

Approved Meeting Minutes
Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
November 21st, 2016 4:00 pm -
Hyatt Regency Dallas
300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75207

Disclaimer: These meeting minutes will not be official until approved at the February 24th, 2017 Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting.

Video recordings of GETAC quarterly meetings may be viewed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/getac>. This webcast archive service provided courtesy of the Texas EMS, Trauma, and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF).

Table 1: The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council member attendance at the November 21st, 2016 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
Clack LNFA, Renee	X		Schmider, Joseph	X	
Crocker, Colin	X				
Guerrero RN, Jane G.	X				
Perkins RN, Kathryn	X				

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Robert Greenberg called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. All members were present. Dr. Greenberg:

1. Read the Vision and Mission,
2. Instructed council members to introduce themselves
3. Announced Dr. Jeff Beeson would be late
4. Recognized special guests Ms. Brigette DeChant from Representative Sarah Davis’ office and from Mr. Seth Christensen from the Governor’s Office

Review and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Brian Eastridge motioned to approve the August 26th, 2016 minutes and Linda Dickerson seconded.

Note: Dr. Tyroch noted an error in the minutes on page 7. 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." The meeting minutes were actually correct as written. The correct version reads: "GETAC agreed **not** to proceed with the trauma facility assessment survey concept in support of the Committee's recommendation. The motion carried to endorse the Trauma System Committee to conduct a statewide analysis of the Texas Trauma System needs regarding trauma facilities per trauma service area using the ACS's Committee on Trauma scoring methodology document."

State Agency Reports

Assistant Commissioner Report, Division for Regulatory Services

Kathryn C. Perkins, Assistant Commissioner for the Division for Regulatory Services, reported on the transformation changes based on the Sunset Report passed last legislative session. Ms. Perkins stated she has consistently made the case for the Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination to stay at the DSHS as a public health program. She also reported it is still listed as such on the DSHS organizational chart but that changes to organizational structure may still take place. Ms. Perkins then stated EMS compliance managers have been reorganized directly under Jane Guerrero (Director, Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination) in the reporting hierarchy. According to Ms. Perkins, HHS and DSHS organizational charts should be published by the end of December.

Ms. Perkins informed the council the agency had made an error in the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for 5111 Fund monies and did not request the full amount needed. The Legislative Budget Board, the Commissioner, and the Executive Commissioner have acknowledged the mistake and have reported they will be working together to resolve the issue. Ms. Perkins said status on resolving the error won't be known until after the legislative session begins. The agency has also submitted an Exception Items request to replace repurposed Tobacco funds. She noted that the Tobacco Fund is shared with two other programs at DSHS as well.

Ms. Perkins reported the legislative filing period had begun and noted there were three bills seeking to repeal the Driver's Responsibility Program, two bills to prohibit red light cameras, and at least two bills regarding how agencies utilize deferred adjudication in licensure. She also noted there was a bill related to handguns and first responders (H.B. 56) and encouraged all in attendance to review the bill.

Ms. Perkins recognized the service and retirement of Renee Clack, the outgoing Healthcare Quality Section Director for Regulatory Services at the DSHS. Kathy Perkins then announced her own retirement, effective November 30, 2016. In her final address to council, she encouraged all EMS

and trauma system stakeholders to “keep moving forward and keep the patient foremost in your minds”. Dr. Greenberg thanked Kathy Perkins for her years of service and dedication. On behalf of the Education Committee and GETAC, Jodie Harbert then presented Kathy Perkins with The Partnership, Leadership, and Vision Award.

Jane Guerrero then gave a trauma system report. Highlights of the report included:

1. The number of trauma facility designations is holding steady at 288;
2. Fluctuation in stroke facility designation numbers is primarily due to changes in ownership at the facility level;
3. Extraordinary Emergency Funds (EEFs) have been completely expended for FY 16, a first for the department. Two EEFs have been funded so far this fiscal year;
4. The department is actively recruiting and hiring for several open EMS specialist positions;
5. Neonatal designation program is in the process of roll-out. The American Academy of Pediatrics and TETAF will conduct the onsite facility surveys. Both organizations have completed initial pilot surveys;
6. The department is working with the Perinatal Advisory Council to develop maternal levels of care rules;
7. Rule development for trauma and Regional Advisory Councils is still on hold due to staffing constraints within the department;
8. EMS rules are still being reviewed and will soon go to the Executive Commissioner for review, comment and potential publication
9. The next EMS Conference will be held in Fort Worth in 2017.

Associate Commissioner Report, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section

Leticia Nogueira,, PhD, Director of Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section, reported on the Injury Program's activities and current status of the Texas EMS & Trauma Registries System. Highlights from Dr. Nogueira's report included:

1. All custom legacy questions have been removed from National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) registry question set

2. 95% of custom legacy questions have been removed from the National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB) registry question set
3. Beginning January 1, 2017, all stakeholders are expected to submit data in the XML (web-based) format within the legally specified timeframe
4. Should stakeholders have issues or problems complying with the January 1 deadline, registry staff will be available to work with them on a one-on-one basis.
5. Injury Program staff conducted two educational webinars over the last quarter; one focused on account management and the other on the transition to NTDB and NEMESIS

Assistant Commissioner Report, Division for Regional and Local Health Services

Dr. Greenberg said that while Associate Commissioner David Gruber wouldn't be in attendance to give a report for Regional and Local Health Services, Mr. Gruber has agreed to give the council an update on his division's charge and activities at the February, 2017 GETAC meeting.

GETAC Committee Summary Reports

Air Medical Committee:

Ms. Shirley Scholz (committee chair) reported a committee orientation process for new members was in the works. She also noted various committee members have been assigned to other committees to answer questions regarding air medical issues that might arise. Work to assess potential issues surrounding drones is ongoing.

No council action requested.

Cardiac Care Committee:

Catherine Bissell reported the Cardiac Care (CC) committee had not finished revisions to the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System but would submit proposed changes by December 15th.

Ms. Bissell said the committee members briefly discussed avenues for improving communication between the GETAC Cardiac Care committee and the Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Council of DSHS. The GETAC Cardiac Care Committee feels there needs to be a clearer definition of the roles of the Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Council (DSHS) and the GETAC Cardiac Care Committee. The committee requested the council help clarify the focus of the GETAC Cardiac Care Committee in this regard.

Dr. J. Neal Rutledge suggested a CC Committee and Stroke Committee liaison be appointed, per legislation, to advise the Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Council. Dr. Rutledge said he and

Dr. Wozniak would be willing to serve as liaisons. Dr. Greenberg noted Dr. Wozniak's term on the committee had expired and asked Dr. Rutledge if legislation still permitted non-committee members to serve as a liaison. He asked for clarification on the legislation. (Clarification was received later in the meeting and Dr. Greenberg confirmed Dr. Wozniak could serve as liaison. He continued on to say the law states there must be collaboration between the council and the committee but does not stipulate actual membership requirements.)

Dr. Greenberg asked Catherine Bissell and Dr. Rutledge to comment on council agenda items #6 "Stroke and Cardiac Care Committee suggestions regarding National EMS Information Systems data points and/or elements should be examined for the purposes of a state assessment" and #7 "Update on the Texas heart Attack and Stroke Data Collection Initiative". Catherine Bissell and Dr. Rutledge requested both items remain on the GETAC agenda for February 2017.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee:

Mr. Eric Epley (committee chair) reported that while most of the Disaster/EP meeting was taken up with revisions to the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System, his committee believed the process was worthwhile and beneficial.

Mr. Epley reported on Dr. Jason Aydelotte's survey of disaster preparedness for mass casualty incidents at the hospital level and reported on the Stop the Bleed.org effort.

Regarding standing agenda item #4, "Information sharing for high-consequence infectious disease", Mr. Epley said the Disaster E/P Committee will develop a formal request of the council regarding this item for the February, 2017 meeting. He requested the item stay on the agenda until at least then.

Chief Nim Kidd of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) agreed to give a report on TDEM's charge and activities as relating to EMS and trauma.

Education Committee:

Education Committee Chair Jodie Harbert reported that the Education Committee finished revisions to the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System.

Mr. Harbert reported the committee conducted/hosted a successful "Stop the Bleed" bleeding control course at the EMS Conference. Other similar events are likely to be scheduled in 2017.

A joint task force of the EMS, Medical Directors, and Education Committees, the Advanced Practice Paramedic Task Force, met on November 19th to discuss community paramedicine.

