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Meeting Minutes

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

November 25, 2013, 6:02pm

Council Members

Attendance	Name	Position (representing)
X	Vance Riley, LP	Fire Chief, Chair
	Nora Castañeda-Rivas	Public Member
	Mike Click, RN	Rural Trauma Facility
X	James (Mike) DeLoach	County EMS Provider
X	Linda W. Dickerson	Public Member
X	Robert D Greenberg, M.D.	Emergency Physician
X	Jodie Harbert III, LP	EMS Educator
X	Ryan Matthews, LP	Private EMS Provider
X	Donald G. Phillips, DO	EMS Medical Director
X	Karen Pickard, RN, LP	EMS Volunteer
X	Shirley Scholz, RN	EMS Air Medical Service
	John D. Smith, Lieutenant	Fire Department
X	Ronald M. Stewart, MD	Urban Trauma Facility
X	Alan H. Tyroch, M.D.	Trauma Surgeon
	Robert Vezzetti, M.D.	Pediatrician

Department of State Health Services Staff

Attendance	Name	Position
X	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, Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination
X	Joseph Schmider	State EMS Director, Office of EMS and Trauma System

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm on Monday, November 25, 2013, at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. A quorum of the members was present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Donald G. Phillips, DO, and seconded by Mike DeLoach, to approve the meeting minutes from August 23, 2013. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

Item 3: Chair Report

GETAC Chair Vance Riley welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone to remember the vision of the council: a unified, comprehensive, and effective EMS/Trauma Systems for a healthy, safe Texas. The chair also stated the mission for the council: to promote, develop, and maintain a comprehensive EMS/Trauma System that will meet the needs of all patients and that will raise the standards for community health care by implementing innovative techniques and systems for the delivery emergency care for the entire population.

Chief Riley informed the audience and council of Dr. Ronald Stewart’s news of being appointed as the Chair for the Committee on Trauma for the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Item 4: Assistant Commissioner Report

Kathryn C. Perkins, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services, provided this report.

Ms. Perkins began her report discussing the implementation of legislation. There was a stakeholder meeting about hospital licensing rules and did not have any issues to report on implementing these. Information is available on the department’s website for those that are interested in reviewing and finding updated information. Ms. Perkins has made meetings with the sponsors of House Bill (HB) 3556 and Senate Bill (SB) 8, and the sponsor’s offices are monitoring the implementation of these bills. The implementation of the key components to these bills have been moving forward. There have been a few issues reported with the “letter of credit”, but these issues are being sorted and getting taken care of. The department has been working with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) with the logistics of the surety bond; and once this is finalized, the information will be posted on the agency’s website. For those that have renewed their license since September 1, 2013, these applicants will be advised on what steps to take involving the surety bond once the logistics have been finalized with HHSC, and the department will work with the applicants once this is finalized.

There been multiple stakeholder meetings held throughout the state to provide input on HB 3556 and SB 8 as well as assist with the report that is required by SB 8. The Texas Medical Board (TMB), HHSC, and DSHS have been charged with providing a report to the legislature by January 1, 2014. It was decided between these agencies to provide separate agency reports and then merge them as one main report which will serve at the required report as needed by SB 8. TMB and DSHS have drafted the background information which has already been submitted to HHSC. The information from the stakeholder’s meetings has been received by the agency from

the EMS Committee, and DSHS will also provide this input to HHSC as part of the report.

There is also a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) moratorium that took effect in July 2013 for Harris County and its surrounding counties for enrollment in Medicare which was to be effective for six months. There is discussion on the possibility of this moratorium being extended for six months more, but it has not been confirmed by CMS at this time.

The agency will start working on the next Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR) beginning January 2014 to meet the LAR deadline for the next legislative session of August 2014.

The agency is also working on Sunset. The Sunset process for HHSC and its designated agencies, which includes DSHS, began almost two months ago. Dr. David Lakey, DSHS Commissioner, provided Sunset with an overview of the agency, and Ms. Perkins provided the report for the division. With the gathered information at this point, the Sunset Commission is interested in reviewing several programs and they have expressed an interest in the EMS/Trauma Systems regulatory component as well as the system itself. Members of GETAC should have received an email from the Sunset Commission, and if a member hasn't, he or she would need to advise the agency to ensure their contact information is current to be able to receive these notices. The Sunset Commission will continue to work with the agency over the next few months with an anticipated conclusion of this assessment by April 2014. Upon concluding their assessment, a report will be made available as well as open meetings for stakeholders to provide input. Ultimately, the Sunset Commission will vote on the Sunset recommendations which would then turn into legislation upon approval.

Item 5: State EMS/Trauma System Coordination Office Report

Trauma and stroke designations: In the absence of Jane G. Guerrero, Director of Office of EMS/Trauma Systems, Division for Regulatory Services, Ms. Perkins informed the council of the department's information details that has been provided in their meeting packets and can review this information accordingly.

Ms. Perkins concluded this report with DSHS staff updates. EMS Compliance Managers, Fernando Posada from San Antonio and Marilyn Talley from Houston, have switched places effective November 2013. Emily Parsons, Manager for the EMS/Trauma Systems Group has accepted a new position and will be leaving the department. Joseph Schmider is the State EMS Director for the department. He was working as the Director of the EMS Office at the Pennsylvania Department of Health and has already been traveling throughout the state to meet with stakeholders .

Item 6: Assistant Commissioner Report

Tammy Sajak, Manager of Epidemiology Studies and Initiatives and EMS/Trauma Registry provided this report.

Ms. Sajak provided a summary on the progress being made with the Trauma Registry. The department is getting ready to implement one of the recommendations from ACS to collect

national standard data. Starting January 1, 2014, anyone that is doing web data entry into our system will be doing that for the 2014 National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB) questions for patients admitted starting January 2014 and after. Hospitals that are uploading a file now have information on file specifications to the vendors and have scheduled meetings with the vendors to discuss these specifications further for needed improvements and updates. The department will also begin collecting the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) national elements in June 2014. There are also training webinars set up in December for the people that are doing web data entry to provide assistance what the NTDB required data elements for 2014

The department has been working the EMS/Trauma Registry Workgroup and this group has expressed interest in the possibly of data sharing on patients that both entities have treated. More details will be provided in the future as this option is being worked on. A communication plan will be created to ensure all stakeholders are aware of these developments. The department will be purchasing the Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) codes and add this into the registry system as well as pay the assigned vendor to calculate the Injury Severity Score (ISS). This is also the time for the department to write its funding proposal to submit to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to consider funding the registry for next scheduled fiscal year. Included in the proposal will be the request for funds to train people on how to use the AIS

Item 7: Assistant Commissioner Report

Dave Gruber, Assistant Commissioner for the Division for Regional and Local Health Services provided this report. Mr. Gruber talked about some of the programs that are available in the local health regions, which include the car seat program, bicycle safety program, and “texting and driving” program. One of the things being added to the Health Service Region (HSR) 1 is an Infant Mortality Board. It also been noted that the trauma incidents have increased with “trucking” activities with an increase of more inexperienced truck drivers within the state. The HSRs are looking to increase their chronic disease prevention efforts and are working with the Division of Disease Control and Prevention to come up with coordinated program that would be effective. Efforts to increase community preparedness activities throughout the state are being worked on and looking towards having staff travel out to the regions to better assess the needs of these areas. The idea on cross-planning coordination is being looked throughout the regions to better match other group’s plans such as the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) plans when the time comes.

Item 8: Preparedness Coordinating Council

Eric Epley informed the group there was no report at this time.

Item 9: Standing Committee / Task Force Reports

Air Medical Committee

Chair Shirley Scholz, RN, presented a summary report. The committee discussed the progress of forming an Air Medical Workgroup to participate on Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) for the possible development of an air medical disaster response Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). There was also discussion on allowing emergency medical services students to complete training clinical rotations in other states and will work on developing some possible solutions to this dilemma. The committee met on October 2, 2013 to discuss the language drafted to include items not covered in original draft so it more closely covers all items included in the air medical Model State Guidelines published by the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS). This process has been completed and the draft is now available to view and comment. Comments should be submitted to the committee no later than January 7, 2014 to allow enough time to include in the final draft that is to be submitted to the council at the next scheduled GETAC meeting for review and approval.

No action items for the council.

Cardiac Care Committee

Committee member Karen Pickard presented the summary report in the absence of Chair Richard Smalling, MD. There were discussions on the current results of the American Heart Association (AHA) ACTION Registry as well as the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) web portal development for the GETAC Cardiac Care Committee. The report on the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) STEMI Survey was discussed and the committee would like to gather some more information on how to start up a statewide STEMI registry. Ideas for funding and what the main functions of this registry were also discussed along with this topic.

No action items for the council.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee

Chair Eric Epley presented a summary report. There was a briefing from the Texas Department of Emergency Management for the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) which is the replacement of the "211" registry program. There will be some final testing of this registry and should be going live soon. There was a report of the Mass Fatality Management presented by Dr. Emily Kidd. The committee discussed the Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) efforts that were happening with regards to the winter weather advisories in place for the area and in other parts of the state. The committee is moving forward with integrating air medical providers into EMTF program with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will be done with the state coordinating office.

No action items for the council.

Education Committee

Chair Jodie Harbert presented a summary report. The main topic of discussion for this committee was the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommendation proposing to reduce associate degree requirement from 72 to 60 hours, and the effect on the associate degree in EMS. The committee states if this amendment to the rule goes through as it is currently written, it will then go into effect in Fall 2015. This change could possibly effect the amount of training allied health professions receive which could result in poorly trained health professionals which would include Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). The committee has been letters and feedback from accredited program around the state and looking for possible options on how these programs could be an exception to the this rule. The thought process was if the degree requires a

license or a certification, then a variance or a waiver would need to be requested to allow these programs to remain in their current status. With this suggested change, allied health students may not meet the required core curriculum and may not be able to complete their choice of program in the time being allotted for completion.

The committee would like to meet in January with the location to be determined to write a letter to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board asking for that exemption for EMS in the State of Texas. The GETAC Education Committee is asking DSHS to negotiate with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to consider an Associate's of Applied Sciences in EMS under the exemption to the 60-hour rule based upon the concept of EMS accreditation and better education and this could be considered an action item for the council for the next meeting. Dr. Greenburg seconded the motion to add this to the next agenda for GETAC to discuss. The motion passed.

No action items for the council.

EMS Committee

Chair Dudley Wait presented a summary report. The committee reviewed the proposed revisions to Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Section 157.11 regarding changes mandated by House Bill (HB) 3556 and Senate Bill (SB) 8 of the 83rd Legislative Session, 2013, along with the stakeholder information report that was drafted by the committee from the recent stakeholder meetings. Mr. Wait presented this report to its committee and will present it to the council as well. This draft was approved by the committee after reviewing it, and the final draft was emailed to the council for review. The committee also discussed the issues on drug shortages and pharmaceutical compounding of drugs as well as an update from the Trauma Systems Committee Registry Workgroup

No action items for the council.

Injury Prevention Committee

Chair Shelli Stephens-Stidham informed the council that a quorum was not met for this scheduled meeting.

No action items for the council.

Medical Directors Committee

Chair Robert Greenberg, M.D., presented a summary report. The committee discussed the the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) / American College of Surgeons (ACS) position statement on the use of long spine boards by EMS personnel. The committee would like to have this document available throughout the state if it is endorsed by the council. The committee would like to have available for the next meeting agenda a position statement and sample protocol about spinal cords. It also reviewed the committee's position state on mental health care in EMS and emergency care. For future agenda items for the committee, the committee would like to discuss topics regard clinical guidelines, blood alcohol withdrawal and to possibly add air medical transport training as part of the EMS training curriculum.

Action item:

The committee would like to request the endorsement of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) / American College of Surgeons (ACS) position statement on the use of long spine boards by EMS personnel

The committee would like for the council to approve the GETAC Medical Directors Committee position statement on mental health care in EMS and emergency care.

Pediatric Committee

Chair Charles Macias, M.D., informed the council that a quorum was not met for this scheduled meeting.

No action items for the council.

Stroke Committee

Chair Neal Rutledge, M.D., presented the report. SB1, which is the General Appropriations Act for the upcoming biennium beginning September 1, 2013, was passed in this last legislation session, and it included a rider for \$5 million dollars to be appropriated to the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke. \$500,000 of this appropriated money is to be used for stroke and STEMI data collection. Out of the \$500,000, \$88,000 is going towards the RACs and will be distributed equally among the RACs over the biennium. The purpose of this is for the stroke system development and the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke is working with this committee on the requirements to obtain this money. The committee was informed by the EMS Stroke Education Program workgroup as a reminder that in this state there is required stroke training, but it is not part of the national registry. The requirement is 4 hours of Continuing Education (CE) credits per every four years. Future agenda items that the committee would like to discuss include: the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke and how the other part of the money will be used regarding the hospital-based database for stroke.

No action items for the council.

Trauma Systems Committee

Chair Jorie Klein presented the report. The committee reviewed the current DSHS EMS and Trauma System Rules, in Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 157, and make recommendations to DSHS with regard to the process for applying for trauma facility designation. The committee reviewed the Trauma Performance Improvement Plan, developed by Jorie Klein, that could be used to evaluate the progress of EMS trauma system development and identify opportunities for improvement. This plan would take effect January 2014 and the committee suggested to have an “in-service” in February to assist with the implementation of this plan. Ms. Klein discussed the updates on Trauma Systems Committee Registry Workgroup (TSCRW). The workgroups is recommending to have regional representative for guidance and direction for educational opportunities to have in place to minimize the knowledge gap of what should be entered into the registry. There was discussion on the Trauma Medical Directors Best Practices Workgroup and this group has been charged with looking at the geriatric guidelines and

triage and other resources that may be available. There was a recommendation from a previous meeting to develop a RAC Workgroup and Wanda Helgesen will be in charge of this workgroup. The committee approved the development of a new workgroup for Advance Practice Providers with a goal of to make recommendations for advance practice providers to be part of the trauma centers and job descriptions to have available for this recommendation. Lastly, the committee discussed the Affordable Care Act and how it affects trauma.

No action items for the council.

Item 9: GETAC Liaison Summaries

Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)

TETAF report was provided by Dinah Welsh, Chief Executive Officer for TETAF. Board elections were held and new members to the board are Dr. Brian Eastridge and Shae Watson. The plans to provide education on what the role of the RACs are in the trauma systems for the next legislative session have been implemented and the foundation will be sharing this information as updates arise. The foundation has launched its newest campaign called “Just Drive” in 6 communities at this time and will have share results and information upon its completion. There is a data management course available that will take place in February 2014 as well as EMS webinars that will resume in 2014. Lastly, the foundation has scheduled its annual fundraiser in May 2014 and would like to extend the invitation to all members and stakeholders that are interested.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Action Items

- A. The draft report was presented to the committee by Dudley Wait, Chair of the GETAC EMS Committee. This committee was charged with collecting stakeholder input and providing the gathered information to the council by this meeting.

Action item for the council: Dr. Donald Phillips made a motion to accept this report regarding the laws and policies related to the licensure of nonemergency transportation providers, and changes to the law that would reduce the incidence and opportunities for fraud, waste and abuse, with feedback from stakeholder meetings held by the EMS Committee, and to advise the Department of State Health Services, as directed by Senate Bill 8 of the 83rd Legislative Session, 2013. Jodie Harbert second the motion and it passed unanimously.

- B. The EMS Committee asked the council in the previous meeting to develop a workgroup to evaluate the availability of paramedics in certain areas of Texas based on information provided by surveys around the state that expressed concerns. Once this workgroup is developed, the tentative plan is to have an evaluation completed to share with the council by August 2014.

Action item for the council: Ryan Matthews made a motion to develop an inter-committee workgroup with two members from the following committees: Medical

Directors Committee, the Education Committee, and the EMS Committee. The workgroup would be developed to evaluate the findings of the survey on the availability of paramedic education in the different regions of Texas. Linda Dickerson second the motion and it passed unanimously.

- C. The committee would like to request the endorsement of the council for the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) / American College of Surgeons (ACS) position statement on the use of long spine boards by EMS personnel.
Action item for the council: Dr. Robert Greenberg made a motion to endorse the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) / American College of Surgeons (ACS) position statement on the use of long spine boards by EMS personnel. Dr. Donald Phillips second the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- D. The committee would like for the council to approve the GETAC Medical Directors Committee position statement on mental health care in EMS and emergency care. Dr. Donald Phillips made the motion to amend the action item to add “stakeholder” to it. Ryan Matthews also made a motion to add to the previous amendment to read “local” stakeholders.
Action item for the council: Dr. Robert Greenberg made a motion for the council to approve the GETAC Medical Directors Committee position statement on mental health care in EMS and emergency care with the recommended amendments. Dr. Donald Phillips second the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- E. The review of the strategic plan document developed at the June 27, 2012 GETAC strategic planning session in accordance with Health and Safety Code, Chapter 773, Section 773.012(1) was discussed by Vance Riley with the council members and the request to begin working on setting up the next strategic planning session was mention by Vance Riley to GETAC. The council did not object to the suggestion of having the Chair work with DSHS to initiate this process which is stated in statute to take place every two years. No action was taken by GETAC for this item.

Item 11: Public Comment

No public comments were made at this meeting.

Item 12: Review and list agenda Items for next meeting

The next agenda items will be listed in the next scheduled meeting.

Item 13: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.