

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Monday November 19, 2001, 5:00 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.

Corrected February 1, 2002 (bold/underline/italics)

Call To Order: Dr. Ed Racht, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Members present included: Ed Racht, MD; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Peter Wolf, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop, Jr., LP; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; Ronald Stewart, MD; John L. Simms; Mario Segura, RN; Frederick N. Hagedorn, MD; Joan E. Shook, MD; Raymond P. Holloway; Judge Arlene N. Marshall; Lance Gutierrez, RN, LP; Pattilou P. Dawkins, and Rebecca Campuzano-Salcido.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Maxie Bishop, to approve meeting minutes from August 24, 2001. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Ed Racht reviewed the draft revised GETAC Procedural Rules which address Standing Committee member appointments as well as the Chair's authority to represent GETAC's position on issues. The council members voiced no objection. He requested that anyone interested in remaining or becoming a Committee member to let the chair of the Committee know by phone, fax, or email as soon as possible and he asked the Committee Chairs to provide recommendations for new/re-appointments to him in January. Dr. Racht will be seeking further clarification from Texas Department of Health (TDH) attorneys regarding the concept of GETAC "position papers".

Department Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Associate Commissioner for Consumer Health Protection, briefed the council on current Department issues including the announcement of Dr. Eduardo Sanchez as new the Commissioner of Health; the initial efforts of the TDH Bioterrorism workgroup; the new TDH Regulatory Philosophy (R.E.A.C.H.); and comptroller's revised estimates for the FY02 Tobacco Endowment interest (down to ~ 3.58% from the ~ 3.8% of mid-September).

Kathryn Perkins, Chief, BEM, reported on current priorities including the January 1, 2001, implementation of new §157.34 (Recertification) and revised §157.33 (Certification) and §157.38 (Continuing Education); a proposal for utilizing the National Registry for initial testing of Texas EMS certification/licensure applicants; the status of the Emergency Care Attendant Training (ECAT) program (61 inquiries, 13 applications, 4 courses approved); proposed revised §157.130 (EMS and Trauma Care System Account) which will be on the November Board of Health agenda for final adoption; and the status of the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Resource Center pilot program (on hold because the Comptroller has not certified the \$150,000/year funding). Ms. Perkins also gave an update on the two Legislative Interim Studies regarding EMS availability and funding and on the progress of the Strategic Planning process.

David Zane, Director, Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance (Injury) Program, discussed the status of the TRAC-IT project; including that approximately \$2.7 million was distributed, of which 42 percent of the funds were used to purchase hardware (~500 desktop computers, 200 laptops, 169 palm pilots, 100 modems, and 20 file servers) and the remaining 58 percent for software. Mr. Zane introduced the Trauma Registry's new name: "EMS/Trauma Registry" and announced the establishment of a 10-member EMS/Trauma Registry multi-disciplinary workgroup to address various issues. He also reported that the Texas Legislature will be conducting an Interim Study on Suicide and that a new organization is in development, the Texas Injury Prevention Network.

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Committee Reports:

EMS – Mr. Wolf reported the committee members reviewed the draft of revised §157.38 and approved it with minor changes. Mr. Wolf stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

Education – Mr. Bishop reported the committee members reviewed the draft of revised §157.38 and approved it with minor changes. Mr. Bishop reported the Education and EMS Committees would like to meet together prior to the next GETAC meeting (date/place to be determined) to discuss §157.40 License Paramedic. He also stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

Medical Directors - Dr. Hagedorn reported that initial development of the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) is almost complete. They are looking at implementing a pilot within the next year. Dr. Hagedorn commended the workgroup that is trying to make the CCMP a challenging, but reachable goal for many EMS Providers. Dr. Hagedorn reported the committee members reviewed the draft of revised §157.38 and approved it with minor changes. He also stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

Trauma Systems – Mr. Gutierrez reported that Texas Hospital Association (THA) and Texas Organization for Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH) recommended that Texas not pursue the issue of Trauma Facility Department of Transportation signage. He also reported that there was a lively discussion regarding the issue of whether this committee should expand its name/focus to “Emergency Health Care Systems”. The consensus was that it was important that this committee retain its identity as the Trauma Systems Committee. Mr. Gutierrez stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

Injury Prevention - Mr. Segura reported that the Committee set goals to reduce injury mortality in Texas by 5% in 5 years and 10 % in 10yrs. The Committee would like these goals included in the Strategic Plan. Mr. Segura stated that the Committee would support and distribute information on injury prevention programs such as Child Safety Seats, Stop Red Light Running, etc. He also stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

Pediatric – Dr. Shook reported that the Committee reviewed the current draft criteria for Pediatric Facility categorization and recommended four levels versus two. She stated that the members discussed the current EMSC grant and possible issues to be addressed in future grant requests. Dr. Shook also reported on the combined Trauma Systems and Pediatric Committees meeting, stating that it had been very positive. A workgroup will be established to meet with BEM staff to work on the details of implementing pediatric categorization, including a site survey process in conjunction with trauma facility designation surveys. Dr. Shook stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

Rural Task Force Report – Mr. Wolf reported that the strategic planning surveys were mailed on October 19th and reminder cards will be sent out the last week of November. If anyone has not received a survey; they can contact him

or BEM. The surveys are due back to Dr. Racht by December 14th. He also reported that there was lively discussion regarding the needs and future direction for EMS in Texas.

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Diversion Task Force Report – Mr. Epley reported that they reviewed a diversion-tracking tool and is recommending that it be implemented by all hospitals statewide through the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to better evaluate the diversion problem and develop recommendations.

TxTRAC Report – Dr. Donna George, president, reported that that TxTRAC is working with BEM on finalizing a set of regional EMS/trauma system essential criteria for RACs that will ultimately be recommended for inclusion in §157.23 Regional Advisory Councils.

Discussion of Reports/ Public Comment on Action Items: GETAC members discussed the staff, Committee, and Task Force reports. Public comment was heard on the above issues, the majority of which was regarding the use of the National Registry for initial EMS testing.

Action Items:

A motion was made by PattiLou Dawkins and seconded by Maxie Bishop, adoption of the revised GETAC procedural rules. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

A motion was made by Lance Gutierrez and seconded by Rebecca Campuzano-Salcido, to recommend that the current draft of §157.38, with changes approved by the EMS, Education, and Medical Directors Committees and TDH legal review, be sent to the Texas Board of Health for proposal. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

A motion was made by F.E Shaheen and seconded by Pete Wolf, to recommend that BEM provide GETAC with quarterly reports on the National Registry. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

A request was made by Dr. Ed Racht to recommend an overview of the state/TDH BioTerrorism preparation by the February Meeting. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

General Public Comment: Public comment was heard on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and other general issues.

Meeting Dates for 2001 & 2002:

January 31, 2002 & February 1, 2002
May 30 & 31, 2002
August 22 & 23, 2002
November 2002 (in conjunction with the Texas EMS Conference)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.