

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

Monday, November 22, 2021, 4:00 P.M.  
DSHS Central Campus  
Moreton Building, M-100  
1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78756

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>	Yes
Clements	Mike	EMS Fire Department - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(9)</i>	Yes
DeLoach, Judge	Mike	County EMS Provider - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(12)</i>	Yes
Eastridge, MD	Brian	Urban Trauma Facility - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(10)</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
Martinez	Ruben	Public Member - <i>per HSC §773.012(b)(18)</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>	No
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 4:09 P.M. by Dr. Tyroch.	
	Reading of GETAC Vision and Mission	Read by Dr. Tyroch. Dr. Tyroch lead a moment of silence.	
	Review and Approval of October 2021 Retreat Minutes	Jeff Barnhart made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Clements. The motion passed.	
1	Chair Report and Discussion	<p>Dr. Tyroch addressed the updates to the Strategic Plan and Procedural Operating Standards.</p> <p>Dr. Tyroch addressed the committee selection process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GETAC Council Chair, Vice-Chair, Committee Liaisons</li> <li>• Committee Chair, Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geographic Representation</li> <li>▪ Levels/Types of Agency Representation</li> <li>▪ Regional Advisory Council Participation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diversity</li> <li>▪ History of participation at GETAC</li> </ul>	
2	State Reports		
2A	Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response	Michelle Petraitis provided an update on the Center for Health and Emergency Preparedness and Response.	
2B	EMS Trauma Systems	<p>Jorie Klein provided an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanked everyone for their hard work.</li> <li>• Introduced Dr. Stevenson, Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection Division</li> <li>• Staffing shortage concerns in all regions</li> <li>• Rule Revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stakeholder comments through GETAC Committee and Council meetings</li> <li>▪ TSA Rule 157.122- RCO</li> <li>▪ RAC Rule 157.123 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 157.123 Additional meetings with RAC Chairs/Executive Directors</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Trauma Designation Rules 157.125 and 157.128</li> <li>▪ Funding Rules 157.130 and 157.131</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Stroke Rule 157.133- RCO</li><li>▪ Maternal and Neonatal Rules</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>• Rural level IV Facilities calls</li><li>• DSHS EMS Trauma Systems Moved to Moreton</li></ul> <p>Joe Schmider – EMS System Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staffing waivers stay in place until Feb. 28, 2022.</li><li>• All other waivers have been lifted as of September 1, 2021.</li><li>• Wellness Wednesday Continue. Deidra Lee creates the Wellness Wednesdays</li><li>• Suicide and substance abuse line: 1-833-367-4689</li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrests Since August 1, 2021<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Top 3 charges – DWI 34, Assaults 24, and Drug charges 3</li></ul></li><li>• Senate Bill 790 – Study on the Balance Billing Practices of Ground Ambulance Providers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Allows county and city authorities to elect to consider health benefit plan payment for air or ground ambulance services as payment in full regardless of the amount the county charged for those services</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Jorie Klein – Designation Update Ms. Klein discussed the Designation Review Committee.</p> <p>Indra Hernandez – EMS/Trauma Systems Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legislative Session Update<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Senate Bill 8<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 4 – DSHS: COVID Response Costs</li><li>○ Section 12 – HHSC: Rural Hospitals</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 16 – DSHS: Rio Grande Valley</li><li>○ Section 33 – HHSC: Staffing needs</li><li>○ Section 35 – DSHS: EMS recruitment and retention</li><li>● Extraordinary Emergency Funds (EEFs)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ FY22: \$1 million was made available on 9/1/2021.</li></ul></li><li>● Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Contracts</li><li>● RAC Contracts include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ EMS Allotment – pass through funds for eligible EMS providers</li><li>▪ RAC Allotment – operations of 22 TSAs</li><li>▪ RAC Systems Development</li></ul></li><li>● Lump sum payments made for all 3 portions of the contract.</li><li>● Contract amendments have been completed.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Adding \$203,464 to RAC Systems Development. Dr. Tyroch asked if this was for all</li></ul></li></ul>	
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		<p>RACS total? Ms. Hernandez stated correct. It’s total.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital Allocation             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FY2020 UCC application – closed on October 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
2C	Texas EMS and Trauma Registry	<p>Petra Baumann – DSHS Texas EMS and Trauma Registry Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data posted to Injury prevention website</li> <li>• Registry had a performance issue but issue has been resolved. Looking for permanent solution to performance issue.</li> <li>• Shawn Salter asked about the performance issue. Ms. Baumann stated that it was the large amount of data that caused the issue. Texas is the largest submitter of data. Mr. Martinez asked if the state is asking for too much data. There was discussion of how to shrink the data sets and the cause of the problem. Dudley Wait stated that this isn’t a priority of DSHS to fix the issue. Mr. Schmider noted that the agency is looking into the issue.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Clements suggested keeping this on the agenda to keep the issue front and center. Mr. Epley from the audience suggested inviting Dr. Hellerstedt to the next GETAC meeting. Mr. Schmider noted that the Registry Update is on most GETAC agendas anyway. Dr. Malone thanked Ms. Baumann for her work on the registry.</li> </ul>	
3	GETAC Committee Reports		
3A	Air Medical and Specialty Care Transport Committee	<p>Lynn Lail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items Needing Council Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items Referred to GETAC for future action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CCT Capability Matrix Implementation</li> <li>▪ TAC Chapter 157.12 Rule Review – PI Section of the Strategic Plan</li> <li>▪ Development of a core group of Air Medical MIST Team</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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		Members to be utilized as resource	
3B	Cardiac Care Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Committee selections</li> </ul> <p>James McCarthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No state guidelines or facility criteria exist for Cardiac Care. Welcome suggestions on how the Cardiac Care Committee could educate the community further.</li> <li>▪ Consideration for ongoing Hybrid option for meeting participation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Committee Selections</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Ratcliff asked for more information on the about the gaps. Dr. McCarthy stated that there isn’t a statewide standard. Dr. Tyroch asked if they want a Cardiac designation? Dr. McCarthy stated that cardiac care would improve if there were published standards for a cardiac facility. Ms. Klein noted that the state does not have the authority to designate cardiac facilities.</p>	

