

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council
Friday February 16, 2001, 1:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Call To Order: Dr. Ed Racht, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The members present included: Ed Racht, MD; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Peter Wolf, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop, Jr., LP; Lance Gutierrez, RN, LP; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; John L. Simms; Mario Segura, RN; Frederick N. Hagedorn, MD; Joan E. Shook, MD; Raymond P. Holloway; Judge Arlene N. Marshall; Rebecca Campuzano-Salcido; and Pattilou P. Dawkins. The member absent included: Ronald Stewart, MD.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Judge Arlene Marshall and seconded by Frederick Hagedorn, MD, to approve meeting minutes from November 19, 2000. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Edward Racht welcomed everyone and thanked the council, committees, and the EMS/trauma constituency for all the hard work that has been done during the past year since the council was established. Dr. Racht asked council members to consider travel reimbursement requests carefully in light of the fact that the funds for reimbursement are public monies. Dr. Racht also suggested that he would like educational sessions on current topics of interest to be presented at GETAC meetings; there was general agreement from the council members on this concept.

Stakeholder Organizations Presentations: Five Stakeholder Organizations presented information on their organizations:

Brain Injury Association of Texas – James Misko, MD

Texas Emergency Nurses Association – Muriel Lanford, RN

Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals – Windell McCord

Texas Association of Air Medical Services – Dennis Hebner, EMT-P

Continuing Education Credentialing Board For Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) - Liz Sibley

Additionally, Sandra Martin presented an educational session regarding the Travis County Child Fatality Review Team.

Department Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Associate Commissioner for Health Care Quality and Standards, briefed the council on current Department issues including the status of pertinent legislative bills and FY02/03 funding requests. He also reported on the proposed federal and state privacy regulations/bills that will have an impact on the EMS/trauma constituency if enacted.

Kathryn Perkins, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Management (Bureau), reported on current Bureau priorities including the hiring of new key staff members and the continued recruiting efforts for two designation coordinators; her recent presentation at the annual EMS Medical Directors conference; the upcoming EMS/Trauma Systems conference in Dallas on October 20th; the fact that the Bureau is receiving an increasing number of “open records” requests related to designation and system development; the status of FY02 EMS/trauma system funds and planning for FY03; specific proposed legislation that may impact the EMS/trauma constituency; and rotating of GETAC committee meetings.

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David Zane, Division Director of the Department's Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance (Injury) Program, introduced new staff and discussed the status of the TRAC-IT project. Mr. Zane asked the council for two volunteers to attend work sessions for the TRAC-IT project; Lance Gutierrez and Mario Segura agreed to represent GETAC at those sessions.

Committee Reports:

Trauma Systems - Mr. Gutierrez reported that the Committee is reviewing the Bureau's draft EMS/Trauma System Criteria in collaboration with the Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Councils (TxTRAC) Association. Other issues discussed included: minimum trauma treatment protocols; the TRAC-IT project; use of telemedicine in designated trauma facilities; hospitals seeking to change designation levels; and the BAC Task Force findings to date.

Injury Prevention - Mr. Segura reported that they established a mission, goals and objectives for the committee. He asked for approval of those from the council members.

Pediatric – Dr. Shook reported that the Committee discussed the results of the trial survey process for categorization of Pediatric Stabilization Facilities and any changes that might be necessary to the criteria as a result, as well as supporting Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) by assisting with development of standardized pediatric trauma treatment protocols.

Rural Task Force Report – Mr. Wolf reported that the task force discussed the needs in the rural areas of the state, such as a lack of comprehensive EMS/trauma systems, a major attrition of volunteers, the general inability to recruit and retain qualified personnel, the difficulty for education systems to meet EMS training, and a lack of funding sufficient to solve the problem. The task force will formulate a plan for a needs assessment (white paper) and will research potential solutions.

EMS - Mr. Wolf reported that the Committee worked on draft §157.xx (Re-Certification) and came to agreement to recommend approval by GETAC.

Education- Mr. Bishop reported that the Committee worked on draft §157.xx (Re-Certification) and came to agreement to recommend approval by GETAC.

Medical Directors - Dr. Hagedorn reported that the Committee worked on draft §157.xx (Re-Certification) and came to agreement to recommend approval by GETAC. Additionally, they agreed with a Bureau recommendation to pilot the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program.

Discussion of Reports: GETAC members discussed the staff, Committee, and Task Force reports.

Public Comment on Action Items: Public comment was heard regarding draft §157.xx (Re-Certification).

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Action Items:

A motion was made by Lance Gutierrez and seconded by Mario Segura, to recommend that the Texas Board of Health propose rule §157.xx (Re-Certification), with the following changes: add new language to lines 59 and 84 that states "clinically related operations;" change "enrolled" to "credentialed" on line 89; change "refresher" to "re-certification" on line 128; and add "initial" between "department's" and "written exam" on line 129. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

A motion was made by Maxie Bishop, and seconded by Raymond Holloway, to approve the mission, goals, and objectives developed by the Injury Prevention Committee. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

General Public Comment: Public Comment was heard on a number of issues.

General Council Discussion: Dr. Racht stated that language changes to current rules §157.33 (Certification) and 157.38 (Continuing Education) will be required to implement §157.xx (Re-Certification). The Bureau will work on finalizing §157.xx, §157.33, and §157.38 to take to the Board of Health for proposal at either their April or May meeting. The members then discussed the best approach for addressing the recommendations of the C. E. Task Force. It was decided that the EMS, Education, and Medical Directors Committees will meet together in May to work on this issue. Dr. Racht assigned review of the current rule, §157.40 (Licensed Paramedic), to the Education Committee. The council then agreed to the concept of rotating committee meeting times, so that no particular committee members always are required to come in to the quarterly meetings for two full days.

Meeting Dates for 2001:

May 10 & 11, 2001

August 23 & 24, 2001

November 18 & 19, 2001(w/EMS Conference)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.