



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

AGENDA

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee Meeting Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Wednesday, August 26, 2026
9:00 AM- 10:30 AM

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Austin
6505 N Interstate 35
Austin, Texas 78752

This meeting will be conducted live and virtually through Zoom. Virtual meeting links are posted to the GETAC webpage at www.dshs.texas.gov/dshs-ems-trauma-systems/governors-ems-trauma-advisory-council.

Meeting Notice: The use of artificial intelligence (AI) bots is prohibited in this meeting. In accordance with HHS policy, the use of Artificial Intelligence, also known as "AI" Notetakers, is expressly prohibited. Producers will not admit a 'bot' or other autonomous agent into the meeting. If a 'bot' should inadvertently gain entrance, it will be removed from the meeting by one of our producers.

Committee Chair: Eric Epley, CEM, NREMT-P

Committee Vice Chair: Emily Kidd, MD

Council Liaisons: Brian Eastridge, MD; Sharon Malone, MD; Aundrea Young

DSHS: Jorie Klein, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Joe Schmider, Texas State EMS Director

1. Opening

- A. Call to order
- B. Roll call
- C. Reading of the GETAC vision and mission statements

GETAC Vision: A unified, comprehensive, and effective Emergency Healthcare System.

GETAC Mission: To promote, develop, and advance an accountable, patient-centered Trauma and Emergency Healthcare System.

- D. Reading of the GETAC Disaster Preparedness Committee statement of purpose

The GETAC Disaster Preparedness Committee is dedicated to enhancing Texas's emergency medical response and trauma system resilience in the face of disasters, mass casualty incidents (MCI), and public health emergencies. Through collaborative planning, innovative solutions, and strategic coordination with emergency medical services (EMS), trauma systems, hospitals, and government agencies, the committee seeks to improve the

- state's capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and protect public health and safety*
- E. Review and approval of minutes – June 3, 2026
 - F. GETAC chair announcements – Alan Tyroch, MD
 - G. Update: EMS/Trauma Systems – Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Joe Schmider, Texas State EMS Director

2. Discussion and possible action

- A. 2026 committee priorities outcomes
 - i. Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Initiatives
 - ii. Pulsara Rollout for Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI), School Shooting Roster Uploads, and General Population Sheltering Modules
 - iii. Wristband Rollout/Expansion/Integration with EMS Electronic Medical Records (EMRs), Hospital EMRs, and Regional-State Registries
 - iv. National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) 2.0 Pilot Project Impacts on Texas
- B. 2027 Committee Priorities
- C. Updates
 - i. Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) – Sara Jensen
 - ii. Statewide EMS/EMTF Pulsara Wristband Usage—July Flooding
 - a. Family Reunification/Reconciliation
 - iii. Prehospital Whole Blood Task Force
 - iv. National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program
 - v. Regional Medical Operations Coordinating Centers (RMOCC) & NDMS Hub Sites
 - vi. Healthcare Cybersecurity
 - vii. Bataan Memorial Death March
- D. Review
 - i. Initiatives, programs, and potential research that might improve disaster preparedness and response in Texas.

3. Closing

- A. General public comment – *Comment time may be limited at the Chair's discretion.*
- B. Summary
 - i. Action items to present at Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting
 - ii. Action items to present at GETAC meeting
 - iii. Agenda items for next committee meeting
- C. Next meeting date – November 21, 2026
- D. Adjournment

Public Comment

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) welcomes public comments on Emergency Health Care. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this process by submitting written comments to DSHS via email at deidra.lee@dshs.texas.gov no later than 5:00 PM, August 21, 2026. Please include your name and either the organization you are representing or that you are speaking as a private citizen. Written comments are limited to three minutes and will be read during the meeting for consideration by the Council. The request must contain your name, your direct phone number, and the name of the organization you represent or indicate that you are speaking as a private citizen.

Public comments are limited to three minutes. Speakers must state their name, affiliation, and on whose behalf they are speaking. Public members who are using handouts are asked to provide an electronic copy in accessible PDF format that will be distributed by DSHS staff to Council members, state staff, and the public. Handouts are limited to two pages of documentation (paper size: 8.5" by 11", one side only). Handouts must be emailed to DSHS by 5:00 PM, August 21, 2026, and include the name of the person commenting. Contact: Questions regarding agenda items, content, or meeting arrangements should be directed to Jorie Klein, DSHS, at 512-535-8538 or Jorie.Klein@dshs.texas.gov.

People with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting and require auxiliary aids or services should contact Jorie Klein at 512-535-8538 or Jorie.Klein@dshs.texas.gov at least 72 hours before the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.