

GCLEA Minutes – January 17, 2025

Start: 8:04 AM

End: 8:40 AM

Participants:

- Dr. Sam Lim
- Rep. Kim Schofield
- Rana Bayakly
- Catherine Craven
- Meredith Peterson

Open Session

- No open session held.

Closed Session

- December minutes approved
- Collaborative Meeting
 - Rescheduling proposed dates:
 - April 5, 7, or 12
 - March 14, 15, or 22
 - Consider combining with an LFGA event
- Strategic Planning
 - Use the Alzheimer's Association as a blueprint to align state priorities with patient needs
 - Develop a strong game plan to spotlight the needs of lupus patients
 - Tell the personal stories of lupus patients at the Capitol
 - Strategically:

- Tap into Alzheimer's funding channels
- Highlight high-risk areas
- Meet with local officials from those regions
- Conduct a comprehensive review of lupus patients' needs:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Workplace policy
- Focus on legislator education about lupus
- Administrative
- Rep. Schofield spoke with Dr. Teume and secured a grant extension
- Next Meeting:

February 21, 2025

GCLEA Minutes – February 21, 2025

Start: 8:03 AM

End: 8:41 AM

Participants:

- Dr. Sam Lim
- Teri Emond
- Rana Bayakly
- Charmayne Dunlop-Thomas
- Meredith Peterson

Open Session

- No official quorum
- Legislative Update

- Legislators are inquiring if GCLEA is still active
- Senate Bill 89, which would disband GCLEA, has passed the Senate

● Upcoming Event

- GCLEA Patient-Forward Discussion at Roam
 - Date: March 22, 2025
 - Additional rooms reserved
 - Extend the event to allow for more engagement
 - Use survey data from the last event to tailor programming

● Budget & Planning

- Venue cost: \$6,100
- A/V cost: \$5,000
- Agenda to be created early next week (Teri)
- Prepare an email blast to inform stakeholders about the potential disbanding of GCLEA

GCLEA Minutes – March 21, 2025

Start: 8:01 AM

End: 8:35 AM

Participants:

- Dr. Sam Lim
- Rana Bayakly
- Teri Emond
- Meredith Peterson
- Sen. Gail Davenport

Open Session

- Collaborative Meeting Update
 - 108 guests attended the event
 - Michael is conducting interviews with participants

- Chris Reed was hired provisionally for LFAGA
- Teri delivered the opening introduction

Closed Session

- No quorum present

GCLEA Minutes – April 18, 2025

Start: 8:03 AM

End: 8:41 AM

Participants:

- Rep. Kim Schofield
- Dr. Sam Lim
- Meredith Peterson
- Sen. Gail Davenport

Open Session

- No open session held.

Closed Session

Informal Meeting – No Quorum

- Grant Updates
 - New grant period begins in June 2025
 - BRFSS is funded under the current grant
 - Future grants should include clear, specific guidelines
- Telehealth & Patient Care Initiatives
 - Dedicate more support to telehealth services
 - Plan to expand to 3–4 new telehealth areas
 - Prioritize expanding the patient navigator program
 - Align these efforts through a GCLEA partnership

●Organizational Needs

- Task coordination should involve the Council
- Consider moving away from the current grant model
- Need to hire a coordinator to manage GCLEA scheduling and logistics
- Important to get someone on the ground in Dorothy County

●Website

- Make the feedback section private or restricted access

● Community Engagement

- Check with Chris Reed about participating in the Clayco Juneteenth Celebration

GCLEA Minutes – May 16, 2025

Participants:

- Rana Bayakly
- Meredith Peterson
- Dr. Sam Lim
- Rep. Kim Schofield
- Sen. Gail Davenport

Open Session

- Juneteenth Celebration – June 14th
 - Ask LFAGA to host a GCLEA table at the event.
- Lake Spivey Event
 - Location: Jonesboro

Closed Session

FY25 Grant Proposal Overview

- Total Budget: \$100,000
- Divided into three components:
Component #1 – Workshop and Outreach

- Amount: \$10,000

- Purpose: Host one workshop and outreach event for the Georgia Lupus Collaborative by May 30, 2026

- Goals:

- Engage individuals/organizations in GCLEA's mission
- Disseminate information about lupus efforts in Georgia
- Provide networking and collaboration opportunities
- Include diverse sectors and support groups
- Support outreach via lupus walks and education events

- Budgeted Items:

Event planner, space rental, publicity, equipment rental, admin costs, materials, tech, website maintenance, travel, accommodations, honoraria, communication

