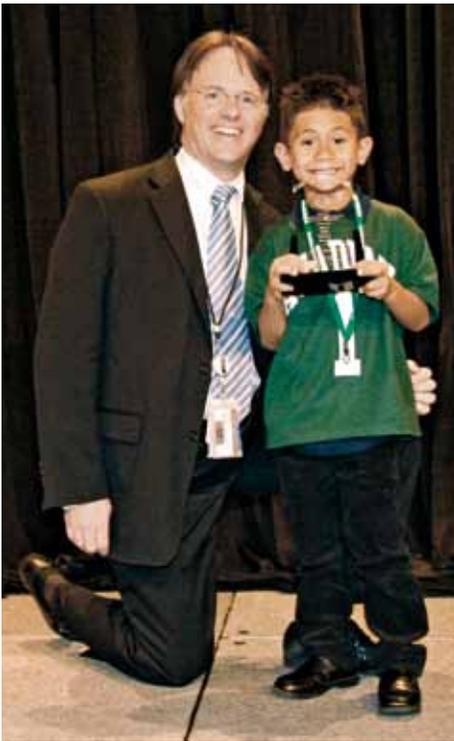


EMS/Trauma award



Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD, presented EMS Citizen of the Year to Jasiah Rubalcava, who used the Heimlich maneuver on his best friend to stop him from choking on a nacho chip. The six-year-old has now added paramedic to his list of possible occupations when he grows up.

all at no charge to the senior citizen thanks to grants from Capital Area Trauma RAC. After the assessment, any changes that can be made immediately are taken care of, with crews returning later if necessary to install—again at no charge—fall-prevention equipment, such as grab bars, shower seats, non-slip rugs and walkers. Education includes fall-prevention materials and training on proper medical history documentation and record-keeping. HIPP has already helped seniors improve their safety and decrease the likelihood of a fall injury in more than 60 residences.

EMS Citizen — Six-year-old **Jasiah Rubalcava** for performing the Heimlich maneuver on his best friend, Nicholas Carvajal, when Nicholas choked during lunch at San Antonio’s West Avenue Elementary School. Although Jasiah has a hard

time pronouncing the Heimlich maneuver, he performed it well, loosening the nacho chip enough for Nicholas’ to cough—and breathe. Jaisah says he learned the “heini-per” by watching shows on the Disney Channel. Acadian Ambulance personnel heard about Jasiah’s feat and honored him with Outstanding Samaritan, the youngest person ever to receive it from the private EMS provider. According to an article in the San Antonio Express-News, Jasiah and Nicholas have added “paramedic” to the list of possible future occupations, right behind aircraft manufacturer, karate teacher and ninja.

EMS Educator — **Ronna Miller, MD**, for her unflagging efforts to educate Dallas Fire-Rescue personnel and city staffers about the most current resuscitative and CPR skills. The training paid off, causing

The Texas EMS and trauma community honored its best during Texas EMS Conference in November. The awards were announced at the Tuesday luncheon. Congratulations to the 2012 winners!

EMS Public Information and Injury Prevention Award — **Fayette County EMS** for the development of a fall-prevention program for senior citizens. Because falls are the provider’s second most-common EMS call, Fayette County designed the Home Injury Improvement Program (HIPP) to assess residences for fall hazards, make recommendations for improvement, provide equipment and do fall prevention education—



Fayette County EMS won the Public information/Injury Prevention Award for HIPP – the Home Injury Prevention Program – they designed to reduce falls, one of the most common injuries among senior citizens.

winners announced

the survival-to-discharge rate for cardiac arrest to rise to 9.4 percent from 3.9 percent that it was when Miller began training crews three years ago. Despite being board-certified in surgery and an associate professor at UT Southwestern, Miller still personally trains city employees, meticulously preparing for the classes by reviewing the literature to make sure she has the most current information. She finds inventive ways to help staff and students, including printing wallet cards, producing videos using DFR staff and devising a system to help first responders get patient information to ambulance crews. She also provides feedback and patient follow-ups when asked, and helped rewrite internal policies.



