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#### LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD: OUR 2025 STRATEGIC REFLECTION

2025 was a year defined not only by the goals we reached, but by the resilience we showed in embracing change and seeking new opportunities to improve patient outcomes in Texas.

*"PRACTICING MEDICINE IS A SACRED PRIVILEGE. DO IT AND LOVE IT."*

**JAMES H "RED" DUKE JR., MD**



### 09

#### THE TEXAS EMS TRAUMA AWARDS: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) recognized individuals and organizations for their exceptional contributions to the state's EMS and trauma system in November.



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#### GETAC COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is pleased to welcome the newest GETAC committee members beginning their terms on January 1, 2026. We also want to acknowledge re-appointed members and those that are outgoing. Your service and contributions are at the core of maintaining a balanced, diverse perspective that supports the GETAC mission.



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## Looking Back, Moving Forward: Our 2025 Strategic Reflection



2025 was a year defined not only by the goals we reached, but by the resilience we showed in embracing change and seeking new opportunities to improve patient outcomes in Texas.

As the state grappled with the devastating July 4th floods, we witnessed the dedication and coordination that define the Texas spirit, with state and local agencies, alongside the Texas Emergency Management Task Force (EMTF), working under extreme conditions in a unified response.

Through collaborative efforts with our stakeholders, advisory councils, and state leadership, we have invested in a future that leverages new technologies, integrated data, and legislative initiatives that are focused on patient-centered care and rural advancements.

### Some highlights include:

- \$10 million for Whole Blood Programs
- \$2.5 million for EMS workforce
- HB 3000 (Rural Ambulance Grants)
- Trauma Rule Updates
- Pediatric Readiness

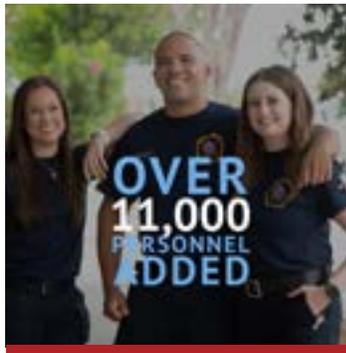
Let's look back on these milestones and more as we reflect on 2025 and enter 2026 with continued focus and a drive for constant process improvement.



Jorie Klein  
Director  
DSHS EMS Trauma Systems Section

# Senate Bill 8 Wraps Up

State EMS Director Joseph Schmider and the DSHS team spent 2025 closing out the EMS Recruitment and Retention project, shifting their focus towards retention and celebrating wins.



While the funding concluded on December 31, 2024, the administrative work intensified in 2025.

- **Final Expenditure Audits:**  
The team collaborated with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Legal and Contracts departments to finalize the accounting for the \$21.7 million allocated during the 87th Legislative Session. This reconciliation included verifying that scholarships were paid to EMS education programs for all successfully enrolled students.
- **Deliverables Verification:**  
Staff worked with the 22 Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to ensure that specific contract deliverables were fulfilled.

- **Service Requirement Tracking:**  
Because the bill required a one-year work commitment for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and a two-year commitment for Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT) and Paramedics, the team spent 2025 auditing recipients to verify they are working on Texas ambulances.

## Key Legislative Transition

During the 89th Legislative Session, an additional \$2.5 million was allocated to transfer future EMS scholarship opportunities to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

TWC is developing the scholarship process and expects to share more details in early 2026.

# Implementation of 89<sup>th</sup> Regular Session Legislation

The 89th Regular Legislature Session delivered a landmark series of investments and safeguards affecting the Texas EMS Trauma System. The following key bills have gone into effect and are currently being integrated.

