

**Disclaimer: These meeting minutes will not be official until approved at the 05/13/2011
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Meeting**

MEETING MINUTES
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:11 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.

Council Members:

Attendance	Name	Position
X	Vance Riley, LP	Fire Chief, Chair
X	Nora Castaneda-Rivas	Public Member
X	Mike Click, RN	Rural Trauma Facility
X	Linda W. Dickerson	Public Member
X	Luis G. Fernandez, MD	Trauma Surgeon or Nurse
	Jodie Harbert III, LP	EMS Educator
	James Randall Loflin, MD	Emergency Physician
X	Ryan Matthews, LP	Private EMS Provider
X	Donald G. Phillips, DO	EMS Medical Director
X	Shirley Scholz, RN	EMS Air Medical Service
X	John D. Smith, Lieutenant	Fire Department
X	Robert Vezzetti, MD	Pediatrician
	Ronald M. Stewart, MD	Urban Trauma Facility
	Pete Wolf, EMT-P	EMS Volunteer

Department of State Health Services Staff:

Attendance	Name	Position
	Kathryn C. Perkins, RN	Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services
X	Renee Clack, LNFA	Director Health Care Quality Section
	Jane G. Guerrero, RN	Director of the Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination
X	Adolfo Valadez, MD, MPH	Assistant Commissioner of Prevention and Preparedness
X	Maxie Bishop, LP, RN	State EMS Director

Item 1: Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

The meeting commenced at 9:11 am on Friday, February 25, 2011, at the Airport Hilton Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas. A quorum was present.

Item 2: Approval of minutes

A motion was made by Nora Castaneda-Rivas and seconded by Luis G. Fernandez, MD, to approve the meeting minutes from November 22, 2010. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

Item 3: Chair Report

Chair Vance Riley acknowledged his commitment to prepare a letter regarding red light cameras and stated that he will complete it by the next meeting.

Item 4: State EMS/Trauma Systems Report

Emily Parsons, Manager of the Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination, presented this report. A new rule review process will be implemented. All sections of Chapter 157 will be opened for review and amendment at one time. The process will begin this summer. Budget concerns have led us to become more efficient, and the new process should facilitate that goal.

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) chairs will conduct a review of The American College of Surgeons (ACS) recommendations on April 8th. A document including Trauma Systems Committee comments and DSHS comments will be available for review.

Twelve facilities are in active pursuit of trauma designation; 262 are already designated, with 16 level one facilities and nine level two facilities. The Uncompensated Trauma Care Fund is open to applicants and the deadline is March 31. Funds will be distributed in May or June, with a planned distribution amount of \$67 million. At the time of the meeting, there was \$65 million in the Uncompensated Trauma Care Fund. Following the promotion of one coordinator, the two remaining coordinators will manage both trauma and stroke designation.

The EMS and RAC County allotment is waiting on approval to fund the RACs and to be able to disburse their allotment. Extraordinary funding will be distributed from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011.

Item 5: Regulatory Division Report

Renee Clack, Director of Health Care Quality Section, reported on the legislative session and the severe budget deficit that the department is facing. She highlighted several legislative bills that pertain to trauma and EMS. The Division of Regulatory Services had been assigned 107 bills to date.

Item 5: State EMS/Trauma Registry Report/Preparedness

Adolfo Valadez, MD, MPH, Assistant Commissioner of Prevention and Preparedness, gave this report. Managing the budget remains a priority. Dr. Valadez discussed maintaining services with the current level of funding, as service levels are not likely to be expanded in the next biennium.

Dr. Valdez also informed the council that a proposal to reduce about \$4.5 million in preparedness funds has been discussed in his division. Legislators are also reviewing new funds distributed to the agency and the possibility of recalling funds. Dr. Valadez mentioned that deliberations are being held about reducing

trauma funding and shifting those monies to Medicaid and HHSC.

The Medical Disaster Steering Committee is holding monthly meetings to develop a mission statement, strike teams and job action sheets. Services for the disabled during a disaster are an important aspect of this committee's work, and an ADA checklist for shelter assessment is being created.

Item 7: Standing Committee/Task Force Reports

Air Medical Committee

Chair Shirley Scholz presented this report. The committee discussed combining the current memorandums of agreements (MOA). Any changes should be enacted before the hurricane season begins. A subcommittee was formed to address the issues presented at the previous committee meeting by Mr. Vaz. The committee had no action items for the council.

