



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

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

Thursday, August 27, 2026
2:30 PM – 4:00 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: Stephen Flaherty, MD

Committee Vice Chair: Raul Barreda, MD

Council Liaisons: Della Johnson, RN; Brian Eastridge, MD; and Alan Tyroch, MD

DSHS: Jorie Klein, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Elizabeth Stevenson, RN, Manager, Designation Unit

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 Trauma Systems Committee statement of purpose

Statement of Purpose: The trauma system committee monitors key performance indicators of the Texas trauma system to assess for optimal performance so that those injured in Texas receive timely care meeting national standards, as well as those standards established by our providers

(care guidelines). Key areas for monitoring include designated facilities, the rural trauma care gap, ensuring an inclusive trauma system, the financial health of the trauma system, and communication across all levels of the system.

- E. Review and approval of minutes – June 4, 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. Committee focus points
 - i. Transfer delays project update
- B. Updates
 - i. American College of Surgeons (ACS) Level IV Trauma Center Standards (2026)
 - ii. National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Integration in Texas – Eric Epley, NREMT-P (National Registered Paramedic), CEM, GETAC Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee chair
 - iii. Stakeholder Reports
 - a. Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) – Carlos Palacio, MD
 - b. Texas Committees on Trauma (COT) Chapters – Carlos Palacio, MD
 - c. Stop the Bleed Texas Coalition – Brandy Martinez
 - iv. GETAC Prehospital Whole Blood Task Force – Donald Jenkins, MD
 - v. Burn Care Task Force – Aileen Ebadat, MD
 - vi. Injury severity score (ISS) coding/Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Preparedness workgroup – Anne Feeler, RN
 - vii. Trauma Rules Implementation
 - viii. 2026 priority outcomes
 - a. Designation Pillar – Elizabeth Scherer, MD
 - b. System Performance Pillar – Raul Barreda, MD
 - c. Military-Civilian partnerships in Texas
 - d. Inclusive Trauma System Pillar – Wesley Milum, RN
 - e. Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) Communication Pillar
 - f. Financial Health Pillar – Kathy Rodgers, RN
 - g. Pediatric Injury Pillar – Howard Pryor, MD, and KaLinda Dutton, RN
 - 1. Image duplication
 - ix. 2027 Priorities
 - a. ACS Trauma System Consultation

C. Review

- i. Initiatives, programs, and potential research that might improve prehospital trauma care 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 the 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 22, 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.