
GETAC Recap

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) met Monday, November 20, 2006, in Dallas during Texas EMS Conference. The council unanimously approved the minutes from its August 11, 2006, meeting and heard reports from the chair, committee/task force chairs and Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff.

Chair Report: Chair Edward M. Racht, MD, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the conference.

Dr. Racht discussed the committee structure of GETAC, explaining that there are eight standing committees and several task forces. He said his intention is to make improvements to the council's procedures to ensure they are efficient and effective.

He also reminded members that they must complete the Texas Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act training before December 31, 2006. Failure to complete both training videos can result in suspension from committees and/or the council.

Dr. Racht asked Steve Janda, unit director of the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMSTS), to present the 2007 meeting dates for GETAC. They are as follows: February 21-23, 2007, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Austin; May 23-25, 2007, at the Hilton Austin Airport; August 22-24, 2007, at the Hilton Austin Airport; and November 17-19 in

Houston in conjunction with Texas EMS Conference 2007. These dates will soon be posted on the OEMSTS website (www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/ems).

Applications for GETAC committees were available on the website under the News/Features section. The deadline to turn in applications was January 2, 2007.

Dr. Racht announced the resignation of Gary Cheek, RN, EMT-I, from GETAC and expressed appreciation for his service.

Staff reports: Kathryn C. Perkins, assistant commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services, reported that reimbursements for EMS providers who responded for Hurricane Katrina should be completed by December.

Ms. Perkins said she has attended several meetings concerning the DSHS Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR). She also noted that 60 bills have been pre-filed by elected officials for the upcoming 80th Texas Legislature, and approximately half of these may impact the DSHS Regulatory Division. She invited stakeholders to monitor Senate Bill 28, "relating to transferable physician order for life-sustaining and related treatment," which may have a significant impact for EMS providers.

Mr. Janda gave an update on the state EMS and trauma systems funding program. He said 245 Texas hospitals had achieved trauma designation status: Level I – 13; Level II – 10; Level III – 41; and Level IV – 181. There are 11 hospitals in active pursuit of

designation.

Maxie Bishop Jr., state EMS director, briefly discussed news from the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT), reminding the council that Texas will go to computerized testing through NREMT starting January 1, 2007, and students will begin applying and paying online. He also asked all coordinators to go online and register for the program, and DSHS will begin reviewing them for approval.

Linda Jones, program manager of the Environmental Epidemiology and Injury Surveillance Group, said her group is looking to acquire an intern through a fellowship program to assist with the workload. Ms. Jones also discussed three project grants that have been approved for needed programs.

Combined EMS and Air Medical Committees – EMS Committee Chair Pete Wolf and Air Medical Committee Chair Shirley Scholz reported that the committees discussed EMS subscription rule 157.11. Both committees reviewed and voted to proceed with the necessary steps for the proposed draft. The committees will vote whether to pass the subscription rule at the next meeting in February.

Air Medical Committee – Ms. Scholz reported that the committee continued discussion concerning liability and subscription plans. She told the council there were six questions sent to the Office of the Attorney General in regards to these subscription plans, and a response was received. The committee has considered adopting the CAMTS standards for the subscription plans but also is

looking for an alternative, state-approved plan.

EMS Committee – Chair Pete Wolf reported that the committee was updated on what the Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Task Force discussed at its meeting. The committee discussed the draft changes to DSHS Rules 157.12 and 157.13 as well as the recently drafted 157.11. The committee also discussed considering EMS as an essential service and the “gurney car” bills (HB 1126, SB 521).

Education Committee

Chair Jodie Harbert III reported that the committee looked at the 2002 National Instructor Guidelines and voted to replace the 1986 guidelines with the 2002 guidelines. The committee saw a presentation concerning the HIPAA compliance update for EMS educator programs. The committee also discussed and agreed to continue with the current hepatitis B immunization requirements for students.

Injury Prevention – In the absence of Chair Gary Kesling, PhD, Mario Segura, RN, reported that the committee was not able to hold a meeting because it did not have a quorum.

Medical Directors – Chair Steve Ellerbe, DO, reported that discussion topics included the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) draft that was provided for the meeting. The committee heard from the Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Task Force and also from a representative of the Stroke Committee.

Pediatric Committee – Chair Joan Shook, MD, reported that there needs to be more

information available to the public about pediatric concerns. Dr. Shook will be working with Greg Wilburn, coordinator for the DSHS Regulatory Division’s contract management functions, to create a website with this type of information.

Stroke Committee – In the absence of Chair Neal Rutledge, MD, GETAC liaison Mike Click reported for the committee. Discussion items included recommendations for the transport plan; recommendations for the training requirements; recommendations for the stroke facility criteria and how they will be designated; and coordination plans for the stroke facilities.

Trauma Systems Committee Chair Ronald Stewart, MD, reported that Jorie Klein, RN, vice chair, served in his place at the committee meeting. The committee discussed pediatric transfers by Level I and Level II designated trauma facilities, compared both levels and reviewed the application process for both levels.

Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) Strike Force – Leigh Anne Bedrich, RN, reported that a draft rule has been completed and an invitation has been extended to all committees for any further input or suggestions.

EMS and Trauma Regulatory Task Force – Co-Chair Dudley Wait reported the task force has met three times since the August GETAC meeting and has shown a great deal of progress. The task force also set up a survey booth area in the exhibition hall at Texas EMS Conference for those interested in providing input to this

task force. The next meeting will be January 10, 2007.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Task Force – Co-Chair Eric Epley reported that the suggested list of participants for this committee is still being finalized. There was also discussion about the ambus (ambulance-bus) and the advantages of it being part of evacuation plans.

Other reports/public comment on action items:

DSHS Preparedness Coordination Council – No one was available for this report.

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council – No one was available for this report.

DSHS Hospital Licensing Rules Review Workgroup – No one was available for this report.

Texas Foundation for EMS/Trauma Care – Jorie Klein, RN, reported that the bylaws have been approved.

General public comment: There was no general public comment at this meeting.

Action items: There were no actions items presented at this meeting.

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Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.