

Disclaimer: These meeting minutes will not be official until approved at the 02/10/12 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting.

Meeting Minutes
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Monday, November 21, 2011, 5:00 pm

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
	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
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	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 5:00 pm on Monday, November 21, 2011, at the Hilton Austin in Austin, Texas. A quorum of the members was present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the meeting minutes from August 19, 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. The Council met in October for Strategic Planning purposes. Ten goals were developed, brought for a vote of the Council and approved. Today the Council will continue with the final stage of developing that implementation plan for the Council. The Council will provide the finalized GETAC Action Plan for the ten goals in a Power Point presentation at the February meeting. A work-in-progress document includes an action item, responsible party, start date complete date, partners (external or internal), deficiencies (internal or external) and potential challenges for each goal.

Item 4: Regulatory Division Report

Kathryn C. Perkins, RN, presented the report. The division continues to manage the effects of the \$16-17 million budget cut. As a result of 140 eliminated positions, the division is researching efficiencies in areas of least impact to the public, per EMS Rider 59. Regulatory will automate internal processes when possible, while prioritizing needs. By the end of 2012 HHSC will hire a contractor to evaluate work being done internally. Regulatory Division rules may be streamlined to ensure that no harm is done and laws are maintained.

Dr. Lakey asked Regulatory to investigate potential Medicare fraud in Harris County. There are 396 licensed EMS agencies in Harris County and 569 licensed EMS agencies in Public Health Region 6. Currently, half of all licensed agencies in Texas are in Region 6, and an additional 74 are pending. A first order of business will be to give notice of strict adherence to the medical director requirement. EMS agencies that do not have a medical director face immediate suspension. The Department is engaging The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and additional ideas will be discussed with Dr. Lakey. There were no questions for Assistant Commissioner Perkins.

Item 5: State EMS/Trauma System Coordination Office Report

Jane Guerrero, RN, Director of the Office of EMS/Trauma System Coordination, presented the report. At the end of September, the office had gathered 33 pages of suggestions and stakeholder input for Chapter 157 revisions. The office will condense the data into a one-page spreadsheet and then incorporate it into a draft for the Counsel to review. The tentative delivery date is August 2012.

Ms. Guerrero introduced the newly hired Manager of EMS Compliance in Houston, Marilyn Talley.

There are 265 designated trauma facilities in the state, 15 are in pursuit; 84 Primary Stroke Centers and three are pursuing designation as Level III Support Stroke Centers.

From the 3588 funds, \$447 million have been distributed since the inception of the fund, with 96 percent going to facilities, 2 percent to EMS and 1 percent to the Department. Out of the 9-1-1 funds for FY11, \$500 thousand remain after a distribution of \$1 million to designated facilities. One EEF has been funded. \$204 million of Tobacco funds went to the RACs in FY12. Seventeen ECA trainings have occurred. For LPGs in FY12, 107 applications out of 124 were eligible and we distributed \$1.3 million. Out of those entities 107 were funded, two received awards to assist with accreditation of a paramedic training program.

The 2012 GETAC meeting dates are February 8-10, May 9-11 and August 15-17; all at the Airport Hilton. The Council meeting held during EMS Conference the week before Thanksgiving will be at the Austin Convention Center.

Item 6: State EMS/Trauma Registry Report

Bert Corbel of the Registry Solutions Workgroup presented the report. Consilience will build 10 reports, DSHS staff will be able to do additional reports and registered users of the Injury Registry will have the capability of creating queries on their facility and can be compared to data that is de-identified for patient and facility based on county, TSA or State. Mr. Corbel reviewed the reports currently in the registry. For the reports currently in the registry, users will have the additional ability to run comparison statistics by their trauma designation level (all aggregate; no identifiers) and add national data when possible for state and national comparisons. DSHS will continue to seek input from stakeholders. All questions will be posted at a FAQ link on the Injury Epidemiology webpage.

Item 7: Division for Preparedness and Prevention Report

Dr. Adolfo Valadez, MD, MPH, Assistant Commissioner Division of Prevention and Preparedness, gave the report. The reduction in federal hospital preparedness funds was approximately 16 percent.

The trauma registry and funding partner, TXDOT, are still on-line to go live in August 2012. The data conversion, migration, and performance testing, are time-consuming, but necessary to ensure that what is transferred will be useful data. Waiting for the latest version of NEMESIS to be unveiled will cause a brief delay. Webinars scheduled for November 29 and 30 will demonstrate what has been constructed to date. The council and Dr. Valadez discussed the 2 million EMS data entries and 100,000 hospital entries covering a period of 10 years that will be checked for completeness and validity before and data is migrated. Only valid, clean data will be migrated.

