

RAC Chair Meeting Notes

Sunday, November 20, 2011

Registry Solutions Workgroup Presentation

The Air Medical Committee, scheduled from 4pm – 5:30pm ended early. Emily Parsons waited 10 minutes to start the RAC Chairs meeting around 5:15 pm. Debbie Hutton, on the Registry Solutions Workgroup, originally scheduled as the second presenter on the agenda went first, so that the Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities panel speakers would have more time to arrive at the meeting.

Arnie Spears, RAC G Chair, asked if stroke and STEMI reports would be available through the new registry. Leigh Anne Bedrich, from RAC E, said it appeared to her the reports becoming available in the new registry are the same reports available in the current registry and agreed with Arnie that stroke and cardiac needed to be included in the new registry. The answer to the question and comments was that statutory authority was needed to collect this data; and that Consilience can easily add stroke and cardiac modules later. Eric Epley, Executive Director of STRAC, asked OEMS/TS Director, Jane Guerrero, about the state's plan to get the necessary statutory authority. Director Guerrero, said the main focus of the replacement registry is to get the new trauma registry up and running; then would have to be statutory authority for adding stroke and cardiac. The new registry, which has been focused on NEMESIS would include all current data elements and should be available for use. Jane Guerrero said she would provide information from the attorney's opinion to the next RAC Chairs meeting.

Border RAC Chair and Leigh Anne Bedrich asked if the RACs could be designated "public health authorities" for the purpose of gathering data. Leigh Anne said they need an official letter stating they are a public health authority or a RAC rule revision. Jane asked Leigh Anne for further information to possibly incorporate into contracts. Scott Christopher asked if we could accomplish the same thing by requiring data submission to the RAC and state through hospital licensing.

Q&A on Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities

Patrick Waldron, Derek Jakovich, and Maxie Bishop were available to answer questions posed by the RACs about freestanding emergency medical facilities and how to incorporate them into a trauma system plan. They said there were 25 -27 licensed at this time, mostly in urban areas. All facilities will be in operation 24/7 by August, 2013. Currently they can be 24/7 or 12 hour/day. Although it is possible they may not take Medicare or Medicaid, if they are owned and operated by a hospital, EMS operators will bill through the hospital. EMS operators will never transport to a facility if they can't get paid. After August 13, 2013, unless they are open 24/7, the freestanding facility will not be able to advertise anything other than "urgent care". If the freestanding facility is part of a hospital, then they must be participating in a RAC. These facilities are a good idea to decompress hospital EDs. Mr. Maxie Bishop, State EMS Director, said ultimately, the EMS medical directors will make the decision on where to transport a patient, but that the RACs have a huge responsibility for developing transportation guidelines within regions and with participating entities. Wanda Helgesen, Executive Director of BorderRAC, said she would like more education about the different kinds of freestanding facilities. Melanie Tucker, ED for Central Texas RAC L, asked that an expert be prepared to make the educational presentation at the next RAC Chairs meeting. There was some discussion about whether FSEC facilities would qualify for dispro or be eligible for the HPP formula, and the implications that additional funding might mean for the RAC.

Contract Update DSHS

Emily stated that it had come to our attention that some contracts had still not been signed, returned, and executed. Please make sure when you receive the email from the Client Services Contracting Unit that you print two copies of each, in the order they appear in the email, sign, and return both copies to the contracting unit as soon as possible. Your contract will be signed by DSHS and returned to your RAC. Remember, they must be sent to the attention of Tu-Anh Perez at the Client Services Contracting Unit, not to OEMS/TS. If the contract has not been executed, then your RAC cannot receive a payment.

Next, Emily covered the difference between a Desk Review and an Annual Report. The Annual Report is a yearly contract deliverable required to receive Tobacco funds. It is a report of the programmatic activities outlined in the Tobacco contract, only. The Desk Review is a Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) requirement of DSHS, is done once every three years, and is considered more inclusive of statute, rule, and all OEMS/TS contracts: EMS County, RAC, and Tobacco.

Board of Directors Attestations will be required of all RAC boards annually, by special provision of the contracts. OEMS/TS Office of General Counsel (OGC) approved the contract provision, after a change in the General Contracting Procedures from 2008 to 2009, dropped the requirement. The difference occurred in Article XII Section 12.01. The Board Attestation Form for OEMS/TS is identical to HPP's and can be scanned and emailed to Anne Verstraete and Norma Six at the same time.

EMS/County funds may be donated back from the EMS agencies to the RAC. The funds must be spent per the contract specifications: supplies; operational expenses; education and training; equipment; vehicles; and/or communications systems. It is possible for the RAC to use these funds for administrative expenses in support of the specified contract objective. For auditing purposes, each EMS entity that agrees to donate their funds to the RAC should sign a form saying they have agreed to this arrangement with the RAC. Each form should include the EMS provider name, authorized signature, and date. Leigh Anne Bedrich asked if this would be something the entire membership would have to approve. The answer was no. Only the EMS entities who had received EMS/County funding would have to agree to the "donate back" option.

Emily proceeded with the Funding Report. The FY12 Tobacco contract, 1st quarter financial reports are due on 12/06/2011. The FY11 Tobacco contract 4th quarter financials and programmatic Annual Report are past due. They are always due on or around October 15th of each year. The due date was October 14th, for this year. The RAC's dispro reports will be due to HHSC in mid-December.

In answer to a question from the last RAC Chairs meeting; the Chair must be present for the RAC Chairs meeting. DSHS wants the Chair, who bears the fiduciary responsibility for the RAC, at GETAC. The staff at OEMS/TS understands the Executive Director handles the day-to-day operations of the RAC and may attend the RAC Chairs meeting, but the Chair or at minimum a RAC Executive Board member, must attend all OEMS/TS RAC Chairs meetings as set by DSHS.

Derek Vaughn, Executive Director of Panhandle RAC A, requested that the RAC Chairs agenda be sent to them earlier. DSHS reminded attendees at the meeting, the RAC Chair agenda was not subject to open records. A decision was made to keep the RAC Chairs meeting on the first evening of GETAC.

Additional announcement: OEMS/TS will no longer use list serves to distribute information as of January 1st. After January 1st, all announcements will be made on **GovDelivery**, an e-mail subscription management system that will replace list serves.

DSHS has received all suggestions for rule review, except the RACs have indicated they will submit suggestions to the "RAC rule" (Rule 157.122 and 157.123).

Primary Level II Stroke Facilities re-designation requirements were sent to your facilities by email. This would be their first time to re-designate. This might be an issue for discussion in your Stroke Committees.

The ACS recommendations will be reviewed by GETAC Strategic Planning.

As a reminder, the RAC educational offering through the EMS Conference, "Highly Effective Nonprofit Boards of Directors" is taking place in the Convention Center on Monday, from 1 pm – 4 pm. The presenter will be Ann Starr, Director of Education at Greenlights for Nonprofit Success. Your RAC can still come, even if you have not paid yet. DSHS can bill you later. Remember, as many people as you want from your RAC can attend for the per RAC fee of \$125.