

Disclaimer: These meeting minutes will not be official until approved at the 05/11/12 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:00 am

Council Members

| Attendance | Name | Position (representing) |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |
| | Luis G. Fernandez, MD | Trauma surgeon or nurse |
| X | Robert Greenberg, MD | Emergency physician |
| X | Jodie Harbert III, LP | EMS educator |
| X | James (Mike) DeLoach | County EMS Provider |
| X | Ryan Matthews, LP | Private EMS provider |
| X | Donald G. Phillips, DO | EMS medical director |
| X | Shirley Scholz, RN | EMS air medical service |
| | John D. Smith, Lieutenant | Fire department |
| X | Robert Vezzetti, MD | Pediatrician |
| X | Ronald M. Stewart, MD | Urban trauma facility |

Department of State Health Services Staff

| Attendance | Name | Position |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| X | Kathryn C. Perkins, RN | Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| | Renee Clack, LNFA | Director, Health Care Quality Section |
| X | Jane G. Guerrero, RN | Director, 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 was called to order at 9:03 am on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the Hilton Austin Airport in Austin, Texas. A quorum of the members was present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Linda Dickerson and seconded by Mike DeLoach to approve the meeting minutes, as amended, from November 21, 2011. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

Item 3: Chair Report

Chair Vance Riley, LP, thanked TETAF for continued live streaming of all GETAC meetings. Mr. Riley read the vision and mission statements for GETAC.

Item 4: Regulatory Division Report

Kathryn C. Perkins, RN, Assistant Commissioner Regulatory Services presented the report.

Legislative appropriation work is beginning for the 2013 session. Requests for appropriations are due in August. Increases in appropriation are not expected.

Medicare fraud related to EMS: EMS and Medical Directors Committees were apprised of DHS efforts to control Medicare/Medicaid fraud by transport EMS businesses. Efforts include but are not limited to: (i) identifying medical directors who agree to oversee fraudulent businesses, (ii) identifying who the medical director is and how the medical director maintains contact, (iii) requiring medical directors to be present during inspections. DSHS is also working directly with the city of Houston to address the problem.

The Texas Medical Board has agreed to open the Medical Board rules and discuss imposing a cap on the number of individuals and/or firms a single medical director may contract with. TMB already has a rule requiring medical directors to have direct supervision of persons on the roster, including direct contact and education. TMB is open to the implementation of a medical directors course.

Opioid medication use / accidents have surpassed motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death; in the last 15 years there has been a four-fold increase in prescriptions. Clinics that distribute prescriptions with no oversight (pill mills) are under investigation and a workgroup at the DSHS/HHS level is being assembled to investigate further action.

Regional Health Partnerships (RHP) new organizations developed through HHSC <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/1115-waiver.shtml> being formed through the 1115 Medicaid waiver; with infrastructure, and disease prevention. The new funding / structure can be used within the current EMS and trauma system.

Clarification request from the Council: (i) the organizational structure; the partnership would have more responsibilities and greater funding. (ii) where additional funds would be found to support the program; all matching funds would be from federal dollars.

Item 5: State EMS/Trauma System Coordination Office Report

Jane Guerrero, RN, Director of the Office of EMS/Trauma System Coordination, presented the report.

GETAC will adjust the November meeting dates to correspond with new dates for Texas EMS Conference, November 10-12, 2012.

Revision TAC Chapter 157: Five committees submitted suggested changes; two have extensive suggestions; 476 total suggested revisions. Comments from 24 individuals have also been archived. Several sections of the rule had no comments or suggestions. The provider and discipline sections have the highest number of suggestions. OEMS/TS will develop draft rule language based on suggestions, will have another rule review period, and then will submit a final rule update. The timeframe for completion is still unknown at present, additional updates will be available at the May meeting.

Clarification request from the Council regarding a second review: a final review should include all committees at once.

EMS Town hall meetings will be held throughout the state, led by the State EMS director, Maxie Bishop, and regional EMS managers. The meetings will be an open-forum discussion of rules and other EMS issues. The Department website has the complete list of dates and locations.

Funding/designation update: Trauma designation: 257; 24 in pursuit

Primary stroke center designation: 87 total; 1 at Level III, and 24 pending approval for Level II

FY12 uncompensated trauma funds: \$57.5 million. Applications due February 14, 2012. Cumulative funds of \$447.5 million have been distributed.

Local Projects Grant: The 2013 RFP should be available in April 2012 for October/November contracts.