Ronna Miller, MD, won EMS Educator of the Year for keeping Dallas Fire-Rescue and other city employees trained in the most current resuscitative and CPR skills. Survival to discharge rate has increased to 9.4 percent in Dallas.

Designated Trauma Facility — Citizens Medical Center, a Level III trauma facility in Victoria, is a 364-bed acute-care non-profit hospital providing Victoria and South Texas with the technology and medical advantages of an urban city and the personal care of a small rural town. A teaching hospital for EMT and nursing students attending Victoria College, Citizens has participated in the RAC since 1998. Citizens became designated 2004 under the watchful eyes of Stephen Hougen, MD, and Carolyn Knox, RN. Hougen, a trauma physician at Citizens since 2002, is a recognized leader in the community and at Citizens, and is active in the County Medical Society and GETAC committees. He is board-certified in general surgery. Knox has been at Citizens for more than 20 years, serving as trauma nurse coordinator since 2003 and as the current RAC



Citizens Medical Center in Victoria took home honors for Designated Trauma Facility. The Level III facility's latest survey found no deficiencies. From left, Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD; Carolyn Knox, RN, of Citizens; Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services Kathy Perkins; Darlene Lewis of Citizens; and Robbie Kirk of Citizens.



EMS Telecommunicator Award went to Patricia Ancelet, EMT-I, second from left, for her years of helping callers in South Texas. From left, Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD; Patricia Ancelet; Joey Ancelet; and Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services Kathy Perkins.

chair. Together Knox and Hougen have grown and nurtured the trauma program with a well-defined performance improvement process. Their last survey review found they had no deficiencies and a 99 percent loop closure rate, indicating an excellent PI program.

EMS Telecommunicator — Patricia Ancelet, EMT-I, for her years of coaching bystanders through CPR, taking full-arrest calls, reaching out to families of suicide victims and countless other calls. As an EMT-I, Ancelet is skilled not only in emergency medical response, she possesses an empathy and a calm demeanor that can help upset callers do what they can to improve the situation, acting as Ancelet's eyes as she assesses the scene and guides EMS crews to the patient. Ancelet has been certified in EMS for 19 years; she has been with Acadian Ambulance for six years.

EMS Administrator — Bryan Taylor, EMT-P, for the passion he brings to his job as administrator of Seminole EMS and the enthusiasm he still has for EMS after 24 years on the job. Taylor leads his staff by example, not afraid to get in and work a call beside his crews. Taylor also is a leader in the community, creating a morning call service for people who live alone. EMS crews check on the people on the list each morning to make sure they are okay. Each November, Seminole EMS sponsors a turkey dinner for all the people on the morning call list, with crews providing transportation to the dinner.

EMS Medical Director — Henry Boehm, MD, for his community leadership and unflagging advocacy for patients in Washington County. Boehm was born and raised in Brenham, graduating from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He began serving as medical director in 1979 for Washington County EMS, forging the organization's foundation of commitment to patient care. One of



Henry Boehm, MD, (second from left) won EMS Medical Director for his years of service to Washington County. With him on the podium were, from left, Katie Podeszwa, EMT-P; Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD; and Kevin Deramus, LP.



GETAC Chair Vance Riley, left, and Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD, present the EMS Administrator of the year to Bryan Taylor of Seminole EMS for his leadership in the organization and the community.

his primary beliefs was that every patient deserves to know that the medics care. Because Boehm always made time for WCEMS personnel over the years, he taught crews that time should always be made for the patient, too. Boehm continued to teach paramedic programs throughout his career, never missed a CQI meeting and was always willing to show up and assist medics on scene. In addition to his EMS career, Boehm has been active in many community and educational organizations in Washington County.

EMS First Responder — Kemah Fire Department for 16 years of dedication and service to EMS in Galveston County, including the cities of Kemah, Clear Lake Shores and unincorporated areas of Lazy Bend. The 32 employees, with certifications ranging from ECA to paramedic, respond to all extrication and rescue calls in their service area and provide a vital first response role in the Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps EMS system. They have not only provided care that



Brett Hahn, EMT-P, accepted the award for Kemah Fire Department, which took home the EMS First Responder Award. With him are Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD, and Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services Kathy Perkins.

saved many patients' lives, but they are praised by patients for their caring attitudes. In 2005, KFD was able to upgrade from BLS to ALS, investing in training and equipment until the goal was achieved.