## Key legislation and effective dates:

- **HB 33: Multi-Agency Response Planning**  
Requires emergency services and school officials to plan and conduct joint exercises for school shooting scenarios. **Effective:** September 1, 2025
- **HB 742: Human Trafficking Education**  
Requires specific education on human trafficking for all EMS personnel. **Effective:** September 1, 2025
- **HB 149: AI Transparency in Healthcare**  
EMS Providers must develop a formal plan to notify patients when artificial intelligence (AI) is utilized in their care. **Effective:** January 1, 2026
- **SB 1021: Certification Standards**  
A conviction of stalking (on or after Sept. 1, 2025) now serves as a disqualifier for EMS certification. **Effective:** September 1, 2025



- **HB 35: First Responder Peer Support Network**  
Establishes a confidential, statewide peer support network for firefighters and EMS personnel. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is developing the program, with full details expected in March of 2026. **Effective:** September 1, 2025

## Rulemaking & Next Steps

The following rules in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) are currently under development with a target adoption date of August 2026.

**Impacted Sections:** §§157.11, 157.32, 157.33, 157.34, 157.36, and 157.37.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Informational webinars will be held in early 2026.

**Public Comment:** The official public comment period will open April 2026.

# Designation Rule Implementation and Engagement

## Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) Self-assessments

The implementation of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) [Section 157.123](#) required all 22 Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to complete a self-assessment and meet defined performance criteria.

**Status:** All 22 regions submitted their assessments in 2025; these reviews are now complete.

**Best Practices:** Multiple regional best practices were identified during this process.

**View [RAC Self-Assessment Best Practices Resource Document](#)**

## Facility Designation & Standards (Section 157.126)

The Designation Unit has initiated a gap analysis for Level I-IV trauma facilities as the primary step for implementing TAC [Section 157.126](#).

**Clarification Meetings:** The department held several meetings

to review the American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification standards and state requirements.

Subject matter experts Dr. Alan Tyroch, Dr. Stephen Flaherty, and Dr. Robert Greenberg participated in the meetings to clarify the roles of trauma surgeons and emergency medicine physicians.

**Next Steps:** Training for the Designation Assessment Questionnaire (DAQ) is scheduled for February. Following this, the department will transition to full implementation of the [Trauma Designation Survey Guidelines](#).

## Monthly Designation Calls

### Trauma Performance Improvement (PI)

In 2025, the department launched the "Trauma PI: Ask the Experts" monthly calls.

**Purpose:** To assist facilities with trauma performance improvement and patient safety processes across all phases of care.

**Details:** Calls occur every second Tuesday at 3:00 PM, featuring Texas-based Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Course (TOPIC) instructors.

### Maternal & Neonatal (Perinatal)

The Designation Unit continues to host monthly calls to provide guidance on requirements and facilitate the sharing of best practices.

**Appeals Panel:** In collaboration with HHSC, members of the Perinatal Three-Person Appeal Panel have been selected; the formal appointment process is currently underway.

### Stroke

In 2025, a dedicated rural stroke conference call was established.

**Participation:** Dr. Robin Novakovic, in collaboration with other stroke leaders and the department, discusses challenges unique to rural stroke care to develop targeted recommendations. Findings are shared regularly during the GETAC Stroke Committee meetings.

## Q1-FY'26 (9/1/25 – 11/30/25) Application Statistics

Application Type	Trauma	Stroke	Maternal	Neonatal
Complete Applications Received	25	29	4	11
Designations Awarded	30	28	8	12
Initial Designations	5	3	2	2
• Upgrade	4	1	1	0
• Designated at Lower Level than Requested	0	0	0	1
• New Facility	1	1	1	2
• Change of Ownership	0	1	0	0
Re-Designation	25	25	6	10
Contingent Designation	13	0	1	1
Probationary Designation	3	0	1	0

## Q1-FY'26 Designation Meetings & Trainings

Meeting	Attendees
Trauma PI: Ask the Experts	268
Rural Level IV Trauma Designation	231
Level III & Non-Rural Level IV Trauma Designation	263
Level I & II Trauma Designation	136
Perinatal Level II-IV Designation	752
Perinatal Level I Designation	86

Training	Attendees
Texas Survey Guidelines – Facility	541
Texas Survey Guidelines – Surveyor	253

Designation program staff are invited to meet with the department and peers throughout the state to share ideas and best practices aimed at improving patient outcomes for Texans.

