



REGION 3 TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date	Thursday, September 17, 2026
Scheduled Time	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Location	Northside Gwinnett Resource Center 655 Duluth Highway, Suite 101
Format	Hybrid — In Person and Microsoft Teams Chair: Dr. Kat Kohler Vice Chair: Dr. Lindsay Jaeger Secretary: Julie Mosher, MSN RTAC Coordinator:
Leadership	Steve Elmgren, MBA, NRP

1. Attendance and Quorum Record

Reported attendance: 53 unique attendees were recorded through the meeting sign-in process. The attendance file contains 54 submissions, including one duplicate sign-in.

Representation included hospital trauma programs, EMS agencies, fire/rescue services, air medical services, rehabilitation, the Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma, and the Georgia Trauma Commission.

Note: The source materials do not document a formal quorum count; these minutes therefore report attendance without making a quorum determination.

2. Call to Order and Opening Business

- The meeting was convened by Chair Dr. Kat Kohler and RTAC Coordinator Steve Elmgren.
- Northside Gwinnett / Springfield Park was recognized for hosting the meeting and providing lunch.
- Members, EMS leaders, hospital representatives, and guests were welcomed and reminded to complete the electronic attendance record.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Business item: Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes was included in the formal order of business.

Official action record: The materials provided for preparation of these minutes do not capture the name of the mover, the second, or the final vote/disposition. This item should be confirmed from the Secretary's record before the minutes are adopted as final.

4. RTAC 3 Q2 2026 Scorecard

- Region 3 reviewed 3,611 trauma cases for Q2 2026. Falls accounted for 1,932 cases (53.5%), followed by motor vehicle crashes with 606 cases and firearm injuries with 194 cases.
- The reported raw mortality rate was 3.16%. The meeting materials noted that this was a raw, non-risk-adjusted measure.
- Adults age 65 and older represented 41.7% of patients (1,505 patients), reinforcing the regional emphasis on fall prevention.
- Ground EMS accounted for 3,200 arrivals (88.6%).
- For patients with ISS greater than 15, the median EMS scene time was 16 minutes; 71% met a scene-time benchmark of 20 minutes or less.

5. Regional Training Equipment and Resource Deployment

- RTAC 3 highlighted its regional training equipment inventory, including airway trainers, simulation/trauma manikins, moulage resources, and PHTLS materials.
- Wellstar North Fulton utilized RTAC 3 simulation manikins and airway management trainers for nursing and physician trauma skills validation.
- Members were encouraged to use the regional lending resources and the Georgia Trauma Commission website to identify available equipment, training opportunities, and regional events.

6. Georgia Trauma Commission Website and Regional Communications

- The Georgia Trauma Commission regional website was highlighted as a central resource for upcoming education, calendars, training opportunities, equipment inventory, and equipment reservation.
- Members were encouraged to submit flyers, educational announcements, event information, and photographs for regional promotion and cross-posting.

7. Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT)

- Kelly Joiner, Deputy Director, Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma, presented an update on the statewide APOT Task Force and reporting resources.
- APOT was defined as beginning when the EMS unit arrives at the hospital and ending after full patient report, transfer to the hospital-selected location, return of EMS equipment, and completion of the care handoff.
- The statewide performance goal discussed was APOT of 20 minutes or less for 90% of transports; this was presented as a goal rather than a mandate.
- The task force has moved toward monthly reporting to improve timeliness and actionability.
- Discussion identified middle-acuity patients as a recurring operational challenge when ED rooms are unavailable. Successful practices at facilities with favorable metrics, including dedicated offload areas and staffing approaches, were discussed as models for shared learning.
- A data-quality concern related to state-fed ImageTrend data was raised by Emory Healthcare, with follow-up requested regarding mapping and validation.

8. Injury Prevention – Falls

- Deanna Smith, Northside Hospital Gwinnett, presented regional senior fall-prevention work and community-based strategies.

- Gwinnett EMS data reviewed for August 2025 through August 2026 included 4,085 fall-related EMS calls among adults age 65 and older; 68% were reported as ground-level falls.
- Programs discussed included A Matter of Balance, the Gwinnett Golden Games, senior outreach partnerships, and recurring community wellness education.
- The group emphasized the importance of fall prevention and improved documentation of non-transport fall encounters, including lift assists and refusals, to strengthen surveillance and prevention planning.

9. Injury Prevention – Shattered Dreams

- Stephanie Verna, Grady Memorial Hospital, presented the Shattered Dreams teen motor vehicle crash prevention program.
- The program combines a mock crash, hospital-based experience, survivor and staff engagement, and a school assembly to address impaired and distracted driving.
- Pre- and post-program assessments are used to evaluate the educational intervention, and interested trauma centers were invited to connect regarding program expansion.

10. Georgia Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Coalition

- Dr. Lekshmi Kumar provided an overview of the Georgia Pre-Hospital Blood Coalition and regional prehospital blood activity.
- Regional data reviewed included 117 whole blood units administered by ground EMS, along with additional packed red blood cell and plasma use.
- The coalition was described as a collaborative education and information-sharing forum rather than a regulatory body.
- Coalition meetings are held virtually every other month on the second Thursday from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The next meeting was announced for October 8, 2026.

