



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

Thursday, March 12, 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.

Trauma Systems Committee Chair: Stephen Flaherty, MD

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

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

1. Call to order – Stephen Flaherty, MD
2. Roll call – DSHS Staff
3. Reading of the GETAC vision and mission statements – Stephen Flaherty, MD

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 Trauma Systems Committee statement of purpose – Stephen Flaherty, MD
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, financial health of the trauma system, and communication across all levels of the system.
5. Review and approval: November 23, 2025, meeting minutes – Stephen Flaherty, MD

6. GETAC chair announcements – Alan Tyroch, MD, GETAC Chair
7. Update: EMS/Trauma Systems (EMSTS) – Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Elizabeth Stevenson, RN, Manager, Designation Unit
8. Trauma Center Spotlight – Stephen Flaherty, MD
9. Update: United States Northern Command (US NORTHCOM) Southern Border Operations

Committee discussion and possible action on the following items:

10. Update: National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Integration in Texas – Eric Epley, NREMT-P (National Registered Paramedic), CEM, GETAC Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee chair
11. Report: RAC Survey on Critical Trauma Transfers – Wanda Helgesen, RN
12. 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
13. Update: Burn Care Task Force – Eileen Ebadat, MD
14. Update: Trauma Rules Implementation – Stephen Flaherty, MD
15. Update: Committee focus points – Stephen Flaherty, MD
 - a. 2026 Priorities
 - b. Rural Trauma Gap
16. Reports: Pillars – Committee Members
 - a. Designation Pillar – Elizabeth Scherer, MD
 - b. System Performance Pillar – Raul Barreda, MD
 - i. Trauma transfer delays – Jia Benno
 - ii. Military-civilian partnerships in Texas
 - c. Inclusive Trauma System Pillar Update – Wesley Milum, RN
 - d. Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) Communication Pillar Update
 - e. Financial Health Pillar Update – Kathy Rodgers, RN
 - f. Pediatric Injury Pillar Update – Howard Pryor, MD, and KaLinda Evans, RN
 - i. Image duplication
17. Update: Injury severity score (ISS) coding/Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Preparedness workgroup – Anne Feeler, RN
18. General public comment – *Comment time may be limited at the Chair's discretion.*
19. Summary: Action items to present at RAC meeting – Stephen Flaherty, MD
20. Summary: Action items to present at GETAC meeting – Stephen Flaherty, MD
21. Announcements – Stephen Flaherty, MD
22. Review: Agenda items for the next meeting – Stephen Flaherty, MD

23. Next meeting date – Stephen Flaherty, MD

24. Adjournment – Stephen Flaherty, MD

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, March 6, 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, the name of the organization you represent or that you are speaking as a private citizen, and your direct phone number.

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, March 6, 2026, 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 at 512-535-8538 or Jorie.Klein@dshs.texas.gov at least 72 hours before the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.