**Register today.**

[Trauma](#) | [Stroke](#) | [Maternal](#) | [Neonatal](#)

# The Prehospital Whole Blood Program (Rider 35) Takes Shape

Texas has allocated \$10 million for an initiative to make whole blood available to EMS. Texas' integration of prehospital whole blood programs is a lifesaving advancement in emergency medical care that could save thousands of lives annually.

**Who is involved?** Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) leaders from the EMS Trauma Systems Section and Consumer Protection Division are participating in the implementation of the program. The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) created the Prehospital Whole Blood Task Force (PHWBTF), bringing together various stakeholders to collaborate on a framework to establish statewide recommendations and consistency.

## Whole Blood Pilot Program

The program will help emergency medical services (EMS) providers administer whole blood in the field to patients suffering from extreme blood loss due to trauma, maternal hemorrhage, or other significant medical conditions. The goal is to stabilize patients for transport to the appropriate acute care hospital.

- DSHS and the regional advisory councils (RACs) are working together to find the most cost-effective way to secure equipment and supplies for EMS providers to operate a whole blood pilot program.
- DSHS is responsible for deciding how the statewide program will be structured, the processes utilized, and how the funds will be distributed among the regions.

## What is happening now?

- The department, PHWBTF, and RAC chairs continue to meet on Mondays at 1:00 pm to discuss the contract and implementation tasks.

## Texas Workforce Commission to Offer EMS Scholarships

The [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC) received \$2.5 million for EMS initial education scholarships. TWC is currently developing the scholarship process and expects to have additional information in early 2026.



- DSHS is advancing the contract through the legal approval process.
- The PHWBTF and RACs are working to finalize the implementation task list.
- The Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) provided input on maternal treatment guidelines for prehospital whole blood transfusions. PAC is also providing recommendations for neonate and premature birth transfusions.

**Next step:** Once DSHS Legal approves the contract, funding distribution to the regions will begin.

## GETAC PHWBTF Resource Toolkit Available

The PHWBTF has developed a resource toolkit for the Prehospital Whole Blood Deployment Pilot Program. The toolkit is composed of living documents on the RAC Data Collaborative (RDC) webpage. When visiting the RDC's [document library](#), select "PHWBTF" under document category.

## Rural Ambulance Service Grants (House Bill 3000)

House Bill (HB) 3000 establishes a grant program to support adequate ground ambulance services in rural counties.

### Fund Availability

- Qualified counties with a population of fewer than 10,000 are eligible for a grant of up to \$500,000.
- Qualified counties with a population between 10,000 and 68,750 are eligible for a grant of up to \$350,000.

**Qualified Purchases:** Counties may use the grants to purchase an ambulance, including necessary accessories and modifications.

The Texas Comptroller's office provides eligibility, application, and funding information on the [grant program page](#).



## Rural “Texas Strong” Projects

In December, Governor Greg Abbott announced that Texas will receive \$1.4 billion in federal funding over five years (\$281 million each year) to improve rural health care throughout the state.

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will process applications and allocate funds for initiatives that:**

- Offer prevention, wellness, and nutrition services grants to reduce chronic disease.
- Invest in technology that engages patients and improves their health outcomes.
- Use artificial intelligence (AI) and telehealth services to bridge existing service gaps.
- Recruit and retain rural health care workers through career development, education, and relocation payments.
- Improve the protection of patient data.
- Upgrade equipment in rural hospitals and clinics.

**Who can apply?** Rural hospitals, local governments, clinics, and mental health providers.

**Applications open:** Spring 2026. More information will be available on the [HHSC Grants webpage](#).

## 2026 Trauma Uncompensated Care (UCC) Funding Application Period Begins

The UCC application is now open to eligible designated trauma facilities or hospitals “in active pursuit of trauma designation.”

To be considered for 2026 funding, hospitals must submit a completed application (Parts A, B, and C) by **March 6, 2026**.

- **Part A:** Complete all required portions of the online application.
- **Part B:** Each affidavit requires a signature sworn before a Texas notary public.
- **Part C:** Submit the Excel spreadsheet containing detailed data for patient accounts and claims for **calendar year (CY) 2024**.

