

Meeting Minutes

Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

February 24th, 2017

9:00AM

Wyndham Garden Austin

3401 Interstate 35 Frontage Road

Austin, Texas, 78741

Disclaimer: Meeting minutes will not be official until approved at the May 12th, 2017 Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting

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Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council member attendance at the February 24th, 2017 meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	COUNCIL MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Barnhart, Jeffery (Jeff)	X		Harbert III LP, Jodie	X	
Beeson D.O., Jeffrey	X		Isbell, Robert	X	
Clements, Michael (Mike)	X		Matthews LP, Ryan	X	
DeLoach, James (Mike)	X		Pickard RN, LP, Karen	X	
Dickerson, Linda W.	X		Scholz RN, Shirley	X	
Eastridge M.D., Brian	X		Tyroch M.D., Alan		X
Faske, Sheila	X		Vezzetti M.D., Robert	X	
Greenberg M.D., Robert	X				
STAFF MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	STAFF MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Crocker, Colin	X				
Guerrero RN, Jane G.	X				
Huss, Jon	X				
Schmider, Joseph	X				

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Robert Greenberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Dr. Greenberg:

1. Read the Vision and Mission,
2. Instructed Council members to introduce themselves
3. Recognized and welcomed back special guest Mr. Seth Christensen from the Governor’s Office

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Council discussed correcting the November, 2016 Council meeting minutes. In the November 2016 meeting, Dr. Tyroch noted what he believed was an error in the August 2016 meeting minutes on page 7. He was under the impression the Trauma Systems Committee item should be corrected to read, "GETAC agreed to proceed with the trauma facility assessment survey concept in support of the Committee's recommendation." In actuality, the August, 2016 meeting minutes were correct as written. The Council moved to approve the November 2016 minutes to reflect this correction.

Pending the corrections mentioned above, Dr. Jeff Beeson motioned to approve the November 2016 minutes and Judge Mike DeLoach seconded.

State Agency Reports

Associate Commissioner Report, DSHS Division for Regional and Local Health Services

David Gruber, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regional and Local Health Services gave a brief overview of his office's functions and points of intersection with the emergency healthcare system in Texas. According to Mr. Gruber, his division would not be disrupted by the state's administrative transformation process.

Bruce Clements (Preparedness Director, DSHS) reported on the State Medical Operations Center and the Hospital Preparedness Program. He also gave a summary of the state's Ambulance Bus (AmBus) program.

Dr. Greenberg asked if the state had resources to provide rabies immunizations. Mr. Gruber suggested anyone wanting the immunization or information about rabies contact his office. Dr. Greenberg asked if resources were available in every county and Mr. Gruber said they were available only at the regional health offices. Dr. Greenberg then asked if it was an obligation of the state to provide rabies immunizations. Mr. Gruber said his office would research the question and get back to the Council with an answer.

Associate Commissioner Report, DSHS Division of Regulatory Services

Jane Guerrero, RN (Director, DSHS Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination) reported revision of rules governing stroke, trauma, and regional advisory councils (RACs) will be delayed due to low departmental staffing levels secondary to the statewide hiring freeze. Drafts could possibly be forwarded to GETAC by February 2018. She also said maternal and fetal centers of excellence rule development had taken priority as law mandated those rules be in effect by March 1st, 2017. Jane Guerrero also reported the EMS rule packet had been processed. She commended Robert Friedrich and Joseph Schmider for their hard work on the rules. Council

Jane Guerrero indicated she was proceeding as if funding to the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems (OEMS/TS) would be level.

Legislatively, Ms. Guerrero said the OEMS/TS had already conducted bill analyses and cost estimates on over 50 bills potentially impacting EMS and/or trauma. Of particular note was House Bill 1148, which would create a system of administrative hubs for RACs.

Ms. Guerrero reported Local Project Grant (LPG) funding and disbursement processes had changed. The RACs have agreed to administer the process for this year, with the OEMS/TS allocating the funding directly to RACs via contractual agreements. She also noted the current LPG allocation amount had decreased to \$500,000 because of losses incurred by the Tobacco Endowment fund.

Jane Guerrero reported Extraordinary Emergency Funds (EEFs) were still available, should any entity need to apply. Dr. Beeson asked if a list of entities awarded EEFs was accessible online and Miss Guerrero replied she would be happy to provide such a list upon request.

Associate Commissioner Report, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section

Heidi Bojes, PhD (Associate Commissioner of Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section) reported on the Injury Program's activities and current status of the Texas EMS & Trauma Registries System.

