Tallulah Gorge and Providence Canyon.
- **Adaptive Recreation Fleet:** Through partnership with the Amy Copeland Foundation, 17 state park sites now offer Action Track Chairs at no cost to visitors. Additional gear includes EnChroma color-blindness glasses at 3 sites, adaptive golf carts (with Georgia State Golf Association), and two funded adaptive kayak kits (\$10,000 each).
- **Clinical Partnerships & Recognition:** OBB partners with Shepherd Center and Catalyst Sports for guided hikes, adaptive hunting/fishing (353 fishing events, 165 hunt participants), and inaugural adaptive paddling programs. GA DNR Rangers completed Stop the Bleed training, which resulted in a successful real-world kit deployment shortly after training. The OBB program received a national 'Innovative Award' from park ranger associations.

E. Prehospital Blood Program Development

Carey and clinical partners provided an operational update on establishing a prehospital blood administration initiative. The group is coordinating with regional blood banks and will connect with the

Blood Coalition (via Mike Shapour at Brady) to adopt established clinical protocols and training frameworks.

4. Action Items & Approved Key Decisions

Action Items (Unassigned Log)

- Email any additional RTAC Region 3 Vice-Chair nominations to Steve by June 24, 2026.
- Post sign-in attendance links and email GTC grant links to interested meeting participants.
- Distribute presentation PowerPoint slides (including GA DNR OBB materials) to all meeting attendees.
- Obtain and distribute the written specialty care transport discharge checklist for fall risk assessment.
- Inventory existing EMS, hospital, and community fall-prevention programs to identify scalable components.
- Assist Lutzie 43 Foundation with administrative outreach to enable Safe Driving Summits in Gwinnett, Fulton, and Cobb counties.
- Recruit healthcare and trauma professionals to support delivery of Safe Driving Summit breakout modules.
- Organize RTAC and trauma center runner/walker teams for the Lasseter High School Road Race fundraiser.
- Execute the inaugural adaptive paddling program with Catalyst Sports training staff (scheduled June 14, 2026).
- Connect prehospital blood program leads with Mike Shapour (Brady) to integrate with the Blood Coalition.
- Issue formal date and location announcement for the September 2026 RTAC quarterly meeting once confirmed.

Approved Key Decisions

Decision Item	Operational Rationale
Extend Vice-Chair Nominations	Allow a two-week window (closing June 24, 2026) for regional partners to submit nominations prior to an electronic vote.
Pivot to In-Person Meeting	Unresolved Microsoft Teams remote audio failure prevented online participants from hearing; in-person session continued to maintain productivity.
OBB Program Recognition	Formally recognized GA DNR receipt of national 'Innovative Award' for adaptive park infrastructure and state accessibility initiatives.
OBB Participant Guidance	Steer adaptive program participants to designated state parks equipped with trained staff and specialized Action Track gear.