**Note:** The facility charges and patient records reported on Part A must match the information submitted in Part C.

### Hospital allotment funds distribution:

Payments are issued once the calculation and reconciliation processes are complete for UCC and Standard Dollar Amount (SDA) Trauma Add-On funding. Funds are expected to go out in July 2026.



### Helpful documents

- [Application Information](#)
- [Sample Part A](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)

Link to [Uncompensated Trauma Care Application](#)

Contact [department staff](#) to answer questions regarding the completion of the application.

# Faster Care, Better Outcomes: GETAC Updates

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) consists of 19 members dedicated to improving emergency healthcare across Texas. Members are appointed based on their expertise in trauma and EMS areas established in [Texas Health and Safety Code §773.012](#). GETAC advises and makes recommendations on developing and implementing rules related to the EMS trauma system. The council meets quarterly, and the department has secured a five-year contract to ensure the continuity of these vital meetings.

Following a successful strategic planning session in October 2025, the council identified the following priorities for immediate focus:

- **Rural EMS Support:** Strengthening emergency services in underserved areas.
- **Trauma Funding:** Securing the resources needed to maintain the state's trauma network.
- **System Consultation:** Partnering with the American College of Surgeons to evaluate and improve the Texas trauma system.
- **Time-Sensitive Care:** Reducing delays for patients needing urgent transfers.

## Critical Focus: Reducing Transfer Delays

A top priority for 2025 and 2026 is addressing dangerous delays in transferring severe trauma patients. Currently, 70–80% of high-risk patients (those with significant head injuries or dangerously low blood pressure) are waiting over two hours for transfer, based on data from the State EMS and Trauma Registries. This far exceeds the goal of under two hours.

## The Collaborative Solution

To address this, DSHS has established a meeting of partners to raise awareness and build practical solutions to speed up transfers and save lives. Active participants include:

- Texas Hospital Association
- Texas Medical Association
- Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals
- Texas Chapter Chairs of the Committee on Trauma
- Texas American College of Emergency Physicians
- Texas Chapter of EMS Medical Directors
- Texas Trauma Coordinators
- Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation General Assembly Chair, and
- Representatives from GETAC

## Task Force Initiatives

GETAC manages several specialized groups to tackle specific challenges:

- **Burn Care Task Force:** Mapping Texas burn care capabilities and using tools like Pulsara to improve communication between hospitals during burn emergencies.
- **Prehospital Whole Blood:** Focused on getting life-saving blood transfusions to patients before they reach the hospital.
- **Time-Sensitive Transfers:** Examining how hospital-to-hospital transfers impact available EMS resources.
- **System Collaboration of Outcome Reviews (SCOR):** Chaired by Dr. Kate Remick, SCOR uses data to improve patient outcomes. Current projects include:
  - ◆ **Stroke Care:** Reviewing treatment data in collaboration with the Stroke Committee.
  - ◆ **Maternal Health:** Investigating severe maternal morbidity to improve pregnancy safety.
  - ◆ **Pediatric Readiness:** Ensuring hospitals are fully equipped and trained to handle children's emergencies.



## GETAC Committee Members Named

The ten GETAC committees work under the council to create resources and lead activities that support the GETAC Strategic Plan. The GETAC committee application period occurs annually, September 1-30.

Go to [page 11](#) to read the announcement of new and returning members.

## Council Seats Open

Several GETAC member terms will expire in 2026. We invite currently seated members and new applicants to apply. For details on how to serve, please visit the GETAC Council Webpage.

## 2026 GETAC Meeting Schedule

- March 10–13
- June 2–5
- August 25–28
- October 14–15 (Strategic Planning Meeting)
- November 22–25

# Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC): Defining Standards in Maternal and Neonatal Care

The Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) develops and recommends criteria for designating levels of neonatal and maternal care. The EMS Trauma System Section manages all maternal and neonatal facility designations.