EMS Provider Award — Austin County EMS for its passion and commitment in providing emergency medical services to the citizens of Austin County. Created in 1994 by the Commissioners Court, the service now has fifty full- and part-time employees using advanced protocols for injured and ill Texans and travelers. What began as two BLS units has grown to seven BLS/MICU-capable units and two paramedic response units, all strategically located throughout Austin County. The service area includes 653 square miles and more than 28,000 residents in six municipalities (Sealy, Bellville, Industry, Wallis, San Felipe and Brazos Country) and five communities (New Ulm, Cat Spring, Shelby, Kenny and Cochran). Units are dispatched from five stations.

ACEMS sponsors CPR classes, community blood drives, AED/CPR training for local police and fire departments, first aid classes to community groups and assists in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). ACEMS has been active in injury prevention as well, leading Shattered Dreams demonstrations throughout Austin County in an effort to decrease teen drinking and driving. ACEMS won the DSHS Public Information and Injury Prevention Award in 2006.

EMS Person of the Year — Phillip Rogers, EMT, for an off-duty response that saved a man's life. On March 1, 2012, while fishing in a creek in Grand Prairie, Rogers saw a woman frantically giving her husband CPR on the bank of the creek. The 60-year-old victim had suddenly collapsed while fishing and was in full arrest. Rogers began CPR and continued until Grand Prairie Fire Department personnel arrived—

an extended response because of the distance through a wooded area from the parking area to the scene. Firefighters found Rogers doing "textbook" compressions but the patient was still pulseless. GPFD personnel defibrillated, eventually getting a pulse, and transported the patient to Methodist Mansfield. The patient survived and was discharged. No doubt Rogers' quick action saved the life of the patient.

GETAC's Journey of Excellence — Ronnie Stewart, MD, for his unwavering passion for the Texas EMS/trauma system and its providers and patients. Stewart has been a member of GETAC since its inception in 1999. Stewart passionately believes Texas can build the best trauma system in the nation, and he'll bend the ear of anyone who will listen, traveling far and wide on behalf of EMS and trauma, advocating for patients and providers alike. His frequent contributions to



Austin County EMS won EMS Provider of the Year for their service and community involvement. Members of the service and county officials joined EMS Director Ron Dille, EMTP, (holding the award) at the awards luncheon.

the GETAC meetings pushes and pulls Texas toward the vision of an EMS/trauma system that gets the right patient to the right hospital in the right amount of time, and has the data to examine how the system can continue to improve. Stewart is chair of the department of surgery of the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, a trauma surgeon and the recipient of countless awards and accolades.

Texas EMS Hall of Fame — Van Williams for his vision and 43 years of service to EMS in South Texas. In the 1960s and 1970s, Williams had a vision of what modern EMS should

become after a child was killed in an auto-pedestrian wreck and it took 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. Williams took a Red Cross first aid course to be able to help, then realized that the greater goal was to create an ambulance service. He tirelessly petitioned community groups and local governments until Friendswood Emergency Ambulance Service (later Friendswood EMS), Pearland EMS and Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps were created. In 1972, Williams attended the first EMT class in the Clear Lake Area. Through the years, Williams remained active in EMS, serving in many positions of responsibility, all

the while still working several shifts a week and teaching continuing education classes. He retired from EMS in 2012.



Van Williams was inducted into the Texas EMS Hall of Fame for his countless contributions to EMS over 40 years in the Friendswood area. From left, GETAC Chair Vance Riley, Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD, Van Williams and Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services Kathy Perkins.



Phillip Rogers, EMT, won EMS Person of the Year for an off-duty response to a victim in cardiac arrest after he saw the man collapse on a riverbank. Rogers stands with Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD, and Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services Kathy Perkins.



Ronnie Stewart, MD, second from left, was presented with GETAC's Journey of Excellence award for his passion for the Texas EMS/trauma system, its patients and its health providers. Congratulating him, from left, are GETAC Chair Vance Riley, Texas Commissioner of Health David Lakey, MD, and Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services Kathy Perkins.