The CVD and Stroke Program are taking applications for health promotion awards that recognize community-based programs, schools, worksites and health care entities that promote innovative and effective programs and policies for prevention and/or awareness of CVD and/or stroke in Texas Communities. Applications for funding are due February 6, 2012.

Future Hospital Preparedness funding will be an alignment of funding opportunities currently offered through several federal sources. This alignment improves efficiency and reduces the administrative burdens to awardees. Planning meetings continue, with a July 1, 2012 contract start date.

Item 8: Standing Committee / Task Force Reports

Air Medical Committee

Chair Shirley Scholz, RN, reported:

Fixed-wing MOU is complete and is being reviewed by the legal department; reviewing ground and air transport policies; definitions of the emergency health care systems and all aspects of acute care, including STEMI and stroke.

No action items for the council

Cardiac Care Committee

Christine Yuhas, EMT, reported:

CATRAC adopted the CDC Field Triage Decision Scheme Guideline now posted on the CATRAC website; update on the status of the Caruth grant in Dallas; legislative update from American Heart Association (AHA).

No action items for the council.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee

Chair Eric Epley, EMT-P, reported:

Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) update: AMBUSs used successfully for firefighter rehabilitation during the response to fires in Bastrop; WebEOC was equally successful; EMTF will have eight AMBUSs with a 16 to 18 person capacity, a crew of four, a chief, a driver and a 12-lead heart monitor. They will all be licensed as a specialty ambulance.

No action items for the council.

Education Committee

Chair Jodie Harbert, LP, reported:

George Hatch has lead 22 paramedic program accreditation workshops; discussion of the composition of transitions courses that will be necessary to maintain an NR-AEMT certification, additions include urinary catheterization and venous sampling.

Action item: The committee requested final review of national standards by the council.

EMS Committee

Chair Dudley Wait, EMT, reported:

Past year's Gap Analysis was discussed; reviewing TAC§ 157.32, suggestion to remove specifics and use generics.

No action items for the council.

Injury Prevention Committee

No report.

Medical Directors Committee

Robert Greenberg, MD, reported:
Reviewed and approved the 2009 Gap Analysis position statement between EMS and hospitals.
No action items for the council.

Pediatrics Committee

Chair Charles Macias, MD, reported:
Additional funds from HRSA might become available if they are able to collect and evaluate 19 questions to medical directors regarding online medical control; EMSC continues to work with EMS to provide needed equipment; EMSC is partnering with New Mexico on TBI and submersions and looking at beginning child fatality review team (CFRTs) in December.
No action items for the council.

Stroke Committee

Chair Neal Rutledge, MD, reported:
Considering Texas-specific CEs for stroke.
No action items for the council.

Trauma Systems Committee

Chair Jorie Klein, RN, reported:
Process of reviewing PI audit filters for Level III and IV trauma centers; recommending PI standards for the state trauma registry; noted the very high number of falls and suicides in every RAC of the state, will address the quality and validity for the data registry workgroup.
No action items for the council.

Item 9: GETAC Liaison Summaries

Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)

Dinah Welsh reported: GETAC meetings will continue to be webcast and archived on the TETAF website; Scott Mitchell resigned as the TETAF EMS Chair and Ed Rock, MD, will take over the position. Darrell Pile, CEO of SETRAC will be taking over the RAC Division from Wanda Helgesen; TETAF is nearing completion of an Administrators' Manual for Level IV hospitals; have completed two Stroke Support surveys and has a third scheduled; in December will facilitate the RAC Development Workshop.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Action Items

Motion: Jodie Harbert, LP, made a motion to approve Texas Administrative Code §157.32 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education Program and Course Approval; Ryan Mathews seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed.

Follow up by DSHS: implementation of provisions in HB 1476
Maxie Bishop, State EMS Director, addressed the department's plans for implementing provisions in HB 1476. As personnel come up for recertification over the next four years, the

background checks will be done. Cost for finger-printing will belong to the individual seeking recertification.

Comment: Ronald Stewart, MD, stated that the Council is not required to approve workgroups; a committee chair can form a workgroup as long as the members of the work group do not equal a committee quorum.

Item 11: Public Comment

Dudley Wait representing the Texas Ambulance Association was supportive of the DSHS method for background checks. Chair Vance Riley thanked Pete Wolf for his many years of service to GETAC and wished him well in the future.

Item 12: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.