Extraordinary Emergency Funding: \$1 million remains in the fund; two agencies have been funded so far this year.

Item 6: Division for Preparedness and Prevention Report

Adolfo Valadez, MD, MPH, Assistant Commissioner Division of Prevention and Preparedness, presented the report.

Trauma Registry update: good standing to go live in August 2012. Robert Klein was introduced as the new project manager. The modeling phase is underway, and current changes have been incorporated. The staff and Consilience have been managing the conversion of existing data and are double checking all values. NEMSIS 3.1 data elements have been released and are mapped into the new registry. The team is working on a web interface, which should be available in September. Other system enhancements, such as linking to other databases, will be incorporated after the launch. A workgroup is currently reviewing database rules; webinars continue.

Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke update: The Council announced the 2011 Healthy Cities: at the gold level were Marshal, Tyler and Nacogdoches. A statewide plan to reduce stroke and cardiovascular disease is being developed, aided by a five-year grant for community improvement.

Division of Prevention and Preparedness update: More information regarding the federal grant realignment initiative was released. States will have one agreement for five years. Risk assessment plans are central to the grant process and are underway. Because of this change, DSHS will extend RAC contracts for one year. After that, a new RFP for preparedness funds for FY13 will be used.

Clarification request from the Council: Will ICD-10 changes affect the Trauma Registry launch date? No. Changes may be added later. When will vendors be able to build patches to the registry? Once the entire system is in place. NEMSIS is driving EMS changes.

Item 7: Standing Committee / Task Force Reports

Air Medical Committee

Chair Shirley Scholz, RN, reported. The committee discussed: Recommendations to adjust rule language to include acute care; utilization of aircraft with ground EMS—guidelines may be developed. Texas Association of Air Medical Services (**TAAMS**) report: an upcoming draft of model state guidelines from NASEMSO will help with the development of aircraft utilization guidelines; the committee may perform a gap analysis on the model state guidelines when they are available.

No action items for the council.

Cardiac Care Committee

Chair Richard W. Smalling, MD, reported. American Heart Association presented data from the

ACTION STEMI Registry that suggested that the Texas STEMI treatment was, on average, on par with national statistics.

Potential committee goals include: (i) formulate data to be requested from local RACs regarding various outcomes in STEMI care in that region.

Public comment: a perceived need for the local RACs to have access to successful methods for improving STEMI care; a need for state legislation to regulate STEMI care in a way similar to stroke and trauma regulations.

No action items for the council.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee

Chair Eric Epley, EMT-P, reported: discussed social media and how to use it to gather intelligence about communities during a disaster. **EMTF update:** four ambulances are now in place (1 in EMTF-8, 1 in EMTF-6 and 2 in EMTF-2 regions) and by July 2012, should have 13 buses in place, with a minimum of one in each EMTF region, Mobile Medical Units (MMU) shelters are now in place in all EMTF regions. Threats: RN strike team component continues to be problematic.

Houston Regional Catastrophic Planning Initiative “Amb-Ops” plan briefing: excellent document that gives the regional rapid-response, No-Notice ambulance deployment, which is a component of EMTF efforts statewide. The group gave comment and felt that this document should be adopted as a model or template for all EMTF regions to consider as a guide to develop their EMTF regional mutual aid response SOG.

Action Item: The committee requests that EMTF governance document be reviewed and added to the May 2012 GETAC agenda for final approval/acceptance.

Education Committee

Chair Jodie Harbert, LP, reported. Transition course content will be reviewed (to maintain National Registry certification). Seeking clarification on: NREMT CE requirements, common language that can be used in course completion certifications that demonstrate the NR-required material was already taught in a course. The committee is looking at: (i) tailoring transition courses to the greatest need, (ii) developing a checklist for coordinators to use during transition courses; the number of hours needed to reach the new NR requirements is being researched, (iii) clinical rotation guidelines review. Identified problem: existing education programs have had difficulty placing students in clinical rotations; committee would like to survey hospitals to determine why the problems exist.

Education training manual has been updated to include accreditation information; has been resubmitted to DSHS.

Public comment: Inquiry as to the nature of and utilization of cross-trained public safety instructors. A workgroup to examine credentials of teaching personnel across disciplines was formed.

No action items for the council.

EMS Committee

Chair Dudley Wait, EMT, reported. DSHS has communicated with the Texas Medical Board regarding fraudulent EMS transport businesses and regulating medical directors who participate in the fraud. Monitoring the actions of EMS “consultants,” monitoring medics involved in fraudulent rosters, and municipal ordinances were discussed as possible avenues for tracking fraud.

