

**Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)  
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)**

**Minutes**

Friday, June 18, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

*There was no physical location for this meeting.*

*Due to health precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic,  
this meeting was conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams only.*

Last Name	First Name	Appointed Position	Attendance
Tyroch, MD, Chair	Alan	Trauma Surgeon - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(14)</i>	YES
Matthews, LP, Vice Chair	Ryan	Private EMS Provider - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(5)</i>	YES
Barnhart	Jeff	Rural Trauma Facility - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(11)</i>	YES
Campbell, RN	Cassie	Registered Nurse - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(3)</i>	NO
Clements	Mike	EMS Fire Department - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(9)</i>	NO
DeLoach, Judge	Mike	County EMS Provider - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(12)</i>	NO
Eastridge, MD	Brian	Urban Trauma Facility - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(10)</i>	YES
Faske	Sheila	Public Member - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(18)</i>	YES
Isbell	Robert	Fire Chief - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(4)</i>	YES
Johnson, RN	Della	RN w/Trauma Expertise - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(15)</i>	YES
Maes, LP	Lucille	Certified Paramedic - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(17)</i>	YES
Malone, MD	Sharon Ann	EMS Medical Director - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(2)</i>	YES
Pickard, RN	Karen	EMS Volunteer - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(6)</i>	NO
Ratcliff, MD	Taylor	EMS Educator - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(7)</i>	YES
Rudolph	Darrin (Rudy)	Public Member - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(18)</i>	YES
Salter, RN	Shawn	EMS Air Medical Service - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(8)</i>	YES
Troutman, MD	Gerad	Emergency Physician - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(1)</i>	YES
Vezetti, MD	Robert	Pediatrician - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(13)</i>	YES
Wait, EMT-P	Dudley	Stand-Alone EMS Agency - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(16)</i>	YES

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Item	Topic	Discussion	Action
	Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM, by Alan Tyroch, MD, Chair	
	Reading of GETAC Vision and Mission	Read by Alan Tyroch, MD, Chair	
1	Chair Report and Discussion	Alan Tyroch, MD, Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moment of silence</li> <li>• Quarterly meeting dates announced               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ September 17, 2021- plan to meet virtually</li> <li>○ October Retreat may be in person</li> <li>○ November meetings – Saturday, November 20-22; plan to meet in conjunction with the Texas EMS Conference</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
2 A	State Reports: Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Jeff Hoogheem, Director	Indra Hernandez, Trauma Systems Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update given on State Operations Center and State Medical Operations Center response to COVID-19. Home-</li> </ul>	

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		bound and business vaccine missions are in progress.	
2 B	State Reports: EMS Trauma Systems	<p>Jorie Klein, RN, Director of EMS Trauma Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanked committees, council, and stakeholders for their participation.</li> <li>• Legislative Mandatory Report –             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus on operational procedures</li> <li>○ Goal is an in-person meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rule Revisions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rules with Rule Coordination Office                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trauma Service Area (TSA) Rule 157.122</li> <li>▪ Stroke Designation Rule 157.133</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Neonatal Rules – Revisions Complete</li> <li>○ Rules Revisions in Process:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional Emergency Medical Services/Trauma Systems 157.123</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation 157.125</li><li>▪ Denial, Suspension, and Revocation of Trauma Facility Designation 157.128</li><li>▪ Funding Rule 157.130</li><li>▪ Funding Rule 157.131</li><li>○ Rule Priorities Following Session<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Senate Bill 1397 – Medical Direction Oversight</li><li>▪ House Bill 1164- Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder</li></ul></li><li>• Activities<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Exploring opportunity for ACS System Consultation in fall of 2022</li></ul></li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Conducting Rural Level IV Facility monthly calls</li><li>○ Conducting Non-Rural Level IV and Level III Facility monthly calls</li><li>● Process for Designation Application Review<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Evaluating current process</li><li>○ Objectives<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Streamline process</li><li>▪ Improve turn-around time</li><li>▪ Improve efficiency</li><li>▪ Improve communication to facilities</li><li>▪ Move to paperless system</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>● Assistance with Education Needs<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Rural Level IV Facilities</li></ul></li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rural TOPIC Courses</li><li>○ Hospitals seeking to move from Level III to Level II<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Optimal Course</li></ul></li><li>○ Maternal and Neonatal<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ QAPI and Patient Safety Training</li></ul></li><li>• Provided an update on the DSHS EMS Trauma Systems move to the Moreton Building</li></ul> <p>Joe Schmider, Texas State EMS Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided an update on the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ House Bill 1164</li><li>○ Senate Bill 199</li><li>○ House Bill 1069</li><li>○ Senate Bill 790</li></ul></li><li>• COVID-19 waivers continue until lifted by the Governor</li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are 74,437 certified personnel in Texas.</li><li>• Update on Wellness Wednesdays<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Hotline number: 1-833-367-4689</li></ul></li><li>• There was further discussion of House Bill 1069.</li></ul> <p>Elizabeth Stevenson, Designation Program Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided update on number of designated facilities by program</li><li>• Discussed new guidelines to request a 6 to 12-month designation expiration date extension that are located on the website.</li><li>• Trauma application review from receipt to delivery of letter and certificate – 30 days on average.</li><li>• Provided update on staffing changes.</li></ul> <p>Indra Hernandez, Trauma Systems Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided update on staffing changes.</li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update given on EMS/Trauma Systems grants, funding, and contracts.</li> <li>• Update given on Hospital Allocation</li> <li>• Update given on Extraordinary Emergency Funds (EEFs)</li> <li>• Update given on Regional Advisory Council (RAC) contracts.</li> </ul>	
2 C	<p>State Reports: Texas EMS and Trauma Registry Pierce Bauman, Manager</p>	<p>Pierce Bauman, Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on outstanding requests from the GETAC.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working to fill requests from the Pediatric Committee and Injury Prevention Committee.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provided an update on the 2021 Texas Trauma Registry Annual Report               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided an update on the 2019 Trauma Registry Data by Trauma Center Level</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided an update on 2019 Texas trauma incidents by age</li> <li>● Provided update on Texas 2021 Trauma Injury Severity Report by Trauma Service Area 2019 Hospital Trauma Admissions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussed 2019 median length of stay and average length of stay by Trauma Service Area (TSA)</li> <li>○ Discussed Injury Severity Score (ISS) for TSAs</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Provided update on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) 2021 Summary Report on 2019 Data             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussed types of service requested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
3 A	GETAC Committee Reports Air Medical and Specialty Care Transport Committee Lynn Lail, LP, Chair Shawn Salter, RN, Liaison	Lynn Lail, LP, Chair gave report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No items needing council guidance</li> <li>● No items referred to GETAC for future action</li> </ul>	
3 B	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports:	Update was provided.	