## Performance Tracking

Elizabeth Stevenson, Designation Unit Manager, provides quarterly updates to the PAC. These reports track the department's efficiency in processing survey results and issuing final awards. The updates also include feedback from the monthly calls with maternal and neonatal facilities of all levels.

### The monthly calls focus on:

- Identifying operational successes and barriers.
- Collaborating on solutions to overcome challenges.
- Sharing "best practices" across the network.

## 2026 Priorities

The primary goal for 2026 is launching the Center of Excellence for Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy designation.

- **Development:** Following PAC subcommittee recommendations, the department is defining requirements for site surveyors and medical record reviews.
- **Reporting:** Progress on this new program will be shared in quarterly updates.

## Appeals Panel

David Williams of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Appeals Division and Elizabeth Stevenson are leading the selection of a seven-member maternal and neonatal appeal panel (consisting of three-person sub-panels). Candidates have been identified and are currently undergoing the formal approval process.

## 2026 PAC Meeting Schedule

- March 5, 2026
- June 16, 2026
- September 3, 2026
- December 3, 2026

# Medical Advisory Board: Cutting the Case Backlog

The Medical Advisory Board (MAB) helps keep Texas roads safe by evaluating whether individuals are medically fit to drive a car or carry a concealed handgun. Every year, MAB processes approximately 5,000 referrals from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

## Eliminating the Backlog:

In 2022, a lack of staff meant some Texans had to wait 18-24 months for a decision. Recognizing this need, the Texas Legislature approved new funding in 2023. This allowed MAB to hire 11 additional employees and increase reimbursement for the physicians who review these cases.

## Current Progress:

Under the leadership of Manager Oshma Raj, the team has significantly reduced the backlog. MAB is now actively reaching out to clients to help them complete their medical paperwork, so that physicians can make recommendations quickly.



MAB Case Report	
Cases sent by DPS for physician recommendations on driver safety and proper handgun storage.	1,878
Client communications	7,700
We sent over 5,000 letters to clients to request information.	
<b>Cases reviewed and closed</b>	<b>2,404</b>

The table details MAB staff activities for Q4 2025 (October 1 - December 31, 2025).

View [MAB website](#) for program information.

# The Texas EMS Trauma Awards: Celebrating Excellence

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) recognized individuals and organizations for their exceptional contributions to the state's EMS Trauma System. *(Photos courtesy of Sladek Conference Services)*

The ceremony, held during the Texas EMS Conference in Fort Worth, honored the vital work being done across Texas by dedicated healthcare professionals.

Chief Michael Phillips of the Marble Falls Area Volunteer Fire Department was inducted into the Texas EMS Hall of Honor. Chief Phillips tragically lost his life in the line of duty on July 5, 2025, while responding to the devastating Hill Country floods.

DSHS Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Shuford commended the audience for their expertise and commitment

to caring for Texans, *"You are there in the most critical moments, when seconds matter and lives depend on your calm presence and quick action. That passion for helping others is what defines Texas."*

**- Dr. Jennifer Shuford**

## Full List of 2025 Honorees

### EMS Community Recognition Award:

Addison Fire Department was recognized for its community CPR & AED Program which empowers citizens to provide life-saving care before an ambulance arrives.

**EMS Education Program of the Year:** Temple College EMS earned this award for its innovative hybrid curriculum. The program allows students to master critical thinking, teamwork, and decision-making using immersive, scenario-based learning.

### Interfacility Collaboration Award:

Ben Taub Emergency Center in Houston was honored for its Pre-Hospital Excellence Recognition Program. The initiative celebrates the outstanding field work of EMS partners while fostering a culture of collaboration and clinical excellence.



**Rural Healthcare Award:** Kerrville Fire Department was honored for its Guadalupe River flood response and its commitment to excellence through community programs, updated protocols, and improved staffing models.

*(Pictured bottom right)*

### Designated Facility of the Year:

JPS Health Network in Fort Worth was recognized for its outstanding collaboration with Hendrick Medical Center. Together they established a mentorship and communication framework that ensures consistent patient follow-up and process improvement following trauma transfers.

### EMS Leader of the Year:

Steven Dralle, LP, of Arlington was honored for building a trust-based relationship and providing a strategic vision that keeps his teams focused on delivering outstanding community care.

### EMS Professional of the Year:

Daniel McDonnell, LP, of Hutto, received top honors for his unwavering dedication to providing consistent, exceptional patient care even under the most extreme pressure.

**EMS Response of the Year:** Bexar County ESD No. 2 in San Antonio was recognized for its

decisive action and persistence during a life-saving call. Their focus on hemorrhage control, blood administration, and rapid transport resulted in the patient's successful resuscitation and survival.

*(Pictured top right)*

### GETAC Journey of Excellence:

Dr. Alan Tyroch, GETAC Chair, presented this award to Sara Jensen of San Antonio and Jim Speier NREMT-P, CMTE of Tyler. Sara has worked tirelessly with Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF), coordinating responses to the state's most impactful disasters. Jim has spearheaded the Texas EMS Hall of Honor scholarship program and annual fundraiser.



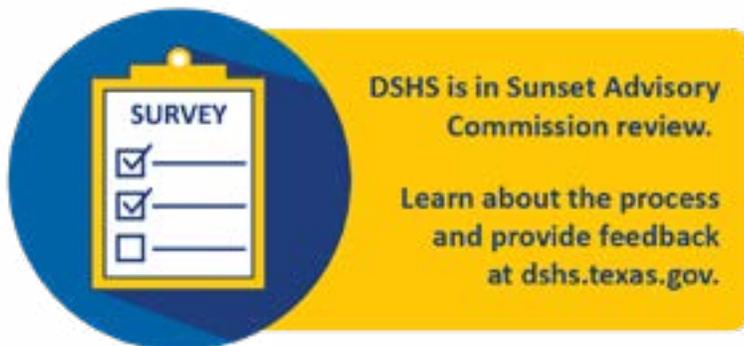
## New Infographics: Post-Crash Care and Prehospital Blood Transfusion

From the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

NHTSA's Office of EMS and National 911 Program recently released new infographics highlighting effective post-crash care and the life-saving potential of blood transfusion in the prehospital setting.

These new resources are designed as practical tools for EMS leaders to drive collaboration with 911 and highway safety partners. Additionally, the infographics identify potential countermeasures and opportunities to improve post-crash care as State Highway Safety Offices prepare Triennial Highway Safety Plans, due July 2026.

[View infographics](#)



## The Sunset Advisory Commission Wants Your Input

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is currently under review by the Sunset Advisory Commission from September 2025 through December 2026.

Lawmakers will review the Commission's report beginning in January 2027. Public input plays an important role in this process. Stakeholders have unique insights that can help identify operational issues and opportunities for improvement.

Get details on how to [submit your input](#).

**Please provide your comments by April 2026.**

## Pulsara Academy Offers Learning Hub

Pulsara is a secure, real-time communication platform designed to enhance coordination between EMS, hospitals, and specialty care teams supported by DSHS.

The app allows EMS personnel to activate patient care alerts, share critical patient information, and communicate with receiving facilities before arrival, which helps to reduce delays and improve patient outcomes in daily and disaster responses.



Scan the QR code above to see an overview of Pulsara's functionality and learn how it supports EMS operations and patient care coordination.



## Texas Pediatric Readiness Education Series

Join EMSC and DSHS for the latest session for Prehospital Providers

**Pediatric Toxicology: Ingestion/Poisoning**

**Speaker:** Dr. Erin Munns

**Date:** February 11, 2026, 9 AM (CDT)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



## GETAC Committee Appointments Announced

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is pleased to welcome the newest GETAC committee members beginning their terms on January 1, 2026. We also want to acknowledge re-appointed members and those that are outgoing. Your service and contributions are at the core of maintaining a balanced, diverse perspective that supports the GETAC mission.

GETAC committee members are selected from a talented pool of applicants. Candidates are recommended jointly for appointments by the GETAC Committee Chair(s), Committee Council Liaison(s), and the GETAC Executive Committee, with a focus on representation from a variety of provider types and geographic regions. Each committee ranges from seven to seventeen members that serve three-year terms. The GETAC committee application period occurs annually, September 1-30.

### Air Medical and Specialty Care Transport

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**Reappointed:** Scott Christopher, Michael Mock  
**Newly Appointed:** Aron Hanson, Steven Jones, Joel Ramirez, Justin Soulier  
**Outgoing:** Joshua Cools, Brandon Joines, Michael Lawyer

### Cardiac Care

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**Newly Appointed:** Shawn Binkley, Rigele "Wes" Dean, Jennifer Pena  
**Outgoing:** Krista Knowles, Pedro Palacios, Karen Yates

### Disaster Preparedness and Response

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**Reappointed:** Joe Fowler, Rene Perez, Kenneth Webb  
**Newly Appointed:** Dr. Angela Cornelius, Mark Montgomery, Joshua Vandever, Jeremy Williams  
**Outgoing:** Wanda Helgesen, Scot Leatherwood, Candice Smith

### Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

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**Reappointed:** James Campbell, Aaron Clouse, Kevin Deramus, Steven Dralle, Terry Hazlett, Dwayne Howerton, Don Janes, Ricky Reeves  
**Outgoing:** None

### EMS Education

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**Reappointed:** Christopher Nations  
**Newly Appointed:** Charles Myles II  
**Outgoing:** Lee Gillum

### EMS Medical Directors

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**Reappointed:** Dr. Elizabeth Fagan, Dr. Mark Sparkman  
**Newly Appointed:** Dr. Russell Baker, Dr. Keegan Bradley, Dr. Richard Bradley, Dr. Erin Lincoln, Dr. Jessica Wentling, Dr. William Wright  
**Outgoing:** Dr. Neil Ghandi

### Injury Prevention and Public Education

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**Reappointed:** Marissa Abbe  
**Newly Appointed:** Kathryn Gomez, Blake Milnes, Jeffrey Rollman  
**Outgoing:** Suzanne Curran, Jennifer Northway

### Pediatrics

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**Reappointed:** Sondra Epley, Dr. Jessica Naiditch, Christi Thornhill (Chair)  
**Newly Appointed:** Dr. Ziyad Makoshi, Meagan Pantuso  
**Outgoing:** Dr. Erin Lincoln, Sam Vance

### Stroke

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**Reappointed:** Dr. Avni Kapadia, Dr. Saud Kahn, Dr. Sean Savitz (Vice-Chair)  
**Newly Appointed:** Sarah Andrews, Joseph Dominguez, Dr. Farzan Ghodsianzadeh  
**Outgoing:** Victoria Cairns

### Trauma Systems

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**Reappointed:** Dr. Raul Barrera (Vice-Chair)  
**Newly Appointed:** Suzanne Curran, Chancy Lay, Dr. Caroline Park  
**Outgoing:** Dr. Timothy Nunez, Shawn Patton, Kate Schaefer

# NEWS AND LINKS



## NHTSA's EMS Update

Learn more about current projects and efforts in EMS from NHTSA and its Federal partners.

[Learn more](#)

## CDC Newsroom

View the latest CDC public health news and press releases.

[Learn more](#)

## The Bulletin

The *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*.

[Learn more](#)

## Washington Update

Bi-monthly newsletter of the National Association of State EMS Officials.

[Learn more](#)

## EMSC Pulse

A digest of information about the pediatric emergency medical care community.

[Learn more](#)

## Integrated Healthcare

Focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.

[Learn more](#)

## EMS/Trauma Systems Links

### GETAC

Visit the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council web page to view council, committee, and meeting information.

### Rules

Links to the Texas Administrative Code rules.

### Disciplinary actions

Public notice of disciplinary action by the Department of State Health Services and the Consumer Protection Division.

### Staff contact

Contact information for the EMS Trauma Systems staff and programs.

Questions, comments, or suggestions about *Texas EMS Trauma News*? Contact us at [EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us).



External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services.