Cardiac Care Committee

Richard Smalley, MD, committee member, presented this report. The committee discussed the Heart Association's heart lifeline registry. Loni Denne provided a PowerPoint presentation, which is available on the DSHS website, about STEMI progress in Texas.

The committee also discussed the need for guidelines for STEMI practices during all phases of care, including follow-up. The committee had no action items for the council.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee

Chair Eric Epley presented this report. The committee discussed the DSHS Emergency Medical Task Force (EM-TF) MOA to contract with the lead RAC of the EM-TFs for ambulances, ambulances, and response capabilities. Part of the discussions for this EM-TF project included having the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) tasked by the Division of Prevention and Preparedness to perform the statewide coordination role for Texas Disaster Medical System and EM-TF. STRAC hired Victor Wells as Texas EM-TF Project Manager and Dr. Emily Kidd as the TDMS Project Director.

A common subcontract is being developed for RACs to utilize with ambulance providers and hospitals. The target date for implementation is June 1, 2011. They also discussed Functional Needs Services Sheltering (FNSS) requirements and the impact to sheltering jurisdictions. The 2-1-1 Transportation Assistance Registry (TAR) would like to continue this project, but it is dealing with a lack of funding and looking for alternative ways to continue.

DSHS's state contract with AirGas for O₂ delivery in disasters will cover home delivery, shelters, EM-TFs and ambulance staging needs. The committee discussed a Hurricane VHF radio channel pre-plan concept that would allow for 800 Mhz gateways to the coastal communities. Because development and distribution before personnel are in theatre would be extremely helpful, the committee formed a workgroup to meet on this issue with coastal radio technology personnel.

Eric Epley advised that the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is building a GETAC-like structure for stakeholder input. The Texas Emergency Management Conference will be April 26-29, with an EMS, Hospital and Public Health track.

The Disaster Committee will offer the following courses:

- Ambulance Strike Team Leader (ASTL) course – Galveston (through TEEX)
- Ambulance Staging Manager (ASM) course – Galveston
- Ambulance Staging Manager (ASM) course – San Antonio
- Medical Incident Support Team (M-IST) course – El Paso
- M-IST updater course – Austin all course dates will be in May/June timeframe, dates are being worked with the host agencies now.

The disaster committee had no action items for the council.

Education Committee

Scott Mitchell, committee member, presented the report. The committee discussed potential video conferencing for committee meetings. DSHS General Counsel advised that video conferencing does not meet the criteria for the Open Meetings Act primarily because interaction is needed with the public at the distant site with functional recognition. The committee discussed the new National Registry standard that will affect testing standards for the paramedic. Maxie Bishop, DSHS State EMS Director, gave a presentation about EMS programs pursuing accreditation. The next Education Committee Meeting will tentatively be held April 22, 2011, in Flower Mound. The committee had no action items for the council.

EMS Committee

Chair Dudley Wait presented this report. Tony Gilchrest gave an update on pediatric protocols. EMS for Children has moved their meeting to be held concurrent with the May GETAC meetings.

Eddie Martin led a work group on creating a Narcotic White Paper that will identify specific procedures for the ordering, carrying, storing, and disposal of narcotics, depending on a service's location. Each state and local DEA office will be allowed to interpret in their own way what the proper procedures for carrying and storing narcotics on an ambulance is dependent on what part of the state is being serviced. EMS services will be responsible for contacting their local DEA offices to determine how the rules are interpreted in their particular area of the state.

Action Item—The EMS committee has voted to endorse the White Paper and asks GETAC to approve the White Paper and forward it to DSHS to be listed as a resource.

Injury Prevention Committee

Chair Rick Moore presented this report. The committee discussed with the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum (TTCF) and Texas EMS, Trauma, and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF) how to consolidate injury prevention efforts in the state of Texas. A workgroup was formed with two members from the Injury Prevention Committee; two members from TTCF; two members from TETAF; and a representative from DSHS to come up with some common goals. The committee reviewed the Fall Prevention Program and discussed and reviewed a resolution for the red light cameras program for Texas.

The next meeting will be April 29, 2011, in San Antonio. The committee had no action items for

the council.

Medical Directors Committee

Chair Steve Ellerbe, DO, presented this report. The committee discussed bills proposing language that would require EMS personnel to look at, interpret or honor Advance Directives on an emergency scene. Chapter 157.25 currently states the only document EMS is required to take is the official state document for Out of Hospital-Do Not Resituate (OOH-DNR). The committee discussed creating a new authorization that would allow any physician that happens to pass by a cardiac scene to tell EMS personnel to stop resuscitating the patient.