- Deliverable: Workshop and outreach event completed by May 30, 2026

Component #2 – Telemedicine / Telehealth & Public Health Surveillance

- Amount: \$65,000

- Breakdown:

- \$25,000 – Hire coordinator (reports directly to GCLEA Council)
 - Supports rural lupus telehealth expansion
 - Supports Lupus & Rheumatologic Conditions Project ECHO
- \$20,000 – Hire patient navigator for rural Georgia
- \$20,000 – Fund lupus public health surveillance in rural Georgia
 - Dashboard + database matching

- Deliverable: Reports due to GCLEA by June 30, 2026

Component #3 – Administration

- Amount: \$25,000

- Breakdown:

- \$20,000 – Hire administrator

- Manages budgeting, accounts payable, and annual reconciliation

○ \$5,000 – Hire admin assistant(s) and web designer

■ Supports communication, scheduling, meeting prep, research, website updates, hosting, and access management

● Purpose:

○ Support day-to-day GCLEA operations

○ Liaison with GA Lupus Collaborative

○ Assist with events, surveys, accreditation, and online resources

● Questions & Notes

● Can the patient navigator and coordinator be different people? → Yes

● BRFSS funding source: Likely from DPH grant, not GCLEA or LFAGA

● CDC budget cuts:

○ Educate the public about impacts

○ Develop a detailed list of the cuts and their effects on Americans

● Lupus Caucus Chair:

○ Reach out and send a letter of concern

GCLEA Minutes – June 18, 2025

Meeting Status: Cancelled

No meeting was held on this date.

GCLEA Minutes – July 18, 2025

Start: 8:10 AM

End: 8:50 AM

Participants:

- Rana Bayakly
- Rep. Kim Schofield
- Dr. Sam Lim
- Meredith Peterson
- Sen. Gail Davenport

Open Session

- No public comment

Closed Session

Appointments & Governance

- Waiting for the General Assembly to appoint a representative from the Governor's Office.
- Rep. Schofield requested that Sen. Davenport follow up on her reappointment by the Lieutenant Governor.
- Reminder: Meeting notices and minutes must be posted on the GCLEA website in compliance with state law.

Grant Updates & Fiscal Year Clarification

Current Grants

- FY25 DCH Grant (via LFAGA): July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
- FY26 DPH Grant: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Clarified Fiscal Year Dates

- FY25 = July 2024 – June 2025

- FY26 = July 2025 – June 2026

- Confusion on fiscal timing was addressed and clarified.

DCH Grant Budget Discussion

- Increase in funding: DCH grant now totals \$150,000 (up \$50,000)
- \$50,000 remaining from DCH to be allocated
- Proposed allocation strategy:

- Increase previous components by 50%
- Key focus areas:
 - Coordinator to support telemedicine and Project ECHO
 - Expand patient navigator services in rural Georgia
 - Fund a medical abstractor for lupus surveillance
 - Support for database matching (Gaobin) and epidemiology (Moges)
 - Hire administrative support to serve as liaison between GCLEA and the collaborative

DPH Grant (FY26) Budget Planning

- Total Budget: \$100,000
- Allocate \$20,000 for BRFSS lupus-related questions (calendar year 2026)
- Cover \$6,000 BRFSS gap for the current year using DCH funds

BRFSS Discussion

- Uncertainty due to pending federal budget decisions
- GCLEA to:
 - Include \$20,000 in FY26 DPH grant as a contingency item
 - Consider postponing lupus BRFSS question for one year if needed
 - Work with other groups to advocate for continued BRFSS funding
- Rep. Schofield to speak with Dr. Toomey regarding BRFSS funding
- Sen. Davenport expressed concern over unstable funding

Public Health Surveillance Projects

- Proposal to fund:
 - Medical abstractor (~\$40,000–\$50,000)
 - Gaobin (database work)
 - Moges (epidemiology support)
- Use remaining DPH funds to support these personnel and infrastructure

Administrative Updates

- Jamie (AI notes/minutes taker) is being used for meeting documentation

- Additional staff hired to support collaborative efforts

- Budgets should be adjusted to reflect new allocations

- Annual report to DPH must include:

- Milestones

- Activities summary

- Financial details

- Use FY25 Executive Summary as basis for hiring abstractor

Action Items & Follow-Ups

- Sam Lim to:

- Draft detailed budget proposals for both DCH and DPH grants

- Send to council by weekend for email review and voting

- Reach out to Brandy for clarification on DCH fund use

- Rep. Schofield to:

- Speak with Dr. Toomey about BRFSS

-

Sen. Davenport to:

- Follow up on her reappointment letter from the Lieutenant Governor