

PCC Meeting  
Monday, October 20, 2025 at 12:30PM-3:30PM CST  
In-Person and Via TEAMS

## Meeting Minutes and Notes

### Attendance:

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Agency/Division/Program</b>
Dr. Serena Bumpus	Texas Nurses Association (TNA)
Randy Meshell	Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)
Scott Smith	Texas Funeral Service Commission
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Dr. David Fleeger	Texas Medical Association (TMA)
Greg Bennett	United Ways of Texas
Stephanie Duke	Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
Nicole Nixon proxy for John Austin Stokes	Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)
Terry Scoggin proxy for John Henderson	Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH)
Lt Col Billy Enochs proxy for Capt Ryan Hammett	Texas Military Department
Jeff Hoogheem	DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR Director
Dana Birnberg	DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU Director
Michelle Jones	DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU
Dr. Lillian Ringsdorf	DSHS Region 8, Regional Medical Director
Chris Medina	DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR RRU SMOC Director
Austin Hood	Government Affairs
Sammy Sikes	DSHS/RLHO/Public Health Region 8 Preparedness and Response Manager
Victor Wells	Texas Emergency Medical Task Force/State Coordinating Officer

## Discussion Item #1 Beginning Remarks

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- Welcome and introductions

## Discussion Item #2 – PCC Business by (speaker)

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### Quorum

- Quorum not met

### Questions/Discussion:

- Write none or if questions/discussion occurs, include high-level notes

## Discussion Item #3 – Region 8: July Floods

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Sammy Sikes, Public Health Region (PHR) 8 Preparedness and Response Manager, DSHS

- 28 counties within region (1.5 hours from SA HQ)
- PAR (Preparedness and Response) 8 team members
- 8 Other programs responded- PAR, Epi, Immunizations, CHI, Social Services, Data Analytics
- 8AM notified of flooding event in Kerr
- Activated by TDEM to report to DDEOC18 in Comal County
- Staffed ESF-8 desk, support local response
- 10AM- reports of potential mass casualty
- PHR R8 staff assigned to prepare for deployment
- 12PM-mass fatality confirmed
- PHR 8 deployed RPR2, MERC unit and RPR-3, morgue storage trailer
- Mission was to support local jurisdiction with immediate surge capacity for decedent management
- July 5- staff transitioned from DDEOC to unified command in Kerrville (ESF8 desk)
  - Coordinated EMTF, TMORT, hospitals, HHSC behavioral health
  - Supported resource mobilization (mission requests for fatality management, behavioral health and vaccinations)
  - Provided direct support to Kerr
- Mass fatality management operations
  - Local operations set up Grimes funeral homes-ordered large tent that was powered, large generators, AC bathroom trailer
  - Decedent storage augmented by additional refrigerated trailers (TFDA and RACs): onsite 3 trailers, 1 trailer further out in the county-transport was provided for decedents to bring back to main hub
  - Partners: JPs, funeral homes, TFDA, TMORT, DSHS R8, TX rangers, DPS CID (criminal investigations division)
  - Decedent processing (TMORT), identification-pictures, fingerprints, and family notifications (TX rangers and DPS CID), TFDA (decedent tracking)

- R8 provided technical assistance and coordination of fatality management operations
- Family assistance center establishment
  - Collaborate with HHSC disaster behavioral health team
  - TDEM
  - Red Cross
  - City of Kerrville
  - BT Wilson education building
    - Ability to control access to building
    - Multiple large rooms
    - ADA compliant
    - Not near the river