Dr. Bojes said efforts to collaborate with stakeholders to improve data reporting and data quality were an ongoing priority. She reminded the Council that starting January 1, 2017, all stakeholders were expected to submit data in the XML (web-based) format. So far, the registry had received over 6,000 such files from the EMS community but only 21 from the hospital community. Dr. Bojes said her office and staff were continuing to work with hospitals to help streamline submission processes.

Dr. Bojes also reported that Texas EMS & Trauma Registries would be holding a data management course on April 10th and 11th in Beaumont, Texas.

Registry program staff are scheduled to meet with nine RACs this coming spring and summer and continued to hold educational webinars. Reports for GETAC, RACS and other interested entities were still being generated, upon request. Dr. Bojes reported a poisoning dashboard examining poisoning trends had been recently created. A data request form had also been developed for anyone requesting data from the registry. The form has been posted to the Texas EMS & Trauma Registries website <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/injury/data/Data-Requests.doc>.

Dr. Jeff Beeson asked about the status of EMS & Trauma Registries funding and how the Texas Department of Transportation was involved. Dr. Bojes explained the relationship. She said her office applied for funding in January and would know more August.

Dr. Bojes and Dan Dao (Manager, Texas & EMS Trauma Registries) explained the difference between a “data request” and a “report.” Data requests were generally customized, detailed inquiries concerning a specific issue. Reports, on the other hand, represented a broader area of interests, like leading causes of injuries, etc. Dr. Bojes and Mr. Dao suggested reports, especially larger ones, be channeled through the Council. Dr. Bojes suggested smaller data requests still be submitted directly to her office and did not think those necessarily needed to be vetted by the Council. Mr. Dao will report back to Council on the volume of reports. Mr. Dao also requested epidemiology personnel from the Injury Program or EMS & Trauma Registries present the data findings from any report requested by committees to the Council or committees themselves. Mr. Dao and Dr. Bojes agreed they would provide a list of standing reports available to the Council at the May 2017 GETAC meeting. Dr. Greenberg agreed to act as the Council liaison/point of contact to the registry on this issue for the time being. Dr. Beeson and Mike Clements also expressed interest in serving on a data-management work group or task force, should one be developed.

Texas Division of Emergency Management Report/Presentation

Nim Kidd (Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management [TDEM]) gave a presentation on TDEM’s role in emergency management and the interplay between EMS, trauma and the state’s emergency medical support functions.

DSHS Community Health Workers Program Presentation

Dr. Manda Hall (director, DSHS Title V – Maternal and Child Health) outlined the DSHS’s Community Health Workers program and the various training offerings and certifications involved. Dr. Hall offered to collaborate with the Education Committee. Jodie Harbert (chair, Education Committee) agreed to report on collaborative progress at the May 2017 GETAC meeting.

GETAC Committee Summary Reports

Air Medical Committee:

Ms. Shirley Scholz (committee chair) reported air medical quality improvement metrics were discussed. She said the intent was to make the metrics, once developed, available to RACs. She suggested introducing the idea at the next RAC chairs meeting in May. A work group had been formed to investigate the issue.

Also discussed was helicopter/fixed-wing staging during disaster situations.

No Council action requested.

Cardiac Care Committee:

Dr. Jamie McCarthy reported the Cardiac Care (CC) committee discussed best ways to disseminate a January 2017 press release from the American College of Cardiology regarding new reporting parameters to be included in the CathPCI Registry database.

Dr. McCarthy indicated his group received an update on Rider 67/Texas Heart Attack and Stroke Data Collection Initiative. He also said his group continued discussion regarding the formation of a working group (possibly in collaboration with the Medical Directors Committee and the EMS Committee) responsible for surveying Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to determine regional cardiac capabilities.

CC goals for the upcoming year included a “best practices for cardiac care” white paper and the regional gap analysis.

Dr. McCarthy concluded saying there were no action items for the Council.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee:

Mr. Eric Epley (committee chair) reported the Ambulance Bus program is looking to update several outdated buses.

Mr. Epley also reported that in less than a year, the DSHS Infectious Disease Control Unit has developed a personal protective gear “ensemble” program. The aim of this program is to disseminate full sets of appropriate infectious disease control “ensembles” to each of the regions.

Mr. Epley reported on Dr. Jason Aydelotte’s hospital survey of disaster preparedness for mass casualty incidents. The goal was to ensure emergency medical care clinicians knew and understood emergency management plans and coordinated with hospital preparedness staff in their respective facilities. Dr. Greenberg volunteered to help test a basic, emergency preparedness primer designed to improve this process.