The committee examined the need for a State of Texas EMS Medical Director. This person can act as a liaison between medical directors and the rest of the community. The committee had no action items for the council.

Pediatrics Committee

Chair Charles Macias, MD, presented this report. The committee discussed the Trauma Registry and the elements critical to the registry. Dr. Manish Shah presented a PowerPoint with information pertaining to EMS for Children Performance Measures, essential pediatric equipment, and pediatric supplies. The full presentation is available on the DSHS website as a resource document. Other agenda items were tabled for future meetings.

The next Pediatric Committee meeting will include a presentation from a member of the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) that will compare Texas to other states. The committee had no action items for the council.

Stroke Committee

GETAC Chair Vance Riley presented the report in the absence of Stroke Committee Chair, Neil Rutledge, MD. The state stroke registry is being reviewed by the DSHS General Counsel in regards to the language in the original rule and whether participation is voluntary. DSHS has accepted Det Norske Veritas (DNV) Primary Stroke Center certification as an acceptable certifying agency for primary stroke centers. For the purposes of Primary Stroke Center designation, DSHS will accept either DNV Primary Stroke Center certification or The Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center certification. The Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) metrics paper was published in *Stroke* in January, and it will allow certifying agencies to develop assessments in the near future. The Stroke Committee will make a recommendation to DSHS on what criteria it thinks are important. The first application for TETAF Support Stroke Facility (SSF) certification has been received and the requesting site is expected to be reviewed in the near future. Beginning at the next meeting, the rules found at 157.133 for stroke will be reviewed. The committee had no action items for the council.

Trauma Systems Committee

Jorie Klein, committee member, presented this report. The committee discussed how to improve patient care with the EMS trauma improvement system. Future injury prevention hot-topics will include texting and driving. The committee is reviewing the Alex Brown Program. Alex Brown was killed in a car accident because she was texting while driving. The committee had no action item for the committee.

Item 8: GETAC Liaison Summaries

DSHS Preparedness Coordination Council – No report

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council – No report

DSHS Hospital Licensing Rules Review Workgroup – No report

Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)

Dinah Welsh, CEO of TETAF, presented this report. A press conference was recently held to highlight Trauma Systems Day at the Capitol; two patients spoke to tell their stories. The new TETAF website will launch February 25, 2011. The Texas Legislature is proposing to end the Driver Responsibility Program and replace it with a \$6 tax on cigarettes. The Driver Responsibility Program generates more than a million dollars a year. There is a proposed bill that would direct all fines collected from the red light cameras to be allocated to fund trauma care.

Item 9: Discussion and possible actions items

The Council reviewed the following items: Endorsing the Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment Paradigm (POLST) as a resource document; endorsing the Narcotic White Paper then forwarding it to DSHS; and endorse the 2009 joint position statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) “Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department,”

Item 10: Public comment on committee, task force, and liaison summaries and proposals

No comments were made.

Item 11: Action items

A motion was made by Linda Dickerson to endorse the Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment Paradigm (POLST) initiative position statement to be used as a resource document for legislative support. The motion was seconded by Luis Fernandez, MD. All were in favor. No opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Vance Riley and seconded by John Smith to have GETAC endorse the Narcotic White Paper and then forward it to DSHS to be placed on the website as a resource document. All were in favor. No opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Robert Vezzetti, MD and seconded by John Smith to endorse the 2009 joint position statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) “Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department” All were in favor. No opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Vance Riley, GETAC Chair and seconded by Mike Click, RN to recommend that the GETAC member appointed as the licensed physician medical director of an emergency medical service, currently held by Donald Philips, DO act for the State of Texas as the EMS Medical Director in a volunteer capacity. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 12: General public comment

G. K. Sprinkles from the Texas Ambulance Association (TAA) spoke about the fees that were raised in 2003. Ms. Sprinkles commented that “not a dollar of that has gone to DSHS.” The TAA will not endorse raising any fees until it knows the fees are going to regulatory services. A request to compress the GETAC meeting into a shorter number of days, possibly including Saturday was raised. Currently meetings take the entire week and are causing financial burdens.

Item 13: Review and list agenda items for next meeting

Meeting dates for 2011 are as follows: May 11-13 and August 17-19 at the Austin Hilton Airport Hotel; November 19-21 at the Hilton Austin Hotel (downtown).

Item 14: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.