



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

AGENDA
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Pediatric Committee Meeting
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Wednesday, August 26, 2026
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

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

This meeting will be conducted live and virtually through Teams. 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: Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN

Committee Vice Chair: Belinda Waters, RN

Council Liaisons: Kate Remick, MD; Chrissie Richardson, DNP; Lauren Day

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

1. Opening

- A. Call to order – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC
- 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 Pediatric Committee statement of purpose:

Statement of Purpose: To work collaboratively with entities involved in prehospital and emergency pediatric care, to promote pediatric injury and

illness prevention, and to improve the outcomes of our vulnerable pediatric patients by developing evidence-based strategies for high-quality practice in order to deliver safe, compassionate, and effective care.

- 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. Develop pediatric transfusion/massive transfusion guidelines for transferring facilities and EMS.
 - ii. Develop pediatric guidelines for transferring facilities and EMS for pediatric pain assessment and appropriate pain management.
 - iii. Request and review data from the state registry and the National Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project regarding vital signs and weight in kilograms on pediatric patients.
- B. 2027 Committee Priorities
- C. Committee liaison reports
 - i. Air Medical and Specialty Care Transport – Tabitha Selvester, RN
 - ii. Emergency Medical Services – Naomi Bastardo, MSN, RN
 - iii. EMS Education – Jendi Haug, MD
 - iv. Injury Prevention and Public Education – Sondie Epley, RN
 - v. EMS Medical Directors – Need a representative
 - vi. Stroke – Crystal “Sophie” Bassham, RN
 - vii. Trauma Systems – Belinda Waters, RN
 - viii. Regional Advisory Council Chairs – Sally Snow, RN
 - ix. Disaster Preparedness and Response – Megan Pantuso,
 - x. Cardiac Committee – Crystal “Sophie” Bassham, RN
- D. Updates
 - i. Texas EMS for Children (EMSC) – Spencer Lantz
 - ii. Texas Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project
 - iii. Pediatric Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP)
- E. Review
 - i. Aegis Neonate Medical Wraps Usage and Safe Transport of Children – Jendi Haug, MD
 - ii. Identifying a subgroup of high-risk/high-mortality pediatric patients to track improvements in outcomes following initiation of the new trauma rules for pediatric readiness.
 - iii. Child Physical Abuse (CPA) Screening/Management Toolkit – Christi Thornhill, Sophie Bassham, Amy Tucker, Leeann Fagan

- iv. Sudden cardiac arrest/death in school-aged children – Tabitha Selvester, RN
- v. Pain Assessment and Management Guideline for Transferring Facilities and EMS – Kathryn Kothari, MD
- vi. Pediatric Transfusion Guideline for Transferring Facilities and EMS – Kathryn Kothari, MD
- vii. Initiatives, programs, and potential research that might improve pediatric emergency healthcare 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.