



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)

Saturday, November 22, 2025
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Omni Fort Worth
Fort Worth Ballroom 4/5
1300 Houston Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

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.

Pediatric Committee Chair: Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN

Council Liaisons: Cassie Potvin, DNP; Kate Remick, MD

DSHS: Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Joe Schmider, Texas State EMS Director

1. Call to order – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN
2. Roll call – DSHS Staff
3. Reading of the GETAC vision and mission statements – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN

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.

4. Reading of the GETAC Pediatric Committee statement of purpose – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN

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.

5. Review and approval: August 20, 2025, meeting minutes – Belinda Waters, BSN, RN
6. Committee Announcements
 - a. 2026 Applications: New & returning members
 - b. Departing committee members
7. GETAC chair announcements – Alan Tyroch, MD, GETAC Chair
8. Update: EMS/Trauma Systems – Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Joe Schmider, Texas State EMS Director
9. Presentation: Use of Pulsara and pediatrics in disaster response: Lessons learned and recommendations for future pediatric MCI planning.

Discussion and possible action on the following items:

10. Discussion: 2025 committee priorities – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN
 - a. Develop a pediatric imaging guideline for transferring facilities following the “As Low As Reasonably Achievable” (ALARA) principles. Completed
 - b. Develop pediatric transfusion/massive transfusion guidelines for transferring facilities and EMS. In Process
 - c. Develop pediatric guidelines for transferring facilities and EMS for pediatric pain assessment and appropriate pain management. In Process
 - d. Request and review data from the state registry and National Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project regarding vital signs and weight in kilograms on pediatric patients. Completed and ongoing
11. Report: Committee liaison assignments – Committee Members
 - a. Air Medical and Specialty Care Transport – Tabitha Selvester, RN
 - b. Emergency Medical Services – Sam Vance, LP
 - c. EMS Education – Jendi Haug, MD
 - d. Injury Prevention and Public Education – Sondie Epley, RN
 - e. EMS Medical Directors – Erin Lincoln, MD, EMT-P
 - f. Stroke – Crystal “Sophie” Bassham, RN
 - g. Trauma Systems – Belinda Waters, RN
 - h. Regional Advisory Council Chairs – Sally Snow, RN
 - i. Disaster Preparedness and Response – Crissie Richardson, RN
 - j. Cardiac Committee – Crystal “Sophie” Bassham, RN
12. Update: Texas EMS for Children (EMSC) – Sam Vance, LP
13. Clarification: 2026 National Pediatric Readiness Assessment completion is rooted in emergency department (ED) operations – Sam Vance, LP
14. Update: Magnet/battery ingestion initiative with GETAC Injury Prevention and Public Education Committee – Tabitha Sylvester, RN
15. Update: Sudden cardiac arrest/death in school-aged children – Tabitha Selvester, RN
16. Update: Pain Assessment and Management Guideline for Transferring Facilities and EMS – Kathryn Kothari, MD

17. Update: Pediatric Transfusion Guideline for Transferring Facilities and EMS – Kathryn Kothari, MD
18. Review: Committee resources – Christi Thornhill, DNP, RN, Chair
 - a. Child Physical Abuse (CPA) Screening/Management Toolkit – Christi Thornhill, Sophie Bassham, Amy Tucker, Leeann Fagan
 - b. Consideration for Pediatric Consultation and Transfer – Sally Snow
19. Update: Texas Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project – Sally Snow, RN, and Kate Remick, MD
20. Update: Pediatric Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP)
21. Discussion: Initiatives, programs, and potential research that might improve pediatric emergency healthcare in Texas – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN Chair
22. General Public Comment: *Comment time may be limited at the Chair's discretion.*
23. Summary: Action items to present at RAC meeting – Belinda Waters, RN
24. Summary: Action items to present at GETAC meeting – Belinda Waters, RN
25. Announcements – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN
26. Review: Agenda items for next meeting – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN\
27. Next meeting date - Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN
28. Adjournment – Christi Thornhill, DNP, APRN

Public Comment: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) welcomes public comments pertaining to topics related to Emergency Health Care. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this process by providing written public comments to DSHS by emailing deidra.lee@dshs.texas.gov no later than 5:00 PM, November 14, 2025. 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, the name of the organization you represent or that you are speaking as a private citizen, and your direct phone number.

Public comment is 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 and state staff and for public distribution. 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, November 14, 2025, and include the name of the person commenting.

Note: These procedures may be revised at the discretion of DSHS.

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, DSHS, at 512-535-8538 or Jorie.Klein@dshs.texas.gov at least 72 hours before the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.