### SERVICES

<p><b>CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICE</b> CHILDCARE DURING VISIT.</p> <p><b>CRISIS RESPONSE MINISTRY</b> PROVIDES CRISIS COUNCIL.</p> <p><b>DMV/VOTER REGISTRATION</b> APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF VEHICLE TITLE AND/OR A TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR VEHICLE, PROPERTY TAX EXTENSIONS, DRIVER LICENSE REPLACEMENT. WILL HELP WITH FILLING OUT FORMS.</p> <p><b>FEMA</b> HELP WITH FUNERAL AID APPLICATION.</p> <p><b>HHS 2-1-1</b> INFORMATION REFERRALS AND RESOURCE NAVIGATION.</p> <p><b>HILL COUNTY MHDD</b> EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY AGENCIES.</p> <p><b>KERRVILLE PETS ALIVE</b> SUPPLIES FOR PETS (FOOD, LEASHES, BLANKETS, ETC.), AND INFORMATION TO REPORT MISSING OR FOUND PETS. INFORMATION FOR PET MEDICAL CARE, CREMATION, ETC.</p> <p><b>KERR COUNTY CLERK</b> APPLICATIONS FOR LAND RECORDS, BIRTH/DEATH/MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES, AND PASSPORTS. HELP WITH APPLICATIONS BUT MUST BE TAKEN TO THE MAIN OFFICE.</p> <p><b>MEXICAN CONSULATE</b> NOT ON SITE: HAVE AN EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER FOR FAMILIES NEEDING CONTACT.</p>	<p><b>NOVA</b> FAMILY NAVIGATORS TO GUIDE THROUGH CENTER.</p> <p><b>RED CROSS</b> FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (PER FATALITY); ASSISTANCE TO TRANSPORT REMAINS; TRAVEL ASSISTANCE UP TO 4 FAMILY MEMBERS; LODGING ASSISTANCE FOR UP TO 4 FAMILY MEMBERS; MENTAL HEALTH; SPIRITUAL CARE CAN CONNECT WITH OTHER STATES.</p> <p><b>SALVATION ARMY</b> FINANCIAL SUPPORT.</p> <p><b>SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION</b> GET PROOF OF SOCIAL SECURITY CARD AND BENEFITS, PROCESSING REPLACEMENT SOCIAL SECURITY CARD, AND PROCESSING NEEDS FOR REPLACEMENT BENEFITS.</p> <p><b>TX DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE</b> ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT INSURANCE AND HELP CONTACT INSURANCE COMPANIES, EXPLAINING THE CLAIMS PROCESS. HELP NAVIGATE DENIAL LETTERS.</p> <p><b>TX RIO GRANDE LEGAL AID</b> LEGAL INFORMATION/REFERRALS AND FREE CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES HELP FOR LOW INCOME.</p> <p><b>TX WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS</b> APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT, SKILLS TRAINING, AND RENTAL HELP OR FOOD.</p> <p><b>VETERAN SERVICES</b> HELP VETERANS OR VETERAN'S FAMILY WITH MILITARY BENEFITS, FINANCIAL HELP HOUSING, MEDICAL NEEDS, AND OTHER RESOURCE REFERRALS.</p> <p><b>WALTER THERAPY ANIMALS</b> PROVIDE COMFORT ANIMALS WHILE AT CENTER</p>
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- Behavioral health, dining hall, services wing, childcare, nursing/changing rooms
- Brought in furniture and donated for comfort
- Flood response vaccines
  - TDAP and HEP A vaccines to first responders and community collaboration
    - Peterson regional medical center
    - EMTF8 AMBUS and Mobile medical units
  - Vaccine efforts began 7/10-8/4
    - 897 Tdap doses
    - 896 HepA



- Mobile clinics were implemented
- Offered to first responders, community members at FD locations in Hunt, Ingram, Divide, Mountain home, center Point, Kerrville, SisterDale

## Questions/Discussion:

### Why were the rangers and CID both present?

- Initially was just CID helping with augmenting (2 agents) and processing. Later on they were helping with investigations by going through social media, missing persons database, etc. to pair all information together
- Matched potential identifications through all the information compilation
- Tagged twice, once with the system we were using, and also tagged by JP's system
- TX Rangers brought in to do some investigations, fingerprinting, DNA swabs, watching chain of custody
- Unsure why the rangers were present, but they were extremely helpful to have.
- Should we expect TX rangers to be there in future responses? Thinking of including them in amended plans

