

Disclaimer: These meeting minutes will not be official until approved at the 11/21/2011 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting.

Meeting Minutes
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Friday, August 19, 2011, 9:10 am – 11:48 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	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
X	John D. Smith, Lieutenant	Fire department
X	Robert Vezzetti, MD	Pediatrician
X	Ronald M. Stewart, MD	Urban trauma facility
X	Pete Wolf, EMT-P	EMS volunteer

Department of State Health Services Staff

Attendance	Name	Position
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	Kathryn C. Perkins, RN	Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services
X	Renee Clack, LNFA	Director, Health Care Quality Section
X	Jane G. Guerrero, RN	Director, Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination
	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 9:10 am on Friday, August 19, 2011, at the Hilton Austin Airport in Austin, Texas. A quorum was present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Click, RN, and seconded by John D. Smith to approve the meeting minutes from May 13, 2011. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

Item 3: Chair Report

Chair Vance Riley, LP, welcomed attendees and thanked TETAF for providing streaming video of the council meeting and the committee meetings. Riley announced changes to the council: Randy Loflin, MD, resigned; Mike DeLoach, county EMS provider, new appointment; Pete Wolfe, term will expire 12/31/11.

The Texas Sunset Commission review of DSHS was brought up at the last council meeting. Riley advises that it is not necessary to go through an external source to suggest changes and improvements to the council's operations.

Riley also announced a change in council procedures. Action items brought to the council as a result of committee action must be added to the agenda for the following council meeting for consideration and possible GETAC action.

Item 4: Regulatory Division Report

Renee Clack, LNFA, Director, Health Care Quality Section, presented the report for Kathy Perkins. The 2011 legislative session passed a wide range of bills that may affect EMS/Trauma operations in some way.

The Division lost about \$16 million in general revenue and lost 130 positions. With losses in field staff, changes in procedure will be implemented, including expanding programs such as self-investigative processes for lower-level complaint investigations and decreasing the frequency of routine inspections. Complaints will be prioritized by risk to public health and safety.

Chair Vance Riley responded to the budget discussion by reminding committee chairs to hold interim committee meetings in Austin to minimize travel costs to DSHS and other participants.

Item 4: State EMS/Trauma Systems Report

Jane G. Guererro, RN, Director, Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS) presented the report. Two positions within the OEMS/TS have been eliminated, those responsibilities have been reassigned; business practices will be streamlined wherever possible to absorb lost manpower.

Local Project Grants received 136 applicants, 107 were recommended to the Contracts Department, two of the 107 were seeking assistance for accreditation of a paramedic training program, a new category for this year. Start dates for these contracts will likely be in October and November of 2011.

Committees have been asked to review Chapter 157 entirely and submit suggestions for changes to DSHS by September 30. DSHS will provide a summary of those suggestions at the November 2011 GETAC meeting. HB 1476, relating to criminal history changed “is” to “has been” convicted of certain criminal activities. The department will investigate how this change can be implemented; ideas may be presented in November.

Designation Programs: 263 designated trauma facilities; 15 are currently in active pursuit; 73 designated Primary (level II) stroke centers; 3 support stroke center (level 3) applications are in process.

Funding Report: 3588 funds were disbursed in July, totaling \$66.5 million for FY 2011. A second disbursement of \$104,000 is expected in August. EMS allotment for FY11 was \$3.26 million; contracts begin in May 2011 and end August 2012. RAC allotment for FY11 was \$1.48 million, May through August. Emergency Funding requests: two were funded, \$848,000 remain in the fund and will be rolled into August disbursement. Contracts for tobacco RAC start September 1 through August, \$2.4 million. \$1.3 million will be available for LPGs.

Jodie Harbert clarified that 136 agencies applied for LPGs, 107 were recommended and that two of the 107 were for accreditation assistance. The two approved were the only agencies that applied for accreditation assistance.

Item 6: State EMS/Trauma Registry Report / Division for Preparedness and Prevention Report

Dr. Lauri Kalanges reported for Dr. Adolfo Valadez. Budget restrictions have affected the Prevention and Preparedness Division as well: 172 positions will be eliminated; 68 positions will be transferred or have duties altered. Service contracts will be reduced, as well as operating expenses.

EMS Trauma Registry Replacement Project: TxDot funding is in place and will remain through completion in 2012. Teams continue working with the contractor to tailor data, workflows and business. Regarding injury prevention programs, EMS and hospital data elements were presented, information is available on the website, and webinars are available. All injury prevention funds are stable.

Bruce Clemens reported on preparedness activities for Dr. Valadez. The Preparedness program has three sources of funding: general revenue, public health emergency preparedness program, which funds public health agencies through various sources, and the hospital preparedness program (HPP). \$3.2 million per year from general revenue has been eliminated. Total reductions to the public health emergency preparedness program are at about 13 percent. Base funding, shared with local health departments, was reduced 16 percent, city readiness initiative funding has been decreased by 13 percent, additional programs were reduced by as much as 48 percent, but funding for a new program shared between Dallas and Houston amounted to \$1.7 million. The hospital preparedness program has an 11 percent reduction, \$3.2 million. This reduction in funds distribution will be shared equally among each of the RACs – 11 percent reduction to each RAC and all other associated contacts. Trauma funds are used to match the HPP funds, and those have been retained for this year.