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		<p>Mr. Wait made a motion to ask the Cardiac Care Committee to start the process to see what a state cardiac system would look like in Texas. The motion was seconded by Dr. Malone. The motion passed.</p>	
3C	Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee	<p>Eric Epley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Statewide EMS/Emergency Medical Task Force Wristband Project</li> <li>▪ COVID-19 Response: 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>▪ Nursing/EMS Retention and Recruitment Workgroup</li> <li>▪ There was a public comment in support of figuring out the shortage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TX EMTF Program Updates/Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Medical Incident Support Team Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AMBUS Update</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Clements made a motion to support the workgroup for nursing and EMS retention. Ms. Campbell noted that the Texas Nurses Association is looking into the shortage. Mr. Salter seconded the motion. Mr. Epley noted that both EMS and Nursing are experiencing shortages. Ms. Campbell said that the nursing shortage is improving. Ms. Campbell said that the Texas Nurses Association should be in the workgroup. She wants to ensure that the correct people are on the workgroup. Mr. Schmider noted that they don’t need a motion to appoint a workgroup.</p> <p>Mr. Clements withdrew the motion. Dr. Tyroch appointed a workgroup.</p>	
3E	EMS Education Committee	<p>Macara Trusty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items referred to GETAC for future action             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Announcements</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CCMP Cy-Fair Fire Department. 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Department to be designated CCMP.</li> </ul>	
3D	Emergency Medical Services Committee	<p>Ryan Matthews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SB 8 Structure</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items referred to GETAC for future Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 157.112 Clarity of SB 1876 Implementation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working on Safety Initiatives, Causal Effects of Accidents, Etc.</li> <li>▪ Reminder of the substance Abuse/Suicide Help Line 1-833-367-4689</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Committee Selections</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Salter asked a question about the language of SB 1876. It was decided to go to that item on the agenda.</p>	
5	Senate Bill 1876, 87 <sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2021, amendment to TAC Title 25 157.11(preference to the emergency transfer of a dialysis patient)	<p>Joe Schmider and Ryan Matthews</p> <p>Mr. Matthews stated that this legislation is in response to the 2021 winter storm. Mr.</p>	