11. Business Outcomes and Follow-Up

- Fall prevention remains a regional priority, particularly for the population age 65 and older.
- RTAC 3 will continue promoting use of regional training equipment and shared educational resources.
- Members were encouraged to use the Georgia Trauma Commission website and regional communication channels to share education, events, and resources.
- APOT performance will continue to be reviewed through recurring state reporting, with successful hospital practices shared to support improvement.
- Follow-up was requested regarding APOT data integrity concerns and the accuracy of ImageTrend-fed data.
- Interested agencies were encouraged to participate in the Georgia Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Coalition and statewide resource-sharing efforts.

12. Announcements and Upcoming Dates

- Georgia Pre-Hospital Blood Coalition: October 8, 2026, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, virtual.
- Trauma Symposium: October 20, 2026, Birmingham.
- The next Region 3 RTAC meeting was identified in the meeting record as December 3, 2026.

13. Adjournment

Adjournment: The source materials provided do not document the exact adjournment time or a formal motion to adjourn. The agenda contemplated an open forum following scheduled presentations.

Appendix A – Reported Attendance

Attendance source: RTAC 3 Quarterly Meeting electronic sign-in. Names and organizations are reproduced from the submitted attendance record; obvious spacing has been normalized. Contact information is intentionally omitted from the minutes.

Name	Organization	Role
Justin Chambers	Air Evac Lifeteam	Flight Paramedic
Kristen Vickers	Air Evac Lifeteam 117	Flight Nurse, Base Clinical Lead
Kevin Queen	Air Methods - Air Life 2	Clinical Base Lead
Lance Hestet	Amr	Ems Chief
Gregory Gallaher	AMR DeKalb County	Clinical Educator
Shane Dover	AMR North Fulton	Administration Battalion Chief
Adetokunbo Martins	Atlanta Fire	EMS Chief
Kellie Rowker	Childrens Scottish Rite	TPM
Alicia Cochran	CHOA	Trauma PI
April Gadsden	CHOA	Paramedic Supervisor/Outreach Coordinator
Echo Standley	CHOA	Educator
Lindsay Jaeger	CHOA	PEM attending, med dir for EMS, transport, transfer center
Susanne Edwards	CHOA, Scottish Rite	Trauma PI Coordinator, Scottish Rite
Samantha Brunotts	City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department	Section Chief EMS Field Ops.
Winfred Smith	DeKalb County Fire Rescue	Deputy Chief of EMS
Esther Hwang	Emory University/ AMR	Assistant Professor/ Medical Director
Sofia Gattie	Encompass Health	Rehab Liaison
Alfred Smith	Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services	EMS Coordinator
Dipti Patel	GA Office of EMS and Trauma	EMS Data Manager
Kelly Joiner	GA Office of EMS and Trauma	Deputy Director
Andrea Costanzo	Grady	PI RN
Emily Page	Grady	PI nurse
Erin moorcones	Grady	Educator
Katherine Kohler	Grady	Associate TMD
Leigh Pack	Grady	Trauma RN Data Specialist
Leslie Miller	Grady	PI RN
Michael Bentley	Grady	Trauma PI RN
Connor Williams	Grady EMS	QA/QI
Kayla Runion	Grady EMS	Inventory Control Specialist Lead/ AEMT
Keith Blalock	Grady EMS Academy	Director of EMS Education
Miranda Baras	Grady Health System	EMS Liaison Manager
Kelli Scott	Grady Memorial Hospital	Walter L Ingram Burn Program Director
Lawrence Blair	Grady Memorial Hospital	Injury Prevention & Outreach Manager
Stephanie Verna	Grady memorial hospital	Program manager - Shattered Dreams
Laura Johnson	Grady/Emory	Burn Medical Director
Crystal Shelnutt	GTC	TSDM
Michael	Kennestone	EMS Coordinator
Lisa Birkinbine	MetroAtlanta Ambulance	Manager, clinical and educational services
Joel Turner	Newton Co Fire Service	EMS Chief
Sarah Holcombe	Northside	Trauma Education
Tracy Harris	Northside Gwinnett Hospital	Trauma Registrar

Abby Darroux	Northside Hospital Gwinnett	Trauma PI Coordinator
Deanna Smith	Northside Hospital Gwinnett	Injury Prevention and Community Outreach coordinator
Mark Peters	Northside Hospital Gwinnett	EMS Liaison
Rayma Stephens	Northside Hospital Gwinnett	Trauma PI Coordinator
Shannon Masic	OEMST	R3 RTC
Dan shearn	Southern regional medical center	Chief nursing officer
Barry Renz	Wellstar Cobb	TMD
Jamie Van Ness	Wellstar Kennestone	Director of Trauma Services
Joseph Puff	Wellstar Kennestone	EMS Coordinator
Megan Dawson	Wellstar Kennestone	Trauma Program Manager
Elizabeth Folse	Wellstar North Fulton	Trauma Program Manager
Nidhi Chawala	Wellstar North Fulton	Trauma PI coordinator

Certification / Approval

Prepared for Review	Region 3 RTAC
Approved by Committee	_____ Date: