

Meeting Minutes
Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
May 15, 2015 9:00am

The GETAC quarterly meetings can be viewed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/getac>. This webcast archive service is provided by the Texas EMS, Trauma, and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF).

Council Members

Attendance	Name	Position (representing)
X	Vance Riley, LP	Fire Chief, Chair
	Nora Castañeda-Rivas	Public Member
X	Mike Click, RN	Rural Trauma Facility
	James (Mike) DeLoach	County EMS Provider
X	Linda W. Dickerson	Public Member
X	Robert D Greenberg, M.D.	Emergency Physician
	Jodie Harbert III, LP	EMS Educator
	Ryan Matthews, LP	Private EMS Provider
X	Jeffrey Beeson, D.O.	EMS Medical Director
	Karen Pickard, RN, LP	EMS Volunteer
X	Shirley Scholz, RN	EMS Air Medical Service
	James D. Williams, Lt.	Fire Department
X	Brian Eastridge, M.D.	Urban Trauma Facility
X	Alan H. Tyroch, M.D.	Trauma Surgeon
X	Robert Vezzetti, M.D.	Pediatrician

Department of State Health Services Staff

Attendance	Name	Position
X	Kathryn C. Perkins, RN	Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services
X	Renee Clack, LNFA	Director, Health Care Quality Section
X	Jane G. Guerrero, RN	Director, Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination
X	Joseph Schmider	State EMS Director, Office of EMS and Trauma Systems
X	Colin Crocker	State Trauma Director, Office of EMS and Trauma Systems

Reading of the Vision and Mission Statement

GETAC Chair Chief Riley read the vision and mission statement.

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am on Friday, May 15, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin, Texas. A quorum of the members was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Dr. Beeson to approve the meeting minutes from February 20, 2015. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

Chair Report and Discussion

Chief Riley welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that Item 1, CE for stroke is to be postponed until the August meeting.

Assistant Commissioner Report, Division for Regulatory Services

Kathryn C. Perkins, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services reported on the highlights on the legislative session, the FY16/17 budget status, Sunset legislation, the transfer of certain DSHS occupational regulatory programs, and the consolidation of HHSC enterprise agencies. Other legislative bills of interest to EMS Trauma Systems include:

- [HB 1437](#) – re: dedicated accounts in general revenue to fund trauma facilities and EMS
- [HB 2131](#) – re: the designation of centers of excellence to achieve healthy fetal outcomes
- [HB 3077](#) – re: funding of trauma facilities, EMS and emergency medical air transportation; includes provisions related to the red light camera fund;
- [HB 3433](#) – re: level of care designations for hospitals that provide neonatal and maternal care;
- [SB 424](#) – re: licensing & regulation of hospitals; increasing amount of administrative penalties assessed or imposed against certain hospitals; authorizing the imposition of a fee;
- [SB 1899](#) – re: the scope of EMT-P and Licensed Paramedic duties;
- [SB 1753](#) – re: the ID requirements of certain health care providers associated with a hospital;

The Local Projects Grant (LPG) was delayed due to contracts being transferred from DSHS to HHSC; delayed the publication of the grant from March to August.

State EMS/Trauma System Report, Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination

Jane Guerrero, Director of the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination welcomed new staff members Nicole Swain and Emily Cave. Reported on the 2015 and 2016 next meeting dates and locations, stabilization of trauma and stroke facility designations, better utilization of EEF funds, and the continued use of the trauma add-on for FY16.

Assistant Commissioner Report, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section

John Villanacci reported on the current staffing and program activities at of the EMS/Trauma Registries, a TxDOT grant request, the linked TxDOT crash data with EMS and hospital records, anticipated certification for NEMSIS 3.3.4., concerns with the frequency of NEMSIS version changes, current beta-testing of National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB) XML files (a way hospitals can provide batch data), the injury severity score calculator is in beta-testing, and a user guide stakeholders requested has been developed and is available on the website.

Dr. Beeson: We need to think about the future sustainability of EMS/Trauma Registries in ways other than unsustainable grant funds.

Assistant Commissioner Report, Division for Regional and Local Health Services

Dave Gruber reported on response activities during recent tornado activity, The Sunset Commission review of core public programs, Ebola and Ebola / infectious disease response and funding, and identified Ebola (infectious disease) hospitals in Texas: Texas Children's for pediatric, UTMB for general, and UT Southwestern.

Preparedness Coordinating Council (PCC)

This was included under item 8.

Standing Committee / Task Force Reports

Chief Riley asked if the new procedure for written summaries of standing committees is in place yet. (Committees are to discuss only the actionable items, and the summary report form will be projected on the screen instead of discussed aloud.) Jane Guerrero reported that the form/process is not in place yet, but will be for August.

Air Medical Committee

Shirley Scholz reported the MOA to be completed and forwarded to enable its use for fixed wing providers, and a planned interim meeting in June.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Cardiac Care Committee

Dr. Smalling reported on the highlights of the national STEMI care data from the ACTION registry and a CDC report in the same time period, review of the EMS-Trauma System strategic plan, announced that a STEMI Texas meeting would be held in Dallas on October 23 and 30th.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee

Mark Montgomery reported on the roll-out of and funding for training for Ebola preparedness and other high consequence diseases. Texas EMTF has been working with the legislature to secure additional funding, regional EMTF asset has been arriving on disaster scenes before the official deployment, EMTF continue with standardization of equipment and the training.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Education Committee

Dr. Malone reported the committee would like to discuss development of the advanced practice paramedic with GETAC, advanced practice paramedics don't necessarily perform advanced procedures, but advanced evaluations of patients, and in consultation with the medical director, make decisions about the need to transport to the hospital, a clinic, or instructed to their personal doctor the next day.

Public Comment on this item:

One commenter encouraged the group to look at best practices that EMSC has funded.

No action was required for this agenda item.

EMS Committee

Tammy Kayea reported on CCMP rule discussion, EMS committee endorsement of the pediatric guidelines document will be delayed until more feedback is received, the first ever National Rural EMS Conference was held in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Consistency of surveys (by EMS Compliance across the state), and patient care reports. Pediatric transfer guidelines will be voted on in the next committee meeting, and the committee will look at the issue of using two separate data registry systems when the next version of NEMSIS is implemented.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Injury Prevention Committee

Shelly Stevens-Stidham reported on the review of Hospital Based Injury Prevention Components, evidence based injury prevention strategies, the American Trauma Society has developed an injury prevention coordinator's course and is a precursor for an injury prevention coordinator certification. The next interim meeting will be Friday, July 31st in Austin.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Medical Directors Committee

Dr. Beeson, reported the committee approved a motion regarding the pediatric recognition program that is being considered on today's council agenda item 12, although there were some concerns about the equipment list, a position statement about patients with behavioral problems was considered and discussion addressed alternative destinations for such patients. The committee asked for this to be on the council's agenda. The committee suggests that the GETAC chair create a task force to look at the specialty of community health paramedic, and ask that item 14 of today's GETAC agenda be moved to the next meeting. There was discussion of the issue of EMS students riding on an ambulance, who legally fall under the direction of the provider, but often the medical director has no knowledge of these ride outs; item 6 of the agenda addresses this, but there is no recommendation for action. DSHS is developing rules to incorporate this.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Pediatric Committee

Dr. Macias reported three new members to the committee were introduced, The National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) had a piece in the JAMA Pediatrics that received 8 media recognitions. With the information referred to in that article, the committee is considering pilot projects in Texas to improve pediatric readiness. Dr. Macias recommended that the council postpone action until August on item 11 until the EMS, Air Medical, Trauma Systems committees and the pediatric committees of RACs have reviewed the document and provided feedback. The committee gives kudos to the Epi staff for taking the pedi committee's requests and crafting reports that are meaningful to the pediatric community. The strategic plan review / update was submitted.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Stroke Committee

Dr. Neal Rutledge reported the committee did not have a quorum of members at their meeting, no official action was taken.

No action was required for this agenda item.

Trauma Systems Committee

Jorie Klein reported presentations from RACs pointed out that most need more communication and better sharing of data; review of data from the Texas Trauma Registry and discussed how it could be used for Quality Improvement purposes. The committee advocates for a protected statewide performance improvement process.

No action was required for this agenda item.

GETAC Liaison Summaries

Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)

Dinah Welsh reported on the recent legislative session activities and responses by TETAF including legislative efforts to repeal the driver responsibility program. Of interest is HB 80, related to texting while driving.

EMS for Children State Partnership update

Sam Vance reported on the Voluntary Pediatric EMS Recognition Program, a multi-phase program established to recognize EMS agencies that implement standards that improve pediatric care. The program has been endorsed by the EMS, Pediatric and Medical Directors committees, and vetted through RAC chairs. The program will be piloted in RAC A this fall. The full draft of the program is on the EMSC website.