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 group will be a collaboration

between GETAC Medical Directors Committee, the EMS Committee, and the Education Committee.

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

Mr. Harbert asked the council to review and possibly approve the report created by the GETAC Joint Task Force for Advanced Practice Paramedicine in February 2017. Dr. Greenberg suggested the document be posted to the DSHS webpage for review. Mr. Harbert agreed to send the document to the DSHS Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination for posting. Review and possible approval of this document will be added to the February GETAC agenda.

EMS Committee:

Chief Tami Kayae reported in place of Dudley Wait, who was absent. Chief Kayea reported the EMS Committee had finished revisions to the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System and those revisions had been submitted to GETAC.

Chief Kayea said the committee approved the idea of forming a work group examining the availability of paramedic and initial paramedic education in rural and frontier areas of Texas. This group will be a collaboration between GETAC Medical Directors Committee, the EMS Committee, and the Education Committee. So far, six members of the EMS Committee have volunteered.

Chief Kayea requested council's clarification regarding 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". Dr. Greenberg suggested the task force review and possibly adopt the existing American College of Emergency Physicians document regarding the issue. Dr. Greenberg volunteered for the task force.

Chief Kayea said the EMS Committee endorsed the draft of the sample medical directors agenda (as mentioned in agenda item #14 "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"), but only does so with the caveat that a specific dollar per EMS incident amount not be mentioned in the sample medical agreement.

Per Education and EMS committee requests, the council endorsed the development of a work group examining the availability of paramedic and initial paramedic education in rural and frontier areas of Texas. Again, this group will be a collaboration between GETAC Medical Directors Committee, the EMS Committee, and the Education Committee. Judge Mike DeLoach volunteered to serve on the task force and Jennifer Stout of the Education Committee agreed to

act as lead. The task force will conduct an analysis and present findings to GETAC in February 2017.

Injury Prevention Committee:

Committee Chair Shelli Stidham reported the committee had finished edits to the “Objectives” section of the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System and would work to develop strategies for meeting those objectives in 2017.

Miss Stidham asked the council to review and possibly approve the position statement on childhood drowning prevention, per the council agenda. The council moved to endorse the document. Dr. Robert Vezzetti motioned to approve and was seconded.

The committee is still working on the *Evidence Based Strategies to Prevent Distracted Driving* document (council agenda item #9). Shelli asked this item remain on the agenda for February 2017.

Injury Prevention Committee work days for 2017 will be held on January 27th, April 28th, and July 28th. An October date is still being discussed.

Medical Directors Committee:

Chair Jeff Beeson, D.O., reported the committee moved to approve the report created by the GETAC Joint Task Force for Advanced Practice Paramedicine. Dr. Greenberg said the report would be reviewed for possible approval at the February 2017 GETAC meeting.

The committee discussed the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CAREs). Dr. Beeson asked the council about the possibility of endorsing cardiac arrests as a reportable condition to state registries. Dr. Greenberg said the issue was similar to the STEMI reporting issue, but would likely take legislation to qualify as a “reportable condition” the state is authorized to track. Dr. Beeson and Dr. Greenberg agreed a CARES update should remain on the agenda for the February meeting.

The Medical Directors Committee discussed the position statement document intended to serve as guidance addressing the issue of privately operated vehicle transports for patients transferred between medical facilities. Specifically, Dr. Beeson wondered if there were any laws in the state of Texas forbidding patients to use their own vehicles for transfers (or one requiring patients to be transferred by ambulance only). Dr. Beeson asked State EMS Director Joe Schmider to research the issue and contact Dr. Beeson with an answer before the February meeting, if possible. Joe agreed to do so.

Pediatrics Committee:

Charles Macias, M.D., (committee chair) reported the Pediatrics Committee developed a set of strategic initiatives to address their assigned objectives from the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System.

Other topics discussed at the Pediatrics Committee meeting were analytics for submersion reporting, state fatality team review updates, and general pediatrics reporting.

Dr. Macias reminded the council implementation plans for the Pediatric Facility Recognition Program will be presented at the May, 2017 GETAC meeting.

Dr. Greenberg recognized Dr. Macias for his service.

No council action requested.