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		Schmider stated that the rule is required to be submitted by December 9th, 2021. The language is vague so that the rule doesn't have to be amended if there is a change to the law. Mr. Wait discussed the history of the bill. This item will be an action item after the Medical Directors Committee update.	
3F	EMS Medical Directors Committee	<p>Dr. Ratcliff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items referred to GETAC for future action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SB 1876 – Deeply concerned about legislation dictating medical practice</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Committee selections</li> </ul>	
3G	Injury Prevention and Public Education Committee	<p>Shelli Stephens-Stidham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permission to develop a position statement on Child Passenger Safety Programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<p>Mr. Salter made a motion to ask the Injury Prevention and Public Education Committee to work on developing a recommended position statement on child passenger safety programs and that that position comes back to the GETAC for review and subsequent approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clements.</p> <p>Mr. Matthews suggested changing the motion to best practices. Mr. Salter agreed and amended his motion to state best practices. Mr. Clements seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Items referred to GETAC for future action<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ None</li></ul></li><li>• Announcements<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Potential Collaboration with Pediatric Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pediatric/Concussion/Head Injury Education Initiative</li><li>○ Magnet/Battery Ingestion Workgroup</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Future virtual workday meeting dates: Jan 28, April 22, July 29, Oct. 21</li> </ul>	
3H	Pediatric Committee	<p>Christi Thornhill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items referred to GETAC for future action               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data request expected in Feb. 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Committee Selections</li> </ul>	
3I	Stroke Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No quorum</li> <li>• No council guidance requested</li> <li>• New stroke rules are published and go into effect 11/25/21</li> <li>• Workgroup projects in progress</li> <li>• Committee selections</li> </ul>	
3J	Trauma Systems Committee	<p>Dr. Flaherty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needing council guidance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rural trauma care assessment                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Needs</li> <li>○ Clinical care</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ RAC development                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committee liaisons to RACs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitor RAC self-assessments             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Role for involvement in monitoring the designation process</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Items referred to GETAC for future action             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>● General announcements</li> <li>● Committee selections</li> </ul>	
4	Update of Texas Administrative Code Title 25	Addressed during agency update	
5	Senate Bill 1876, 87 <sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2021, amendment to TAC Title 25 157.11(preference to the emergency transfer of a dialysis patient)	Mr. Schmider stated that the GETAC has to have the opportunity to provide input on the proposed rule. Dr. Ratcliff stated that he is not happy with the overall situation, but does approve of the rule language. Mr. Matthews made a motion to endorse the way that 157.11 was amended to include the language as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ratcliff. The motion passed.	
6	Report overview of the October 14-15, 2021, GETAC Retreat		
6A	GETAC Standard Operating Procedures	Mr. Matthews made a motion to table this item until February.	
6B	GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Healthcare System	Mr. Matthews made a motion made to review the first 8 pages in February. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnhart. The motion passed.	



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7	Discussion, review, and recommendations for initiatives that instill a culture of safety for responders and the public with a focus on operations and safe driving practices	None	
8	Discussion of rural priorities	None	
9	Discussion of formation of GETAC Regional Advisory Committee	Dr. Tyroch stated that there was discussion at the October Retreat to add an 11 <sup>th</sup> Committee. Mr. Barnhart made a motion to table the discussion until February 2022. The motion was seconded by Dr. Clements. The motion passed.	
10	Discussion of rule revision and priorities	None	
11	Discussion and possible action on initiatives, programs, and potential research that might improve the Emergency Healthcare System in Texas	None	
12	GETAC Stakeholders Reports		
12A	Texas EMS, Trauma, and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)	Dinah Welsh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TETAF staff continues to participate in ongoing effort by DSHS to revise all trauma system and stroke rules</li> <li>• Conducted Hospital Data Management Course</li> <li>• During third special legislative session, TETAF Advocacy team supported</li> </ul>	

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		<p>legislative efforts to provide funding that addressed the EMS and hospital shortages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas TQIP will meet in February 2022 and is hiring to fill vacant coordinator role.</li> </ul>	
12B	EMS for Children (EMSC) State Partnership	<p>Sam Vance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Program Director – Kathryn Kothari, MD</li> <li>• Use of Pediatric Specific Equipment (EMSC 03) – 15.3% no training at all, 52.4% limited training, 32.3% moderate to extensive training</li> <li>• EMS for Children Survey – Jan-March 2022</li> </ul>	
12C	Texas Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Council	None	
12D	Texas Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (TX CARES)	<p>Micah Panczyk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Enrollment – 76 agency accounts covering 12.95 million people</li> <li>• 20 largest by population cities in Texas</li> <li>• Deficit in hypothermia care provided in the field.</li> <li>• Update on Research</li> <li>• Update on Program Funding</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Looking for sustainable funding model</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Ratcliff asked about pre-hospital hypothermia. Mr. Panczyk stated that it is still in the report.</p>	
12E	Texas Suicide Prevention Council	<p>Christine Reeves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 20<sup>th</sup> was International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day</li> <li>• Changing the National Suicide Hotline to 9-8-8 by Dec 2022</li> <li>• AS+K? or CALM workshops in Spanish are available</li> </ul>	
12F	Stop the Bleed Texas Coalition	<p>Christine Reeves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop the Bleed Texas Coalition continues to work with DSHS Registry staff on data collection project related to bleeding control</li> </ul>	
12G	Statewide Wristband Project	<p>Christine Reeves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted statewide survey. Following RACs replied: B, D, E, H, I, J, K, L, M, P, U, and V</li> <li>• 40% fully implemented</li> </ul>	
	Announcements	<p>Dr. Tyroch recognized Chief Isbell for his service to the GETAC.</p>	

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		<p>Sabrina Forsyth read the names of people who registered for public comment.</p> <p>Christine Campbell – HCA Gulf Coast Division – provided a comment regarding staffing shortages and would like to be on workgroup.</p> <p>Dr. Robert Greenberg – CMO of Emergency Services – made a public comment regarding the meeting. He stated that the Council should be proud of their work during COVID.</p>	
	Next meeting dates	The next meeting is February 11, 2022. The May meeting will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday because of Memorial Day.	
	Adjournment – Alan Tyroch, MD, Chair	Dr. Clements made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salter. The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.	