Discussion, public comment, and possible action on the following items

1. Stroke specific continuing education requirements for EMS personnel certification and recertification. Report from the Education Committee workgroup.

This item was postponed until the August meeting.

2. Position statements on certain situations during which EMS or air medical providers may be overused or inappropriately mandated for inter-facility transfers.

This item was postponed until later in the meeting.

No action was taken on this issue.

3. Update from state EMS director on Interstate CompAct (Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate CompAct) issue

Chief Riley stated that this is in process and any questions should be directed to Joe Schmider, State EMS Director.

No action was taken on this issue.

4. Support Infectious Disease Response Units as recognized components of the Emergency Medical Task Force system

Item was postponed until the August meeting.

No action was taken on this issue.

5. Information sharing for high-consequence infectious disease

Item was postponed until the August meeting.

No action was taken on this issue.

6. EMS provider medical director notification of Educational Training Agreements between EMS Educational Programs and EMS Provider Organizations

No action was taken on this issue.

7. Freestanding emergency departments and other facilities providing emergency care and the potential categorization or designation of such entities

A task force was created at the last meeting and will meet after the legislative session is completed.

This item was postponed until the August meeting.

8. ST Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) as a reportable disease

Dr. Greenberg questioned if this qualifies as a reportable disease and the council had previously asked Dr. Smalling to provide more information. Dr. Beeson reported that STEMI is recorded in data, just not reported to public health. Chief Riley indicated his understanding is that only infectious diseases are reportable.

There was no action on this item.

9. Report from work group regarding air medical programs that may be engaging non- EMS and non-hospital entities to dial them directly in an emergency possibly bypassing the 911 system
There was no action on this item.

10. How to improve the sharing of a medical facility's patient outcome data with EMS providers

Joe Schmider explained that it's clear in law that hospitals can share information with EMS, but there needs to be some facilitation to make it happen. Dr. Beeson pointed out that it may more easily be shared through shared databases, such as a state information exchange.

This item carried over to the August meeting.

There was no action on this item.

Public Comment re: Item 10

Five comments were made related to the difficulty of hospitals sharing patient specific outcome data with EMS providers. All commenters included the elements of workload and lack of resources as probable causes.

One comment was made related to EMS having trouble getting new people involved in EMS; advocated involvement by new people, and encouraged all to recruit new people. Invite someone new to join us in our meeting.

11. Report on Pediatric Transfer and Transport Guidelines from Charles Macias, MD, MPH

No report was given

12. Pediatric EMS Recognition Program

Sam Vance, EMSC, presented information on this item and asked for GETAC endorsement.

13. National EMS Reassessment

Sam Vance presented information on this item, including key reassessment performance measures reported for Texas, and was available for questions.

14. Gaps (breaks in continuity) between The Medical Practice Act, Texas Medical Board (TMB), Rule 197 and Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 157

This item was postponed until the August meeting.

No action was taken on this issue.

15. Review and update of The Strategic Plan for the Texas EMS/Trauma System

Dr. Eastridge presented the latest draft of the strategic plan. The document was entitled: "Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Healthcare System." The original title of the 2002 document was, "A Strategic Plan for the Texas EMS/Trauma System." There was discussion about the possible change, but no resolution occurred. A motion to change the name was made, but there was no vote on the motion.

No action was taken on this item.

16. Renaming the Texas Trauma and EMS System strategic plan report

Dr. Greenberg recommended that the plan is named as the statute reads, not as renamed. Chief Riley questioned changing the name from statute language, DSHS staff recommended sticking with the language in the law. There was discussion to revisit this item at the interim meeting in July.

No action was taken on this item.

Motions

Item # 10

MOTION by Dr. Beeson: For GETAC to request that the DSHS commissioner or assistant commissioner write a letter to address the facts, including a specific citing of the law, and support the sharing of data (including outcome data) between EMS and hospitals.

MOTION PASSED.

Item#12

Pediatric EMS Recognition Program

MOTION by Dr. Tyroch – Endorse the EMSC Recognition Program.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Greenberg – I'm opposed, as it reverts to the process of specifically naming individual pediatric equipment/supply items, which inappropriately occupies regulatory personnel with the trivial counting of items and does not provide sufficient flexibility for the medical director to accomplish care of pediatric patients.

MOTION PASSED.

Item 13: General Public Comment

No public comment was presented at this point.

Item 14: Review and List Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Items will be compiled and emailed to the department for processing.

Item 15: Next Meeting Date

August 21, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Austin, Texas.

Item 16: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm