

Disclaimer: These meeting minutes will not be official until approved at the 3/1/13 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

November 12, 2012, 6:00pm

Council Members

Attendance	Name	Position (representing)
X	Vance Riley, LP	Fire Chief, Chair
X	Nora Castañeda-Rivas	Public Member
X	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
	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
X	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
X	Jane G. Guerrero, RN	Director, Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination
X	Lucina Suarez, Ph.D.	Acting Assistant Commissioner, Division for Disease Control and Prevention Services

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm on Monday, November 12, 2012, at the Hilton Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas. A quorum of the members was present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mike DeLoach and seconded by Nora Castañeda-Rivas, to approve the meeting minutes from August 17, 2012. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

Item 3: Chair Report

Chair Vance Riley, LP, talked about the strategic plan. Reappointments for GETAC were announced as follows: Jodie Harbert, III for the EMS Educator position; Donald G. Phillips, DO for the EMS Medical Director position; and Shirley Scholz, RN for the EMS Air Medical Service position. Newly appointed members were announced as follows: Karen Pickard, RN, LP for the EMS Volunteer positions and Alan H. Tyroch, M.D. for the Trauma Surgeon position.

Item 4: Assistant Commissioner Report

The report was given by Kathryn C. Perkins, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services. Bills are already being filed for the 83rd Texas Legislative Session and Ms. Perkins mentioned a few House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (SB) that would be of interest to the council and stakeholders. She also recommended to log on to the Texas Legislature Online website to view recently filed bills in more detail and to be able to follow their progress. Texas Speaker Joe Straus appointed an Interim Committee on General Revenue Dedicated Accounts, and this committee will look at all dedicated accounts to halt them from accumulating. Two ways that dedicated accounts can be stopped from growing is by appropriating what is potentially coming in or by reducing the fees that are being charged. EMS licensure and hospital licensing fees are dedicated funds that are included in this review, but the division has not been asked for more information at this time.

Another issue of interest is in relation to the NICU council that was created at the last legislative session by HHSC. There has been interest expressed in creating a designation program for NICU facilities, but currently, there aren't any national or state organizations that conduct surveys for these types of facilities.

All regulatory programs and HHSC have been directed to examine ways to reduce costs, including fewer inspections, raising fees, and other ways to reduce costs. HHSC hired a private consultant to review and make additional suggestions. The division was already operating at reduced levels of activity to control costs. Examples of programs and strategies being implemented are: having EMS inspectors work mobile, reducing mailing costs, and cutting down on printing paper. We will continue to evaluate our departments for any additional reductions in activity.

Item 5: State EMS/Trauma System Coordination Office Report

Trauma and stroke designations: The report was given by Jane G. Guerrero, Director of Office of EMS/Trauma Systems, Division for Regulatory Services, 265 designated trauma facilities; 31 in active pursuit; 100 designated stroke facilities (97 primary, 3 support); now accepting comprehensive stroke facility designation applications. This certification is available through The Joint Commission and through Det Norske Veritas (DNV). The process will be similar to the primary designation process.

New staff: Colin Croker is the new RAC Coordinator for the department; and one designation coordinator position remains open. In the San Antonio EMS Regional Office, a new EMS Specialist has been hired (Jeffery Duncan) and two new EMS Specialists have been hired in the Houston office (Robin Duckett and Amir Nikahd).

FY12 uncompensated trauma funds: 3588: funds have been distributed to the facilities that did not participate in the program matching funds to Medicaid (SDA). The department will not have information available on the participating facilities from HHSC until January 2013. 1131/911: the remaining \$853,000 was disbursed to eligible hospitals that were not participating in the program matching funds to Medicaid.

FY13 uncompensated trauma funds: application process is now open and will accept applications for eligible facilities until January 15, 2013.

Local Projects Grant: For FY13, 111 applicants, 103 eligible. 82 grants awarded, and the contracts have been mailed out.

Extraordinary Emergency Fund: For FY13, we have received 2 applications; 1 was recommended and 1 was denied.

Emergency Care Attendant Training: For FY13, 1 ECAT has been awarded and a remaining balance of \$22,000 remains for the fiscal year.

Item 6: Assistant Commissioner Report

The report was given by Lucina Suarez, Ph.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Division for Disease Control and Prevention Services. Dr. Suarez wanted to remind everyone the division is now being recognized as the Division for Disease Control and Prevention Services. She is hoping to fill the commissioner position before the start of the 2013 legislative session.

The Texas EMS/Trauma Registry went “live” as of September that was fully functional. The Registry is now in the phase where new components can be added and will enhance the program by 2013.

Tammy Sajak, Manager for Epidemiology Studies and Initiatives and EMS/Trauma Registry, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the information provided by the conducted survey of registry users.

Item 7: Preparedness Coordinating Council

The report was provided by Eric Epley. He stated that it was a brief meeting where group revisited its purpose and how to reach its mission.

Item 8: Standing Committee / Task Force Reports

Air Medical Committee

Chair Shirley Scholz, RN, was not available and a committee member presented the report. The committee focused on the Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) for Mutual Aid of Emergency Medical Services in Disaster for air medical responders. The workgroup reviewed the MOA for air medical responders and will be sending over its recommendations from the review.

Action item:

The activation criteria for the ground MOA and air MOA are different and would like to review each of the listed criteria.

Cardiac Care Committee

Chair Richard Smalling, MD, presented the report. The committee discussed the results from a DSHS survey regarding stroke and cardiac care and listed some recommendations on how to improve stroke and cardiac care in this state. A presentation by Christine Reeves from the Heart of Texas RAC of the Public Service Announcement for the campaign "Forever 15" which talks about the drowning being the lead cause of death for young adults between the ages of 15-24.

No action items for the council.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee

Chair Eric Epley presented the report. The Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) lead RAC MOA has been set in place, and DSHS will no longer use a direct MOA with providers; emergency deployments will be managed through eight lead RACs. The current MOA contracts that providers have with the state are being transferred over to the new system and the DSHS MOA contracts will expire at the beginning of 2013. Texas now has a total of 13 ambulance buses (AMBUS) and the EMTF has one of these on display at the Texas EMS Conference for everyone to view. The Disaster Medical Care with Scarce Resources Workgroup Summary was discussed, and an ElectroMagnetic Pulse (EMP) presentation was available at the meeting. Discussions on mass fatality situations were discussed and the committee extended an invitation to anyone interested in participating in a full-scale mass fatality exercise happening in April.

No action items for the council.

Education Committee

Chair Jodie Harbert, LP, presented the report. The committee looked at the certification requirements for National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) and suggested changes from the committee would require a change in the statute. Setting a statewide standard for equivalency and transfer program processes was also discussed since equivalencies across the board varied.

Discussions regarding the requirement of a medical director of continuing education programs took place at the meeting. Lastly, the committee will be hosting a transition course training at the Texas EMS Conference and will meet again January 18, 2013 at McLennan College in Waco, Texas.

No action items for the council.

EMS Committee

Chair Dudley Wait presented the report. Suggestions and ideas for rules to help EMS fraud prevention were presented at the meeting which included: increasing the accountability of the administrator of their records; appoint an administrator for only one year; develop a DSHS certification for administrators to help with the hiring process; and have Continuing Education (CE) courses and administrator like courses available to teach the legalities of the business. After some further research, no other state has developed a program to address these issues; thus, Texas would have to develop the initial criteria. The Air Medical Committee would also need to be involved in this process since air ambulances are affected by the rule as well. The committee briefly discussed the GETAC Strategic Plan options regarding meeting times and lengths as presented at the August 2012 GETAC meeting. The committee reviewed recommended changes from the Medical Directors Committee for the Texas Medical Board administrative code rules to add CE programs as a requirement. The EMS Committee will meet January 18 in Houston to continue working fraud reduction strategies

Action item:

The committee would like to request that GETAC approve for the committee to select their representative for the Trauma Registry Workgroup being developed.

The Council wanted to provide the committee with more direction on the topics discussed at their meeting. The Council suggested to the committee to work on modifying the current rule to state that there should be only one administrator assigned per licensed provider, and develop a plan on how to obtain CE credits for administrators with stakeholder input.

Injury Prevention Committee

Chair Shelli Stephens-Stidham was not available and committee member MaryAnn Contreras informed the council that a quorum was not met for this scheduled meeting. The committee is planning to have a workgroup meeting in January.

No action items for the council.

Medical Directors Committee

Chair Robert Greenberg, MD, presented the report. There were many comments presented from the audience concerning the recommendations on the EMS education rule, 25 TAC 157.32. Amendments were made on the position statement on EMS Transportation to Free Standing Emergency Departments, Urgent Care Centers and other alternate care sites and decided not to forward this to GETAC at this time.

Action item:

The committee would like to request that GETAC not discuss agenda item #8 on the Council's

agenda at this meeting since the position statement has been edited.

Pediatric Committee

The committee did not schedule a meeting.

No action items for the council.

Stroke Committee

Chair Neal Rutledge, MD, presented the report. The sub-committee for Regional Advisory Council (RAC) stroke data collection/survey is currently consolidating information and would like provide a presentation on their findings at the next scheduled meeting. A presentation was made involving recommendations for bypass protocols for Comprehensive Stroke Centers (CSC) based on time and severity of patient symptoms. The committee also discussed the results from a DSHS survey regarding stroke and cardiac care.

No action items for the council.

Trauma Systems Committee

Chair Jorie Klein was not available to present the report. Committee member and Council member Ronald Stewart, M.D. presented the report. The committee talked about the creation of the Trauma Registry Workgroup and about the rule revision timeline for Chapter 157. There was a presentation about the trauma system's historical development in the last 20 years to celebrate the EMS and trauma system programs in Texas. The committee would like to add this presentation to the DSHS website for others to view and to update the history of EMS/Trauma Systems for the agency.

No action items for the council.

Item 9: GETAC Liaison Summaries

Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)

TETAF announced its newest edition to the foundation: Steve Janda. He will be working with the foundation as a team member consultant to work on assigned projects as needed. TETAF will be celebrating the 20th year of Texas's trauma system implementation at the Texas EMS Conference. TETAF is preparing for the next legislative session, including lobbies to protect EMS/trauma funds and keeping up with the progress of the Interim Committee on General Revenue Dedicated Accounts. There will be several TETAF courses available for those that are interested: a Stroke Symposium will be available January 18, 2013 and a Trauma and Injury Prevention Seminar will be available on February 25, 2013. Lastly, a reminder was announced that EMS/Trauma Day at the Capitol will be on February 26, 2013.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Action Items

- A. Stakeholders expressed concerns on 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), specifically on the suggested changes for

the GETAC meeting schedule.

Action item for the council: Jodie Harbert made the motion to remove this item from the agenda, and the executive council should involve the committee chairs in this discussion and decision. Nora Castañeda-Rivas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. The committee charges were handled as the committees presented their reports
- C. The development of standard operating procedures (SOP) on how committee charges would be processed agenda item would also be removed in order to discuss it with the executive council and the committee chairs.
- D. The revisions to the current Department of State Health Services (DSHS) EMS and Trauma System Rules, published in Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 157, are still being worked on by the department and expected to be ready by January 2013.
- E. Robert Vezzetti, M.D. pointed out that the guidelines found in the position paper on radiological studies/dosing in children could be used when performing the necessary tests.

Action item for the council: Dr. Vezzetti made the motion to request that GETAC adopt this position paper. Upon further discussion, an amendment to the motion was made by Robert Greenburg, M.D., to recommend that GETAC endorse this position and forward this paper to the appropriate departments for consideration. Donald Phillips, D.O. seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. The review and discussion on the standard operating procedures (SOP) on how resource materials would be posted to the DSHS website agenda item was tabled and to be reviewed at the February 2013 meeting.
- G. The GETAC Education Committee made a recommendation on the number of courses needed to recertify for the transition into the guidelines of the 2009 NHTSA National EMS Standards. This would only be a recommendation on how these guidelines will transition.

Action item for the council: Jodie Harbert made the motion to request the endorsement from GETAC on the recommendation on the number of courses needed to recertify for the 2009 NHTSA National EMS Standards guidelines. Mike DeLoach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- H. At the request of Dr. Greenburg, the agenda item on the GETAC Medical Directors Committee position regarding EMS transport to non-traditional, freestanding emergency clinics was removed in order to continue working on this document.
 - I. Concerns were expressed from the stakeholders about issuance issues and recommended that this position statement be taken to the Education and EMS Committees, respectively.
- Action item for the council:** Mike DeLoach made the motion to provide the GETAC Medical Directors Committee position paper regarding education program medical director's responsibility for clinical care provided by EMS students during the student's

clinical rotation to the GETAC Education Committee and the GETAC EMS Committee as an agenda item for their next scheduled meetings for review and discussion. Jodie Harbert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 11: Public Comment

Jane Disamore wanted to thank the council for withdrawing the motion regarding the meeting time changes proposition from the strategic plan session.

Item 12: Review and list agenda Items for next meeting

Item 13: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.