Mr. Epley asked agenda item #13, “Review and possibly endorse the Texas Hospital Association’s Plain-Language Emergency Codes Workgroup findings” be carried-over to the May 2017 GETAC meeting.

Mr. Epley requested future May GETAC meetings be aligned with the annual Texas Department of Emergency Management Conference. He suggested potentially moving the May GETAC meetings to San Antonio or wherever the TDEM conference would be held in the future. Dr. Greenberg asked OEMS/TS and Mr. Epley to discuss the issue.

Education Committee:

Education Committee Chair Jodie Harbert reported the Education Committee continued to support “Stop the Bleed”/Hartford Consensus efforts. They plan to hold additional bleeding

control courses at the Texas Educators Summit 2017 in Galveston and the 2017 Texas EMS Conference in Fort Worth.

The committee has also continued discussions on ways to bridge the gap between military medic service and civilian EMT service.

Several Education Committee members (Lee Gillum, Scott Lail, and Jennifer Stout) have volunteered to serve on a work group examining the availability of paramedic and initial paramedic education in rural and frontier areas of Texas. This is collaboration between the Medical Directors, EMS and Education Committees.

Announcement: DSHS Coordinator Course April 19-21st and followed by the Texas EMS Educators Summit 2017 will be April 21st and 22nd in Galveston at the Moody Gardens.

No Council action was requested.

EMS Committee:

Dudley Wait (chair) reported the EMS Committee did not address agenda item #3 “Progress update from the EMS Committee and the Medical Directors Committee regarding the development of a position statement addressing privately operated vehicle transports for patients being transferred between medical facilities” or agenda item #15 “Update on progress to develop a sample medical directors agreement designed to address the gaps and/or differences between the Texas Medical Practice Act in the Texas Occupations Code and the Texas Medical Board rules in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 197, entitled: “Emergency Medical Service”, and the Texas Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Services rules in 25 TAC 157”. He said both items were presented in November in their “final form” and his committee had no further comments or updates regarding either. Dr. Greenberg stated he did not have the work products for those agenda items and asked Dr. Beeson and Mr. Wait agreed to resend them to Colin Crocker (OEMS/TS) for dissemination to Council members for review in May.

Mr. Wait reported on the EMS Committee’s discussion regarding identifying nomenclature in the EMS world. He stated a National EMS Advisory Council work group has been developed to investigate the issue.

Regarding agenda item #11 “Update from the EMS Committee working group on EMS personnel substance abuse”, Mr. Wait said the group met on February 23rd, 2017 and said exploration of the issue was still ongoing. Mr. Wait requested the item remain on the Council agenda for the May 2017 meeting.

Injury Prevention Committee:

Committee Chair Shelli Stidham reported the committee is still working on the *Evidence Based Strategies to Prevent Distracted Driving* document (Council agenda item #9). Ms. Stidham asked this item remain on the agenda for the May 2017 GETAC meeting.

An evidence-based fact sheet on childhood drownings and a user guide for the *Hospital Based Core Components for Hospital Based Injury Programs* are still under development.

Injury Prevention Committee work days for 2017 will be held on April 28th and July 28th. An October date is still being discussed.

Medical Directors Committee:

Chair Jeff Beeson, D.O. requested the following items remain on the agenda for the May 2017 GETAC meeting:

3. Progress update from the EMS Committee and the Medical Directors Committee regarding the development of a position statement addressing privately operated vehicle transports for patients being transferred between medical facilities

15. Update on progress to develop a sample medical directors agreement designed to address the gaps and/or differences between the Texas Medical Practice Act in the Texas Occupations Code and the Texas Medical Board rules in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 197, entitled: “Emergency Medical Service”, and the Texas Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Services rules in 25 TAC 157

23. Review and possibly endorse the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) *Appropriate Interfacility Patient Transfer* document

Dr. Beeson reported on the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials State Medical Director’s Advisory Council meeting. Some of the more notable topics of discussion included naloxone use, the care of working dogs among first responders, and EMS funding issues at state levels.

Pediatrics Committee:

Sally Snow, RN, (committee chair) introduced herself as the new chair of the Pediatrics Committee. She requested presentation of the implementation plan for the Pediatric Facility Recognition Program be deferred until November 2017. It had been previously scheduled for the August 2017 GETAC meeting, but Ms. Snow said many of her committee personnel had scheduling conflicts and wouldn’t be able to meet that deadline.

Ms. Snow requested the American College of Surgeons’ Pediatric Equipment List be posted to the DSHS Pediatrics Committee web page.

Stroke Committee:

Neil Rutledge, M.D., (committee chair) gave a brief update on the Texas Heart Attack and Stroke Data Collective Initiative. He urged interested stakeholders in attendance to pick up

informational materials at the GETAC sign-in table. He requested initiative updates remain on the Council agenda for future GETAC meetings.

Dr. Rutledge said he sent the Society of Neurointerventional Surgery's transport bypass guidelines to DSHS for posting to the GETAC web page.

Dr. Rutledge noted DSHS administrative stroke rules still had not been updated and encouraged the Council to urge the DSHS to make updating the rules a priority.

Dr. Rutledge requested agenda item #6, "Update on Stroke and Cardiac Care Committee suggestions regarding National EMS Information Systems data points and/or elements to be examined for the purposes of a state assessment" remain on the agenda for the May 2017 GETAC meeting.

Trauma Systems Committee:

Jorie Klein, RN (committee chair) reported the group reviewed the "Clinical Care" objectives from the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System. She said the clinical issues described in the plan concerning traumatic brain injuries, spinal injuries, shock, and open fractures should and will drive future committee efforts.

Mrs. Klein asked for clarification regarding the Trauma Systems Committee Registry Solutions Work Group/Data Management charge. It was agreed that a meeting with the state registry would be set up.

The Burn Center Work Group had an initial meeting earlier in the day. The purpose of the group is to provide guidance to Texas facilities seeking burn center verification. Mrs. Klein advised the work group should have recommendations for the May 2017 GETAC meeting.

Mrs. Klein asked for GETAC's permission to create a statewide coalition for "Stop the Bleed" efforts. Linda Dickerson motioned, Mike Clements seconded and the Council approved the request.

Item #14, "Review and possibly endorse The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's report *A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury*", will be pushed to the May 2017 GETAC agenda to allow for further discussion on disposition of documents.

GETAC Liaison Summary Reports

Texas EMS, Trauma, and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF):

Dinah Welsh reported strong stakeholder participation (over 200) at the Trauma and Emergency Health Care Day at the Capitol. The focus was trauma funding needs and preserving or finding new funding streams, should the driver responsibility legislation be repealed. Ms. Welsh

commended all who testified before House subcommittees entertaining bills impacting trauma and the Texas trauma system, especially H.B. 1148 (the creation of RAC administrative hubs).

Emergency Medical Services for Children:

No update given

Preparedness Coordinating Council:

No update given

Other Council Actions:

Mr. Eric Epley requested agenda item #20, “Announcement from Eric Epley regarding the San Antonio Community Collaborative” remain on the agenda for the May 2017 GETAC meeting.

Agenda item #1, “Review and possible endorsement of the revised version of the *GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Healthcare System*”, was discussed. Dr. Beeson suggested the document needed a definition of “CVD” and a closing statement. Dr. Greenberg agreed to create a closing statement and add it to the document for review at the May 2017 GETAC meeting. Dr. Beeson motioned to approve the document and the motion carried.

Mr. Jeff Barnhart reported the task force charged with examining the scope of mental health/behavioral health issues in emergency healthcare met earlier in the week. The group determined mental health issues impacted EMS and trauma and therefore most likely fell under the scope of GETAC. The group suggested creating an eleven-member task force consisting of law enforcement, EMS, hospital representatives, mental health practitioners, hospital social workers, and others. Mr. Barnhart said the group would reach out to appropriate members in the coming weeks and months.

After deliberation by the Council, Linda Dickerson moved for the creation of the eleven-member task force and Mike Clements seconded. The motion carried. Mr. Barnhart agreed to lead the task force. The group will give an update at the May 2017 GETAC meeting.

Public Comment:

Tony Marquardt, president of Austin/Travis County EMS Association expressed concern EMS personnel voices were not adequately represented on GETAC. Dr. Greenberg presented the statutory basis of the Council and the composition and selection process for Committees of the Council. Dr. Greenberg also explained the proposed change to public comment effective at the May 2017 Council. Mr. Marquardt said he would support the practice of public comment being given at the beginning of future meetings.

Mr. Marquardt also expressed a concern that GETAC and the DSHS Infectious Disease Task Force were not communicating adequately, especially on policy-related aspects of infectious

disease response. He suggested Dr. Greenberg schedule a meeting between himself and Dr. Hellerstedt to address the issue.

Adjournment

There being now further business, Dr. Greenberg adjourned the meeting at 1:34 PM.

