

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Friday August 24, 2001, 10:35 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Call To Order: Dr. Ed Racht, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Members present included: Ed Racht, MD; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Peter Wolf, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop, Jr., LP; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; Ronald Stewart, MD; John L. Simms; Mario Segura, RN; Frederick N. Hagedorn, MD; Joan E. Shook, MD; Raymond P. Holloway; Judge Arlene N. Marshall; and Rebecca Campuzano-Salcido. Members absent included: Lance Gutierrez, RN, LP; Pattilou P. Dawkins.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Maxie Bishop, to approve meeting minutes from May 11, 2001. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Ed Racht proposed that Standing Committee Chair appointments be permanent for the duration of the member's GETAC term unless the member requests to be relieved and that Standing Committee membership be reviewed annually with the opportunity for the GETAC and Standing Committee Chairs to reappoint members and/or appoint new members. He also proposed that if critical time-sensitive requests for GETAC input (e.g. legislative, media) should come between meetings, the chair would seek input from the Executive Committee prior to responding to the request; on critical non time sensitive issues; the chair would seek input from all members; and for issues on which GETAC has already taken action; the chair would simply respond. In all cases, the final response would be shared with all GETAC members. The council members voiced no objection to these proposals. Dr. Racht requested that the Texas Hospital Association and Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals provide input at the next Trauma Systems Committee Meeting regarding the issue of the state implementing "Trauma Facility" highway signs. Dr. Racht will be seeking guidance from Texas Department of Health attorneys regarding the concept of GETAC "position papers". Dr. Ed Racht recognized the phenomenal efforts of the EMS and trauma personnel, including the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council, in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Allison in Houston.

Department Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Associate Commissioner for Health Care Quality and Standards, briefed the council on current Department issues including the on-going search for a new Commissioner of Health; transfer of Medicaid to the Health and Human Services Commission; implementation of a new administrative software package that could have a temporary affect on voucher payments; the continuing work of the Regulatory Review team, including the drafting of a new Regulatory Philosophy, development of risk assessment tools, and implementation of regional performance plans; changes in membership on the Texas Board of Health; and issues that are affecting Bureau of Emergency Management's (BEM) FY02 budget and could impact the grants programs. He also notified the Council that after 9/1/01 only consumer member travel will be reimbursed.

Kathryn Perkins, Chief, BEM, reported on current BEM priorities including the status of FY02 EMS/trauma system funds distribution; specific proposed legislation that may impact the EMS/trauma constituency; §§157.34 and 157.33 implementation by January 2002; proposal for development of the state EMS certification/licensure examinations; possibility of web broadcast of the GETAC meetings; staff recommendations for §157.130; strategic planning packet for GETAC; and planning for GETAC meetings at the conference.

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David Zane, Division Director of the Department's Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance (Injury) Program, discussed the status of the TRAC-IT project. Mr. Zane also informed GETAC about a new organization that is being considered called the Texas Injury Prevention Network.

Committee Reports:

EMS – Mr. Wolf reported that Rural Task Force has almost finalized the surveys to go out to the medical directors, first responders, hospital administration, and providers. A discussion was held regarding EMS personnel working in hospitals.

Education – Mr. Bishop reported the committee will meet on October 12, 2001 in Dallas (place to be determined) from 9am – 3pm to discuss in depth the remaining issues regarding EMS continuing education (i.e. delivery options)

Medical Directors - Dr. Hagedorn reported that development of the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) is continuing. They are looking at implementing a pilot within the next year. Dr. Hagedorn commended the workgroup that is trying to make the CCMP a challenging, but reachable goal for many EMS Providers.

Trauma Systems – Jorie Klein reported that the concept of designating pediatric hospitals as trauma facilities is continuing to be discussed. Ronnie Stewart, MD reported the findings to date from the Blood Alcohol Content Task Force and asked GETAC to take a position on the issue. Eric Epley reported the findings from the Diversion Task Force: they will be looking into further defining the scope of the Task Force with the ultimate result being a position paper for GETAC's review. They are also broadening the membership to include representation from additional interested constituencies. The Trauma Systems and Pediatric Committee requested to have a combined meeting in November.

Injury Prevention - Mr. Segura reported that the Committee discussed a project for collecting and collating information on injury prevention programs around the state and a Group conference in 2002 workshop.

Pediatric – Dr. Shook reported that the Committee discussed results of the survey of designated Level III and IV trauma facilities as to their capability to meet the current draft criteria for Pediatric Stabilization Facilities, the concept of designating pediatric hospitals as trauma facilities, and encouraged that there be a pediatric person on the Regional Advisory Council.

Rural Task Force Report – Mr. Wolf reported that they will be finalizing the surveys in the next few weeks and then providing them to BEM for mail out.

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EMS/ Education Combined Meeting Report – Dr. Racht reported that they discussed the principles in regards to the issue of Health Care Professional Equivalency. Issues that were discussed: explore the issue of health care professional equivalency; defined curricula for health care professionals and commonalities/differences can be identified among the various curricula; a curriculum/course of study could be developed to address the differences in curricula; not necessary for an individual to repeat areas of competency/knowledge base; process to identify individual deficiencies; provider staffing is related to but separate from health care professional equivalency; types of health care professionals (registered nurses, licensed physicians assistants, and licensed physicians; and establish a workgroup(Neil Coker, Muriel Lanford, and Dr. John Ansohn) to review the Paramedic and Nursing Curricula to identify commonalities and the differences and report back to the Combined Committee/GETAC.

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

Public Comment on Action Items: Public Comment was heard on the BOH packet that includes §157.30 to Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care System Account.

Action Items:

A motion was made by Dr. Ronnie Stewart and seconded by Raymond Holloway, to recommend that the Texas Board of Health propose, for public comment, revised rule 157.30 Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care System Account. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

A motion was made by Dr. Ronnie Stewart and seconded by Gary Cheek, to recommend that BEM bring the issue of denial of insurance claims when the patient tests positive for alcohol or drugs to the attention of the Texas Board of Health with a request that TDH begin dialogue with the Texas Department of Insurance regarding this issue. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

General Public Comment: Public Comment was heard on the health care professionals equivalency issue and other general issues.

Meeting Dates for 2001 & 2002:

November 18 & 19, 2001(in conjunction with the EMS Conference)

January 31, 2002 & February 1, 2002 (was February 14 & 15, 2002)

May 30 & 31, 2002 (was May 16 & 17, 2002)

August 22 & 23, 2002

November w/conference

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.