DSHS provided an update on the progress of the rules process. EMSC reported on a survey of medical directors and reported that certain pediatric equipment is available for distribution through a grant process.

No action items for the council.

Joint meeting of Cardiac Care, EMS, and Medical Directors Committees

Dudley Wait, EMT, reported. The committees focused on the issues surrounding National Registry certification and reviewed statistics on Texas versus U.S. certification numbers.

No action items for the council.

Injury Prevention Committee

Chair Shelli Stephens-Stidham reported. focus will be on strategic planning over the next meetings, developing a vision, mission statement, background information, goals, objectives and actions. An outline of those items was presented to the committee and approved. TETAF and TTCF will be partners in developing the plan.

No action items for the council.

Medical Directors Committee

Donald G. Phillips, DO, reported. DSHS has communicated with the Texas Medical Board regarding fraudulent EMS transport businesses and regulating medical directors who participate in the fraud. The Texas Medical Board is seeking applicants to represent EMS medical directors.

The committee discussed the continuing problem of controlled substance diversion and heard a presentation on an online medical directors course.

Updates were offered on the status of the Texas Disaster Medical System and on the development of guidelines, triage and allocation of resources during a catastrophic event or pandemic.

Action Item: The committee voted to present a position paper to GETAC in May.

Pediatrics Committee

Chair Charles Macias, MD, reported. Committee liaisons reported on Air Medical, EMS, Education, Injury Prevention, Medical Directors, Stroke and Trauma Systems Committee meetings. **EMSC update**, evaluation of the 2009 equipment list, equipment distribution, pediatrics protocols, and an example of regionalized system of care in Arizona.

DSHS presented an update from the Child Fatality Review Team. Review teams are now present in 94 percent of Texas counties, and the team is examining results of a report on deaths related to imaging.

No action items for the council.

Stroke Committee

Chair Neal Rutledge, MD, reported. New liaisons from the Stroke Committee to the other GETAC committees are in place and will begin sharing information from the May meetings.

The committee discussed the certifying bodies for comprehensive stroke centers and established a workgroup to review renewal CE requirements and alter them to include stroke education.

Wanda Helgesen presented outcomes and methodology used by the Border RAC's recent public stroke awareness program. Dick Huey, MD, presented STRAC data on usage of tPA. TCCVDS is developing a free, simple stroke database/registry to fulfill state reporting requirements.

No action items for the council.

Trauma Systems Committee

Chair Jorie Klein, RN, reported. The committee discussed: (i) hospital performance standards and process improvement relative to maintaining registry validation and data management, (ii) criteria for geriatric and pediatric age parameters, (iii) opportunities for development of "canned" injury prevention programs through TTCF and TETAF.

The committee would like GETAC to find ways to address the problem of DWI injuries/fatalities with greater impact.

RAC criteria adopted by committee should be considered by GETAC for approval.

The Council discussed the need to establish age parameters for labeling/treating patients.

Action items: The committee would like GETAC to review registry validation document and support it at next meeting. The committee would like GETAC to take action to increase DWI prevention. The committee would like GETAC to consider geriatric and pediatric criteria.

Item 8: GETAC Liaison Summaries

Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)

Dinah Welsh presented the report. Live streaming of GETAC committee and council meetings continues; viewership is increasing. Grant applications are underway that would help fund geriatric health care and trauma/stroke systems. Future grants as needed by services, committees and the Council could be applied for and managed by TETAF.

Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) Task Force

Wanda Helgesen presented the report. The task force discussed ACS recommendations and the Chapter 157 rules that pertain to RACs. GETAC could consider the creation of a RAC committee.

Item 9: Report on GETAC Strategic Plan progress

Council chair Vance Riley presented the report. At the October 2011 council retreat, members and facilitators established a strategic plan for GETAC to identify core responsibilities, support goals, create a blueprint for operations and update the mechanisms for operation.

Ten goals and action plans were developed with defined implementation, and individual updates will be presented at future meetings. Another workshop is planned to update and report on action plans.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Action Items

No action items were voted on by the Council.

Item 11: Public Comment

During public comment the Council discussed CE categories, which are currently under review; the development of the new trauma registry; age definitions need to include and be shared with EMS to ensure expeditious transport; potential changes to the structure that may interfere with current work of committees.

Item 12: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.