Stroke Committee:

Neil Rutledge, M.D., (committee chair) reported his committee found the discussions surrounding the strategic planning process very engaging and fruitful.

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

Dr. Rutledge asked for council's guidance regarding development of a potential workgroup to assess potential law enforcement participation in GETAC. Dr. Greenberg said council agenda item #5 "Formation of a committee and/or task force to address time-dependent mental health issues" was intended to address the issue but had yet to be discussed.

Trauma Systems Committee:

Jorie Klein (committee chair) reported the majority of the committee's meeting was consumed by revising assigned objectives from the GETAC Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Health Care System.

Miss Klein asked the council to endorse the creation of a "burn center workgroup". She proposed the work group would have members from each verified burn center in Texas as well as members from facilities in the development phases of obtaining verification. Ms. Klein said Brian Eastridge, M.D. has agreed to chair the work group. Jorie proposed updating the council on progress at the February, 2017 meeting and then again in May.

Miss Klein recommended the Trauma Systems Committee Registry Solutions Work Group be reworked into a data management workgroup. Each GETAC committee would ideally have a member on the workgroup and the group would focus on registry data accuracy and validity.

Jorie updated the council in the Stop the Bleed efforts and said the development of medical kits was being discussed. She said kits containing tourniquets, gloves, etc. would be ideally made available to the public at an affordable price.

GETAC Liaison Summary Reports

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

Miss Courtney DeBower of TETAF reported the foundation is prepared for the upcoming legislative session. February 21st is Trauma and Emergency Health Care Day at the capitol and

Courtney encouraged all to attend. Courtney said TETAF has an active legislative work group that meets regularly and encouraged anyone wanting to join to contact her.

Emergency Medical Services for Children:

No report/update

Preparedness Coordinating Council:

Mr. Eric Epley gave a brief update on the council's October 21st meeting. Among the topics of discussion at the meeting were Emergency Medical Task Force activities, updates from the Texas Task Force for Infectious Disease, and a Zika presentation highlighting funding guidelines.

GETAC Taskforce on Freestanding Emergency Departments and Alternative Care Sites:

Emily Kidd, M.D. (task force chair) gave a brief review of the task force's final meeting on November 20th. Dr. Kidd said the "Non Traditional Emergency Care Facilities Designation Tool" created by the task force was finished and available for review. She reiterated the task force had no authority to designate freestanding emergency departments and the document be considered as a guidance tool only. Dr. Greenberg asked the council what action they wanted to take regarding the document. Chief Robert Isbell moved to approve the "Non Traditional Emergency Care Facilities Designation Tool" document and Dr. Jeff Beeson seconded.

The DSHS Office of EMS/Trauma Systems agreed to combine the statement of the tool's purpose and the matrix into a single PDF document and post to the GETAC website.

Dr. Greenberg directed the February, 2017 GETAC agenda include an agenda item reflecting the GETAC Taskforce on Freestanding Emergency Departments and Alternative Care Sites request to consider the possible designation or verification of all emergency departments, regardless of affiliation.

Other Council Actions:

Regarding agenda item #5, "Formation of a committee and/or task force to address time-dependent mental health issues", Dr. Greenberg said several committees had broached the idea of creating mental health and law enforcement subcommittees of GETAC. Dr. Greenberg asked the council if there was interest in having a group designed to discuss and address mental health issues in the emergency healthcare system. There was no opposition. Jeff Barnhart and Karen Pickard expressed interest in serving on the task force. Dr. Greenberg said he would appoint other members. Dr. Greenberg stated the task force's initial charge will be "to examine the scope of mental health/behavioral health issues in emergency care" and should include an examination of peer-reviewed best practices in addressing these issues.

Regarding agenda item #2, “Review suggested revisions, updates, and strategies regarding implementation of objectives from Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Healthcare System”, Dr. Greenberg suggested he incorporate committee comments into the plan and disseminate for public and council review before the February, 2017 GETAC meeting. All in attendance agreed.

Public Comment:

Tucker Anderson from Neighbors Health and the State Association of Freestanding Emergency Rooms (SAFER) stated SAFER supported the endorsement or publication of the “Non Traditional Emergency Care Facilities Designation Tool”. He also suggested qualified FSEDs be able to apply for level IV trauma designations in the future.

Adjournment

Dr. Greenberg adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.