### What do you think your biggest gap that was identified with the knowledge you have today?

- 1. Deploy senior staff to funeral home sooner to get a better overview of what's happening
- 2. Huge response, and responsibilities and asks as ESF8 desk- would've sent at least 2 staff to spread workload
- 3. RMOC to activate sooner

### Question/Discussion

- Notes/answer

## Discussion Item #4 – EMTF: July Floods

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Victor Wells, State Coordinating Officer, EMTF

- Provided images from the response
- 7/4 5:45 AM- request for assistance
- Resulted in immediate activation of level 3 regional mass casualty incident plan to auto dispatch 2 packages
- 6:21AM- TXEMTF was requested to activate 3 severe weather packages
- 2 additional packages on standby and were activated later that day
- 8:30AM EMTF fully integrated to SOC
- 169EMTF personnel, 78 assets deployed, with 63 personnel and 33 assets on standby
- Day 2-6 ppl TMORT tram arrived on scene
- Areas of operations- were across Central and South Texas counties
- Operations included:
- Rescue operations support (wide area search, DIVE OPS)



- 1<sup>st</sup> responder protection
- Local EMS and FD 911 support
- Mass fatality support with TMORT, scaled up personnel as needed
- Hospital interfacility transfers
- Responder vaccine clinics
- Cooling and rehab centers
- Peer support and peer support lounge

**Today is Day 109:** Operations are On-going and are expected for the foreseeable future.

**As Today:** We had 64,827 encounters, Treated 512 persons, & Transported 195.

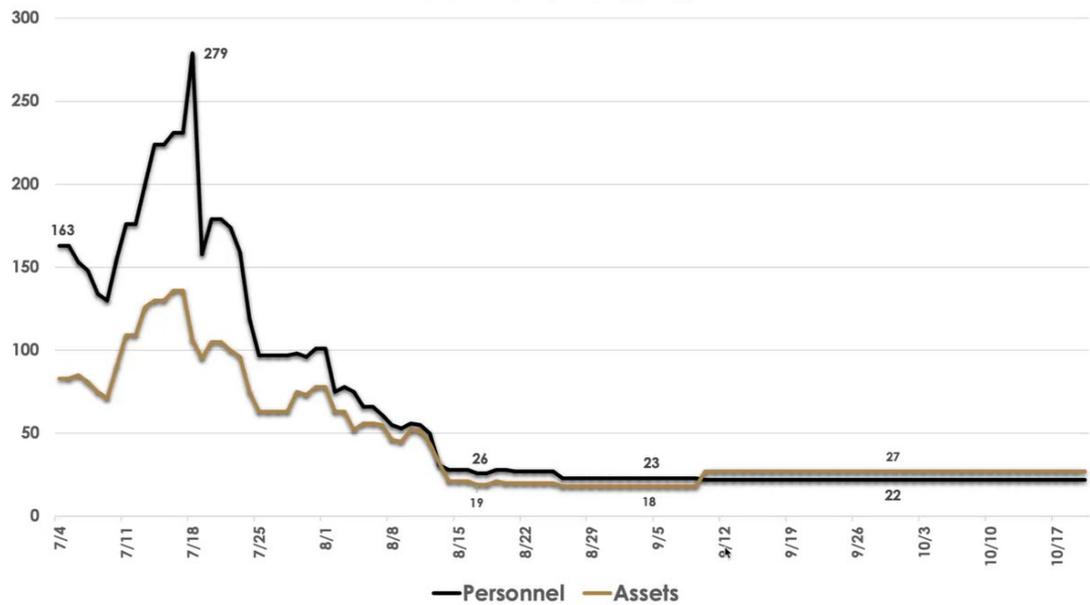
**Patient Tracking:** We use PULSARA as our communications and patient counts data source.

**STATS:** At our Peak we had 279 personnel & 136 asset deployed and have utilized over 695 personnel & equipment from more than 113 agencies.



