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2 RULE §157.123 Regional Advisory Councils

3 (a) The Department of State Health Services (department) shall recognize a Regional  
4 Advisory Council (RAC) as the leader for system development of a regional healthcare delivery  
5 system within a trauma service area (TSA) as described in §157.122 of this title.

6 (1) The department shall recognize only one RAC for each TSA.

7 (2) Trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, disaster responders, and emergency  
8 healthcare stakeholders in the TSA, shall be eligible for participation or membership  
9 in the RAC.

10 (3) A RAC shall have the following responsibilities:

11 (A) maintain a 501 (c) (3) status; and

12 (B) submit required documentation to the department that includes, at a  
13 minimum, the following:

14 (i) a summary of regional trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac,  
15 and emergency healthcare system activities;

16 (ii) a completed regional self-assessment, and a regional trauma and  
17 emergency healthcare system plan, and evidence of compliance to  
18 the criteria requirements the second year as defined in contract; and

19 (iii) external financial audits and financial statements as defined in  
20 contract.

21 (4) Each RAC shall develop and maintain a regionally specific comprehensive trauma,  
22 prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, and emergency healthcare system plan that is  
23 revised at a minimum of every two years utilizing the completed regional self-  
24 assessment. The plan shall be inclusive of all counties within the TSA and shall be  
25 based on current industry standards and guidelines.

26 (A) The regional trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, and emergency  
27 healthcare system plan shall address the following elements:

28 (i) trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, and cardiac epidemiology data  
29 resources available; and

- 30 (ii) integration of regional stakeholders, identified coalitions and  
31 community partners pertinent to the priorities and needs identified  
32 through the regional self-assessment;
- 33 (iii) regional guidelines for the triage, treatment, transport, and transfer of  
34 patients with time-sensitive healthcare injuries or illness;
- 35 (iv) prevention and outreach activities guided by the trauma, prehospital,  
36 perinatal, stroke, and cardiac data available;
- 37 (v) system coordination and patient flow;
- 38 (vi) description of measures initiated by the RAC to support the Hospital  
39 Preparedness Program (HPP) contractor address the preparedness,  
40 planning, response, recovery, after-action review and data tracking  
41 needs for regional disaster preparedness;
- 42 (vii) identify the system-wide healthcare education for trauma,  
43 prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, and the emergency healthcare  
44 system sponsored or coordinated through the RAC;
- 45 (viii) execution of a regional systems performance improvement plan to  
46 include outcome data;
- 47 (ix) integration of public health and business community stakeholders;  
48 and
- 49 (x) guidelines to support regional research projects.

50 (B) All health care entities and identified coalition partners should participate in the  
51 regional planning process.

52 (C) The Trauma Service Area with at least one county within the TSA located on the  
53 international border of Texas and at least one county within the TSA that is adjacent to the  
54 Gulf of Mexico shall provide guidelines and protocols related to trauma patient transfer  
55 and related services that meet the following requirements;

56 (a) The RAC will develop an advisory committee composed of equal  
57 representation from designated trauma facilities within the RAC.

58 (1) This committee will develop regional protocols for  
59 managing the dispatch, triage, transport, and transfer of patients.

- 60 (2) This committee will periodically review patient transfers  
61 ensuring compliance with the applicable protocols.
- 62 (b) Each hospital and emergency medical service provider operating within this  
63 TSA will collect and report to the RAC data on patients transferred outside of the  
64 TSA following the developed and approved regional protocols.
- 65 (c) The advisory committee and activities are integrated into the regional trauma and  
66 healthcare system plan.
- 67 (5) RACs shall maintain compliance with the criteria of the contract to ensure the global  
68 mission of the regional system is maintained. RACs shall comply with the following:
- 69 (A) notify the department and RAC membership within five days if it is unable to  
70 meet the criteria necessary to maintain the regional systems as required by the provisions  
71 within this section or DSHS contract;
- 72 (B) provide the department with a plan of correction of no more than 90-days from  
73 the onset of the deficiency for the RAC to achieve compliance to consider;
- 74 (C) comply with the provisions within these sections, all current state and system  
75 standards as described in this chapter, and all guidelines, and procedures as set forth in  
76 the system plan; and
- 77 (D) continue its commitment to meet the criteria as required by its recognition.
- 78 (6) If a RAC chooses to relinquish services, it shall provide at least a 30-day written  
79 advanced notice to the department, all members, coalition partners of the RAC, and the County  
80 Judges within the TSAs that will be impacted.
- 81 (A) the RAC shall submit a written plan to the department for approval prior to the  
82 30-day notice,
- 83 (B) funding and assets must be dissolved in accordance with state and federal  
84 requirements; and
- 85 (C) the department shall consider options of realigning the TSA with another RAC to  
86 continue services.
- 87 (7) The department shall have the right to review, inspect, evaluate, and audit all RAC  
88 documents to verify compliance with the statute, rules, contract, and the Texas Regional  
89 Advisory Council Criteria document.

90 (8) The department shall maintain the confidentiality of such records and documents to the  
91 extent authorized by the Public Information Act

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95 (Government Code, Chapter 552), the Texas Health and Safety Code 96 (Chapter 773),  
and/or any other relevant confidentiality law or regulation.

97 Such inspections shall be scheduled by the department.

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