Texas Disaster Medical System update: Managers are organizing and categorizing resources, standardizing across departments that respond to disasters. Texas Disaster Volunteer Registry program: 1400 people are registered. Mr. Clemens provided clarification how the federal sources will determine how the percentages would be shared among programs No significant funding shifts are anticipated.

Item 7: Registry Solutions Workgroup (RSWG) Report

Debbie Hutton, Trauma Registrar, UTHSC at San Antonio presented a report on recommended data elements for the new Texas EMS-Trauma Registry. The work group is intended to provide a wide variety of stakeholder input to DSHS as the registry is developed.

The council requested clarification on the nature of optional elements; they are generally items that may or may not be reported to the hospital.

Item 8: Standing Committee / Task force Reports

Air Medical Committee

Chair Shirley Scholz, RN, presented the report. The committee discussed development of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for air medical. The committee also heard proposed language changes to rules.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Cardiac Care Committee

Chair David Persse, MD, presented the report. The committee discussed Chapter 157 rules and proposed changes. A full report with recommendations will be delivered to DSHS before the end of September.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Disaster / Emergency Preparedness Committee

Chair Eric Epley presented the report, which included:

- The expansion of the Texas Assistance Registry (2-1-1)
- DPS, state and district coordinators from the Division of Emergency Management are now attending the Disaster Committee meeting
 - Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) update
 - A demonstration of Web EOC medical boards
 - Statewide first responder identity credentialing subcommittee to meet in September will begin determining possibilities for identity management for first responder credentials

Council discussion: ambus for Rio Grande Valley residents; Epley confirmed availability of the ambulances for mass deployment anywhere within the state; ambulances would offer immediate local response and be available for statewide disaster response within four hours.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Education Committee

Chair Jodie Harbert, LP, presented the report. Establishing a transition course necessary for EMT-Is to transition to the National Registry's AEMT certification is needed. They will work with the department to determine course approvals and how many hours will be necessary for a transition course.

The committee voted to accept national standards, and now it is examining the national curriculum. The Gap Analysis report has been shared with the Medical Directors Committee and EMS Committee for review. Comments should be returned to the Education Committee before the November GETAC meeting.

A committee meeting held in El Paso was expanded into an accreditation workshop at the request of local paramedic programs; eleven programs participated.

The committee had no action items for the council.

EMS Committee

Eddie Martin presented the report for Chair Dudley Wait. The Committee completed the review of the Gap Analysis for the Education Committee. The committee reviewed specific portions of Chapter 157 and will provide suggestion to the department as requested.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Injury Prevention Committee

A quorum was not present at the Wednesday meeting, and the planned speaker was unable to attend. The meeting adjourned following public comment.

Medical Directors Committee

Dr. Don Philips presented the report for Chair Steven Ellerby, DO. The committee reviewed specific portions of Chapter 157 and will provide suggestion to the department as requested.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Pediatrics Committee

Chair Charles Macias, MD, presented the report. The committee reviewed specific portions of Chapter 157 and will provide suggestion to the department as requested. The committee opted

not to define “pediatrics” in the first portion of the rule, but rather offer interpretive guidance that is consistent with most professional societies’ definitions.

EMSC update: submitted a request and are reasonably assured supplemental funding from PERSA to develop additional protocols and policies to the larger-scope project underway. Topics have not been chosen, but a one year goal for completing the protocols is anticipated.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Stroke Committee

Dr. Rutledge presented the report. The committee reviewed specific portions of Chapter 157 and will provide suggestion to the department as requested.

A presentation was made on the legal basis for GETAC’s role in acute care as opposed to trauma care. Discussion followed on why to include stroke and cardiac in the mission of GETAC.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Trauma Systems Committee

Interim Chair Jori Klein presented the report. The committee reviewed specific portions of Chapter 157 and will provide suggestion to the department as requested. A motion was passed in the committee to put the criteria before GETAC. An EMS and trauma performance improvement plan for the state has also been proposed to input in the rule change.

The committee had no action items for the council.

Item 9: 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 presented the report. Special thanks to Pete Wolf and Randy Loflin for service to GETAC. The video webstream hosted by TETAF has been expanded to include committee

meetings. TETAF reviewed specific portions of Chapter 157 and will provide suggestions to the department as requested through the respective GETAC committees.

Item 10: Discussion and possible action items

GETAC Task Force for paramedic training. Jodie Harbert presented the report. Several task force meetings were held, looking for common ground, determining what the goals would be for the task force. Discussions addressed what hurdles individual programs might face; 18 workshops have been held.

Ms. Guerro reminded the council that DSHS sought information from the work group only to help DSHS determine *how* to move forward with the accreditation process. Council still supports accreditation of paramedic training programs by 2013. In November the department will have a rule packet that specifically addresses program accreditation requirements by January 1, 2013.

Item 11: Public comment

Remmi Morris commented to the council regarding the importance of medical staff (especially surgeons outside the trauma specialty) participation in developing trauma systems.

Ryan Matthews, LP, asked Ms. Guerro whether discussion of the pending accreditation rule will go through the committees or only the council. She responded that it could be discussed in committees, but it would go to the council for final action.

Miscellaneous—the council will hold a strategic planning session in October. Committee applications will be accepted electronically from September 1 through September 30. Selections will be made in October.

Item 12: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 pm.