Texas Emergency Medical Task Force

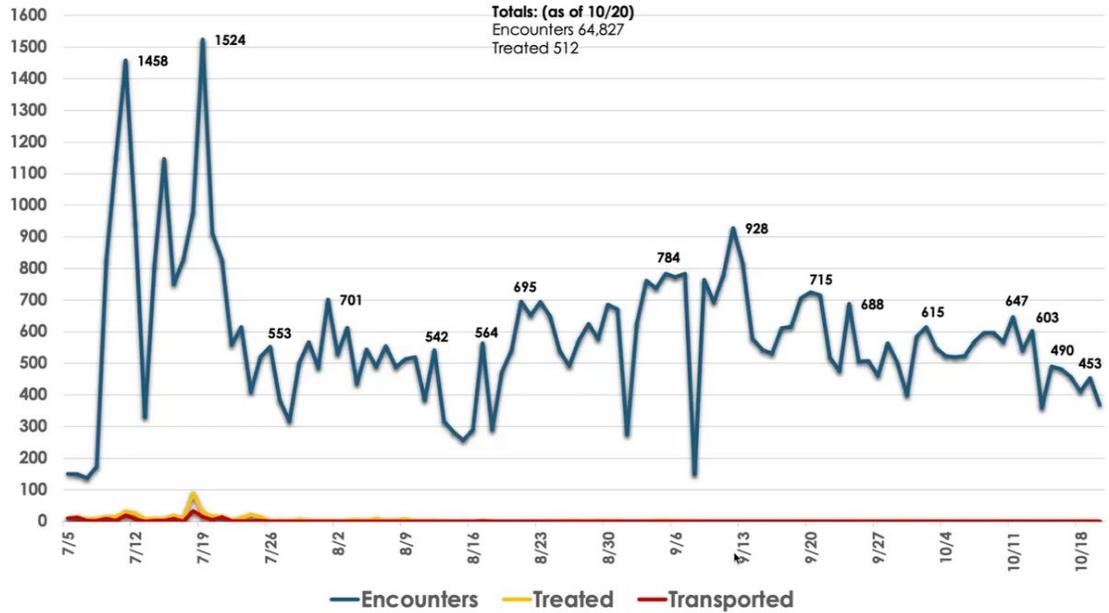
SWX Activation: Central Texas Flooding  
7/4/25-10/20/25 (ongoing)





**Texas Emergency Medical Task Force**

SWX Activation: Central Texas Flooding  
7/4/25-10/20/25 (ongoing)



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**Texas Emergency Medical Task Force  
Response Overview**

(as of today 10/20/25.)

**Central TX Flooding**

**ACTIVATED 07/04/2025 – ongoing (109 days)**

- At height of OPS: [5] TFL, [23] MIST, [9] AST + [2] Ambulance(=47), [4] AMBUS, [6] TMORT Personnel, [1] Type IV Ambulance Staging, [2] Type VI MMU, [6] Peer Supports
- [64,827] Total Encounters
  - [512] Total Patients Treated
  - [195] Total Patient Transports

**[113] Total Member Agencies**  
**[695] Total Members**

**Tropical Weather**

**ACTIVATED 7/17/25 – 7/19/25 [2 Days]**

- SWX PKG assigned to Brazos County
- [0] Total Encounters

**[11] Total Member Agencies**  
**[34] Total Members\***

\*PKG reassigned from Williamson County and completed crew swaps.

**Tropical Weather**

**ACTIVATED 7/24/25 – 7/27/25 [3 Days]**

- [1] SWX PKG assigned to Bryan County
- [0] Total Encounters

**[7] Total Member Agencies**  
**[21] Total Members**

**Tropical Weather**

**ACTIVATED 8/14/25 – 8/16/25 [2 Days]**

- [1] SWX PKG assigned to Jim Wells County
- [0] Total Encounters

**[8] Total Member Agencies**  
**[20] Total Members**

**Wildland Fire Support**

**ACTIVATED 9/24/25 – ongoing [27 days]**

- [5] SWX PKG assigned Merkel, Seguin, Smithville, Lufkin, & Childress.
- [2,110] Encounters, [0] Transports.

**[14] Total Member Agencies**

**[43] Total Members**

\*PKGs reassigned as needed. (Data as of 09/30/2025)

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- Ongoing force protection mission supports search and crane ops teams
- Peer support teams continuing to provide support for responders
- TDEM IMT MIST engagement remains best practice
- TMORT LNO and SME successfully supporting local JPs & mass fatality operations



- Pulsara use case expanded, new modules developed with future fine-tuning planned- tracking of nonmedical evacuees and repopulation, decedent tracking

## Questions/Discussion:

What do you think your biggest gap that was identified with the knowledge you have today?

- Failed to assign a MIST person early on; learned that communication is always a challenge. Realized EMTF should integrate their systems into local ones to work with them and not be a distraction. How to better integrate into local channels.

## #5 – TFDA: July Floods

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Scott Smith, Disaster Response Team Chair, TFDA

- Founded 1985 by funeral directors for when funeral homes are overrun and not able to deal with mass fatality
- Volunteer group that are funeral directors, work in funeral homes (30 member group located all across Texas)
- Decedent management and identification, mortuary management
  - Parts of Kerr County, Texas received 10 to 12 inches of rain in just a few hours on July 4, 2025, leading to a deadly flash flood emergency. The heaviest rainfall was concentrated in the southern and central parts of the county, particularly around the community of Hunt.
  - **July 4 - Guadalupe River**
    - 12:00 am (midnight) 53 gallons per second
    - 3 hours of straight rainfall
    - 3:00 am 264 gallons per second
    - 3:30 am 125,000 gallons per second
    - 4:00 am 950,000 gallons per second
  - To show a comparison, Niagara Falls average flow is 75,750 gallons per second. The Guadalupe River flow was more than 10x the flow of Niagara falls.
  - Source: Kerr Co Judge
- Called on the 4<sup>th</sup>, arrived on the 5<sup>th</sup> to Grimes Funeral Home (processing center)
- Coordinated trailers with victims to Houston and Dallas areas with police escorts
- 20 days total deployment
- 4 personnel deployed
- 150 body bags
- 40ft morgue trailer
- Assisted processing decedents
- Mortuary support
- Coordination of decedents to out of town funeral homes
- Assisted with identification process
- Decedent transport to Bexar and Travis County medical examiner

- **Rapid accumulation:** The deluge occurred overnight and into the early morning of July 4, with rainfall rates of 2–4 inches per hour in some areas

- **Flash Flood Emergency:** At 4:20 a.m. on July 4, a "Particularly Dangerous Situation" and a Flash Flood Emergency was declared by the National Weather Service for south-central Kerr County, with radar estimating 5 to 10 inches had already fallen

- **Massive water volume:** It is estimated that 100 billion gallons of water fell on the county in just a few hours, a volume greater than the daily flow over Niagara Falls

- **Guadalupe River surge:** The heavy rainfall caused the Guadalupe River at Hunt to rise a staggering 27 feet in just 45 minutes. It reached its second-highest level on record, higher than the 1987 flood



## Questions/Discussion:

What do you think your biggest gap that was identified with the knowledge you have today?

- First time TFDA worked with other partners and other state agencies. LitThere's a bit of a learning curve compared to other responses, as establishing processes waste a bit of a learning curve compared to other responses to establish processes were handled properly.

## Discussion Item #6- CHEPR: July Floods

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Chris Medina, SMOC Director, DSHS

- SMOC activated and provided DSHSESF8 rep for over 30 days beginning July 4
  - Immediate response operations have concluded, search and recovery efforts and debris removal continue. EMTF resources deployed providing force protection to personnel working on recovery efforts searching for remaining victims
- Main line of efforts include patient evacuation, patient care, force protection for search and rescue/recovery teams, fatality management
- Coordinated with SRAC and SETRAC
- Mortalities have been provided by multiple agencies. DSHS working to match victims with death certs to provide official numbers and reports
- First responder peer support went very well, looking to replicate for future responses
- Deployed resources:
  - TFDA- morgue trailers and 3 personnel to provide TA
  - PHR 8 and 9/10 supported vaccine operations, fatality management, mosquito abatement
- Fatality Management Operations
  - Local and regional operations were centered at Grimes Funeral Home in Kerrville
  - How decedents were received, how are they processed, how they were released to family
  - PHR8 and STRAC deployed decedent storage resources and additional morgue trailers coordinated by SMOC



Resource	Quantity
EMTF Ambulances Deployed	61
EMTF AMBUSs Deployed	6
EMTF Staff Deployed	Cumulative: 573 Peaked at 232 (07/26)
Patient Encounters	22,890
Patient Transports	194
Vaccine Doses Administered	Tdap 898, Hep A 897
Vaccine Needles	2000
Bandages & Alcohol Prep Pads	2000 each
Body Bags	125
Adult Epi Pens	2
Nitrile Gloves (Assorted Sizes)	15bx
Morgue Trailers	6
Mortuary Enhanced Remains Cooling System deployed	3
DSHS Staff Activated (Cumulative)	SMOC: 34 (9 SOC LNOs)
	8 (PHR 8), 1 (PHR 9/10), 1 (PHR 7)
	Total: 44
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 12,594,966

### Questions/Discussion:

What do you think your biggest gap that was identified with the knowledge you have today?

- Do we activate everyone (SMOC)? Could've activated the entire SMOC to help with workload.
- Recovery plans (fatality management resources)- reviewed beforehand, contracts for decontamination of resources

### Discussion Item #7- Legislative Update

Austin Hood, Government Relations Specialist, DSHS

- 2 special sessions; all bills passed from 2<sup>nd</sup>
- SB1 youth camp regulation
  - Where a camp can be located- outside of flood
  - Camps must submit and approve emergency plans (submitted by April 1)
  - Conduct safety briefings at each session
  - Fiber internet and secondary internet source
  - DSHS is currently adopting these rules and they're being formulated.
  - Emergency plans must be available
  - Emergency ladders must be present
- SB2 and HB2
  - Did not pass
  - Emergency manager license- help establish statewide volunteer system
  - DSHS to establish mass fatality response team
  - Training program for JPs to manage mass fatality

- Senate and House set up committees for the floods to investigate the causes and other places to make improvements in regulations and statutes

### **Questions/Discussion:**

#### Question/Discussion

- None

### **Discussion Item #8- DSHS Update: EMS Update**

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Joe Schmider, State EMS Director, DSHS

- Unable to be present at the meeting. Slides will be attached to the meeting follow-up

### **Questions/Discussion:**

#### Question/Discussion

- None

### **Updates from PCC Members**

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#### **Updates/Information Sharing from PCC members**

- United Ways of Texas – Mr. Greg Bennett
  - No Update
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) – Ms. Stephanie Duke
  - First week supported SA VOAD
  - Held call for 13 weeks with others to address unmet needs
  - 100+ orgs helped with feeding, clean up, emotional help, donation management, search and rescue
- Texas Medical Association (TMA) – Dr. David Fleeger
  - No update
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) – Ms. Michelle Havelka
  - Flood event
    - Drinking water- 20 boil water notices over 10 counties due to loss of infrastructure
    - TDEM and local coordination for debris management- conducting biweekly check-ins
- Texas Nurses Association (TNA) – Dr. Serena Bumpus
  - No Update
- Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) – Mr. John Austin Stokes
  - Nicole Nixon present
- Texas Funeral Service Commission – Mr. Scott Smith
  - No Update
- Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) – Mr. Randy Meshell
  - Focusing on partnerships mentioned in the meeting
  - Interested in working on AAR based on gaps mentioned in the call
- Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH) – Mr. John Henderson
  - Terry Scott sitting in
  - Visited rural hospitals in the last few weeks



- Kerrville strategy session
- Big beautiful bill being worked on

## **Closing Remarks**

### Remark

- response

## **Adjourn**