

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council
Monday November 20, 2000, 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Dr. Ed Racht, Chair. The members present included: Ed Racht, MD; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Peter Wolf, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop, Jr., LP; Lance Gutierrez, RN, LP; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; John L. Simms; Mario Segura, RN; Frederick N. Hagedorn, MD; Ronald Stewart, MD; Joan E. Shook, MD; Raymond P. Holloway; Judge Arlene N. Marshall; Rebecca Campuzano-Salcido; and Pattilou P. Dawkins.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by John Simms and seconded by Frederick Hagedorn, MD, to approve meeting minutes from July 14, 2000. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Edward Racht welcomed everyone. Dr. Racht then asked all GETAC Standing Committee members to stand and thanked them for the work they had already accomplished. Dr. Racht commented that there is legislative interest in GETAC and Texas EMS/trauma system issues. He also acknowledged that many of the issues GETAC is working through will involve debate, but that he would like to continue utilizing the consensus process.

Department Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Associate Commissioner for Health Care Quality and Standards, briefed the council on current Department issues including the status of the legislatively-mandated Regulatory Review process, Department organizational changes, status of the revised DNR rule, adoption of the Emergency Dispatch rule by the Texas Board of Health, the upcoming 2001 Legislative Session, TDH exceptional item legislative requests, and his recent regional trips to visit with EMS/trauma system stakeholders.

Kathryn Perkins, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Management (Bureau) reported on current Bureau priorities including the hiring of new key staff members; discussed a rule interpretation related to rule 157; outlined pre-filed bills that may impact EMS; and synopsised recent grant program awards.

David Zane, Division Director of the Department's Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance (Injury) Program, introduced new staff, outlined new information posted to their website, and reported on the federal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) funds project with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Committee Reports:

EMS - Mr. Wolf reported that this Committee worked on draft re-certification "Option 2" (Continuing Education) and "Option 4" (Re-Certification Course). For Option 2, the Committee is requesting additional time to review the recommendations of the Continuing Education Task Force. They have tentatively scheduled a meeting for January 12th in Corpus Christi for that purpose. The Committee is recommending approval of the current draft of "Option 4."

Education - Mr. Bishop reported that they worked on draft re-certification "Option 1" (Re-Certification Exam) and "Option 3" (National Registry). The Committee is recommending approval of the current drafts of both of these options.

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Committee Reports (continued):

Medical Directors - Dr. Hagedorn reported that they worked on draft re-certification "Option 5" (formerly known as the "Platinum Plan;" now known as the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program – CCMP). The Committee recommends that a CCMP have, at a minimum, the following elements: an initial and on-going certificant credentialing process to include an initial assessment process for new EMS personnel, a preceptor internship program, and a biannual protocol testing process; a continuing education program; a quality management/improvement process which includes a formal complaint tracking process, evidence of on-going corrective action, and a sentinel event evaluation process; established committees; and Medical Director Accreditation. The Committee will continue to work on this program in collaboration with the Emergency Physicians of Texas organization.

Trauma Systems - Mr. Gutierrez reported that the Committee is reviewing the Bureau's draft system criteria in collaboration with the Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Councils organization. Other issues discussed included: Medicaid Disproportionate Share Program's trauma conditions of participation, organization of the Regional Advisory Councils, EMS/trauma system funding, EMS Medical Director concerns regarding regional trauma treatment protocols; hospitals enhancing or reducing trauma services and seeking to change designation levels; and the BAC Task Force research into the problem with insurance payment denials when an injury patient tests positive for alcohol/drugs. All of these issues are pending and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Injury Prevention - Mr. Segura reported that they began establishing a mission, goals and objectives for the committee. A consensus was reached on the following activities: finalize a vision for the committee, monitor and share information regarding injury prevention related legislation, and gather more information on regional and local prevention activities.

Pediatric – Dr. Shook reported that the Committee discussed their charge, was updated on the status of the implementation of the PEPP course; reviewed the results of the trial survey process for categorization of Pediatric Stabilization Facilities; and discussed supporting Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) by assisting with development of pediatric trauma treatment protocols.

Discussion of Reports: GETAC members discussed the staff and Committee reports.

A motion was made by Pattilou Dawkins and seconded by Ronald Stewart, MD, to postpone final recommendation on the five re-certification "options" until the February GETAC meeting to allow the Committees further time for work. The motion was amended by John Simms to exclude Option 1 (Re-Certification Test) and 3 (National Registry) and only include Option .2 (Continuing Education), 4 (Re-Certification Course), and 5 (Comprehensive Clinical Management Program). All council members were in favor of the amendment and motion; the motion passed.

A motion was made by Lance Gutierrez and seconded by Pattilou Dawkins to recommend that Option 1 (Re-Certification Test) and 3 (National Registry) be recommended to the Texas Board of Health for proposal. All council members were in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Rural Task Force Report – Pete Wolf reported that he has appointed this task force. He stated that the task force

will meet whenever needed by the council to research rural issues.

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Department Recommendation for Rule Action: Jim Arnold, Assistant Bureau Chief, presented a revised draft of 157.32 (EMS Education) with staff recommended changes resulting from the substantial public comment received. He requested that the council come to a consensus on a recommendation to the BOH relating to the rule or the proposal will expire and the rule will have to be re-proposed.

Discussion of Recommendation: GETAC members discussed the staff recommendations.

Public Comment on Action Items: Public comment was heard regarding the rule recommendations.

Action Items:

A motion was made by F E Shaheen and seconded by Raymond Holloway to recommend that the Texas Board of Health adopt rule 157.32 (EMS Education), with the addition of new language to section (h)2 that would allow EMS education sponsorship by any entity capable of meeting advanced EMS training standards. Maxie Bishop called the question. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

Stakeholder Organization Presentations: Because of the length of this meeting, Dr. Racht recommended that these be put on the agenda of the next GETAC meeting. All agreed.

General Public Comment: Public Comment was heard on a number of issues.

Meeting Dates for 2001 Set:

January 12, 2001(EMS Committee)

February 15 & 16, 2001

May 10 & 11, 2001

August 23 & 24, 2001

November 18 & 19, 2001(w/EMS Conference)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.