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	Cardiac Care Committee James McCarthy, MD, Chair Gerad Troutman, MD, Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CARES data</li> <li>○ First Responders Telehealth</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4 D	GETAC Stakeholders Reports: Texas Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (TX CARES)	Micah Panczyk, TX CARES State Coordinator provided update on TX CARES.	
6	Review and discussion of Texas Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (TX CARES)	<p>Micah Panczyk, TX CARES State Coordinator provided update on TX CARES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview, budget, research, and education presentation</li> </ul>	
3 C	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee Eric Epley, NREMT, Chair Mike Clements, Brian Eastridge, MD, Sharon Malone, MD, Council Liaisons	<p>Eric Epley, NREMT, Chair provided an update on the COVID-19 response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items need council guidance:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committee will gather information on COVID response to determine best practices and concerns</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items referred to GETAC for future action.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Statewide Wristband Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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5	Update from Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Sara Jensen	Sara Jensen provided an update on the Texas Emergency Medical Task Force. The update included the Texas EMTF COVID-19 response pre-surge, summer surge, winter surge, and non-COVID-19 responses (fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, and other severe weather).	
3 D	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: EMS Education Committee Macara Trusty, LP, Chair Lucille Maes, LP, Taylor Ratcliff, MD, Liaisons	Macara Trusty provided a brief update. No items needing council guidance or future action.	
3 E	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: Emergency Medical Services Committee Jeff Mincy, LP, Chair Mike Deloach, Robert Isbell, Ryan Matthews, LP, Darrin Rudolph, Dudley Wait, EMT-P Liaisons	A slide presentation was reviewed providing an update on Emergency Medical Services Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HHS TALON document is outdated and needs multi-committee work group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items referred to GETAC for future action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Publish a document as best practices regarding Lights and Sirens Usage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Joe Schmider suggested including it as an insert at the EMS Conference.</li> <li>▪ Christine Reeves stated that the wording of item 5 may change.</li> <li>▪ Dudley Wait suggested inserting lights and sirens into the GETAC’s strategic plan, and readdress every two years.</li> </ul>	
3 F	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: EMS Medical Directors Committee	Committee did not meet	

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	Gerad Troutman, MD, Chair Sharon Malone, MD, Taylor Ratcliff, MD, Liaisons		
3 G	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: Injury Prevention and Public Education Committee Shelli Stephens Stidham, Chair Shelia Faske, Liaison	<p>Provided an update with slides. No items needing council guidance. Items referred to GETAC for future action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IP and PE Committee strategic goals, objectives, and metrics.</li> <li>• Child Passenger Safety Program position statement – expected by September meeting</li> <li>• Meeting with EMS Education, EMS Medical Directors, and EMS committees on July 8 to discuss recommendations for universal precautions for EMS providers</li> </ul>	
3 H	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: Pediatric Committee Belinda Waters, RN, Chair Cassie Campbell, RN, Robert Vezzetti, MD, Liaisons	<p>Belinda Waters, RN, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NPRP Endorsement requested from committee, will include on September agenda</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items referred to GETAC for future action:</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data request for drilldown of MOI in unintentional deaths, suicides and homicides</li> <li>○ Data request for transfers in and out</li> </ul>	
3 I	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: Stroke Committee J. Neal Rutledge, MD, Chair Karen Pickard, RN, Liaison	Committee did not meet	
4 C	GETAC Stakeholders Reports: Texas Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council met on May 14, 2021</li> <li>● Next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2021</li> <li>● New DSHS contacts for the Texas Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Council</li> </ul>	
3 J	GETAC Committee Action Item Reports: Trauma Systems Committee Stephen Flaherty, MD, Chair Jeff Barnhart, Della Johnson, RN, Brian Eastridge, MD, Alan Tyroch, MD, Liaisons	Stephen Flaherty, MD, Chair provided an update.	
8	Update and recommendation of the Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Section 157.125, Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation,	Stephen Flaherty, MD, Chair provided an update.	

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	Documentation of Evidence Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee working on Evidence of Compliance document. Not ready at this time for a recommendation to the Council.</li> </ul>	
4 A	GETAC Stakeholders Reports: Texas EMS, Trauma, and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF) Dinah Welsh	<p>Dinah Welsh provided an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TETAF involved in the trauma system and stroke rule revisions.</li> <li>Seeking trauma surgeons and nurses to serve as surveyors.</li> </ul>	
4 B	GETAC Stakeholders Reports: EMS for Children (EMSC) State Partnership Sam Vance	<p>Sam Vance provided an update on the EMS for Children State Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 19 – two first responders were presented with Crew of the Year award</li> <li>National Pediatric Readiness Project launched May 1, 2021</li> </ul>	
4 E	GETAC Stakeholders Reports: Texas Suicide Prevention Council Christine Reeves	<p>Christine Reeves provided slides to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September is National Suicide Prevention Month</li> <li>No action.</li> </ul>	
4 F	GETAC Stakeholders Reports: Stop the Bleed Texas Coalition	<p>Christine Reeves provided slides to the Council.</p>	

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	Christine Reeves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop the Bleed Month was May</li> <li>• No action</li> </ul>	
7	Statewide wristband project Christine Reeves	<p>Christine Reeves provided slides to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 of the 22 RACs have started or implemented a wristband project. Goal to be fully implemented by December 2022.</li> <li>• The wristbands are latex free.</li> <li>• No action</li> </ul>	
9	Discussion of GETAC Meeting format Jorie Klein, RN, Director Alan Tyroch, MD, GETAC Chair	<p>Jorie Klein provided an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022 GETAC meeting format               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, February – Virtual</li> <li>○ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, May or June – In Person meeting</li> <li>○ 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, August or September – Virtual</li> <li>○ Retreat, October – In Person meeting</li> <li>○ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, November – In Person meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was general discussion about holding virtual meetings and in-person meetings.</li> <li>• Dudley Wait expressed his concerns about holding virtual meetings.</li> <li>• Jorie Klein stated that committees can meet face to face.</li> <li>• Dudley Wait made a motion that GETAC recommends to DSHS that we move every stone possible and work with every stakeholder group in an effort to get us to meet in person every single time on a regular schedule in 2022. The motion was seconded by Lucille Maes. There was no opposition to the motion. The motion carried.</li> </ul>	
10	Update from task force charged with examining the scope of mental health/behavioral health issues in emergency healthcare	No update	
11	Discussion of issues surrounding personnel with mental health or substance abuse problems while on duty	No update	
12	Discussion, review, and recommendations for	No update	

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	initiatives that instill a culture of safety for responders and the public with a focus on operations and safe driving practices		
	Public Comment: Christi Thornhill, Cook Children’s Medical Center, Fort Worth	“I agree with Dudley. We are more focused in person and we get a lot more work done face to face!!”	
	Public Comment: Danny Updike	“I agree. We need to meet in person.”	
	Public Comment: Christi Thornhill, Cook Children’s Medical Center, Fort Worth	“Having scheduled meetings in person makes it easier to attend. It has been very difficult with meeting dates/times changing constantly”	
	Public Comment: James Stephens	“I don’t mind having in-person, but why can’t we have virtual alongside? That way people who feel they can’t afford either the time or the cost, or can’t afford to send as many people as they want can choose to still attend.”	
	Next meeting dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 17, 2021 – Virtual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committees can meet July 1 – September 10, 2021</li> </ul> </li> <li>• October 2021 (Retreat) – Virtual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will look into possible in person meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 2021 – In person               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ in conjunction with the Texas EMS Conference</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	Adjournment	Alan Tyroch, MD, Chair Ryan Matthews, Motion to adjourn Gerad Troutman, Second	Adjourned at 1:03pm