

**Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council
Strategic Plan**

**Status of "Immediate" Strategies
August 1, 2004**

GOAL	STRATEGY	Plan Page #	ASSIGNEE	STATUS (8/1/04)
Integration	EMS/Trauma System stakeholder groups (e.g., THA, TAA) will educate all health care payers who reimburse for emergency/trauma care in Texas about the EMS/Trauma System beginning immediately and in an ongoing manner, as needed. These groups will collaborate and utilize creative methods (e.g., partnering and seeking grant funding) to disseminate a unified message to relevant groups/organizations (e.g., health care information and marketing leaders).	16	EMS Committee Trauma Systems Committee Pediatrics Committee Rural Task Force	Working – The Texas Trauma and Emergency Health Care Coalition developed a White Paper on the Texas EMS/Trauma System. This was used during the 78 th Texas Legislature and likely helped in the successful passage of HB-3588 and SB-1131. The Coalition has been dormant of late, but will likely be revived prior to the upcoming 79 th Session.
Public Education	GETAC, TDH, EMS, hospitals, and other appropriate stakeholder groups will appropriately educate state, regional, and local decision-makers and the public regarding EMS/Trauma Systems beginning immediately and in an ongoing manner.	20	GETAC	Working – See above. Additionally, the strategic plan was mailed to all legislators and stakeholder groups; posted on the Bureau's website; and TDH staff and various stakeholder organizations have met with a variety of legislators regarding EMS/Trauma System issues. And, early in 2004, GETAC and many stakeholders contacted state leadership regarding the EMS/Trauma System because of the pending re-organization of TDH.
Public Education	GETAC will increase consumer participation in its activities.	20	GETAC	Not started
Public Education	GETAC, TDH, and stakeholders will promote the continued appropriate implementation of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), including requisite education, in appropriate public places.	20	EMS Committee Medical Directors Committee GETAC	Working – GETAC reviewed and recommended re-adoption, with minor revisions, of the AED training rule, 157.41. The Texas Board of Health adopted the revised rule on 7/1/2004.

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Human Resources	Stakeholders will advocate for appropriate immunity for volunteer medical directors.	22	Medical Directors Committee	Working – A bill was passed last session addressing physician liability, but there were no specific provisions re: volunteer Medical Directors.
Education Systems	TDHBEM will monitor the implementation of National Registry testing and report to GETAC immediately, and on a quarterly basis.	24	TDHBEM	Completed – Basic NR testing implemented 10/1/02; Advanced NR testing implemented 2/1/03; and ECA NR testing implemented 11/1/03. NR staff gave Texas an update in Summer 2003 and will likely come again in the near future. TDHBEM has been reporting to GETAC on the status of implementation for at all GETAC meetings.
Research	TDHBEM will explore the potential for a process to approve variances to current regulations that are based on scientifically sound research principles (e.g., a licensed Physician's Assistant as the second provider on an ambulance).	25	TDHBEM	Completed – TDHBEM provided testimony to the Senate Inter-Governmental Relations Committee on their 2002 interim charge regarding EMS. SB529, passed by the 78 th Texas Legislature, clarified the state's authority to approve exemptions to current rules. The rule to implement this law was recommended by GETAC and adopted by the Board on 7/1/04.
Information Systems	GETAC will recommend to TDH that the current organizational placement of the Texas EMS/Trauma Registry be evaluated for appropriateness (i.e., Should the registry be placed within TDHBEM since original legislation directed TDHBEM be responsible for this activity and TDHBEM deals with the constituency on a daily basis? Does it better coalesce with the mission of the new TDH Center for Health Statistics?, etc.).	26	GETAC	Completed – No change was made.
Information Systems	TDHEPI will maintain uniform data elements and definitions and review periodically, with stakeholder input, to incorporate these data elements and definitions into information systems immediately, and in an ongoing manner.	26	TDHEPI	Working – Uniform data elements are established and there are current discussions regarding the possibility of a long-term committee/ad hoc group/task force under GETAC. Additionally, SB692 clarifies TDH's statutory authority to collect EMS run data.

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Legislation and Regulation	Stakeholders will explore and promote the passage of legislation that will mandate EMS and trauma care services as “Essential Services”.	28	GETAC	Working – The “Essential Services” concept was included in testimony provided by stakeholders and TDH staff to the Senate Inter-Governmental Relations Committee on their 2002 interim charge regarding EMS and more recently to individual legislative offices. However, no legislation was passed to implement this concept. Stakeholders have discussed bringing it up again during the 79 th Legislative Session. In FY2004, a Medical Transportation Task Force was established to look at a broad range of EMS Provider issues. The MTPTF is projected to complete its initial charges in the next couple of months.
Legislation and Regulation	GETAC, with stakeholder assistance, will advocate for the profession of EMS to be represented at the Health Professions Council.	28	EMS Committee	Working – TDHBEM explored the possibility of EMS being included in the meetings as an “ad hoc” member, however that has not occurred to date.
System Finance	TDH will explore methodologies to provide “upfront” monies to grantees that find it difficult to raise funds to purchase awarded items before receiving reimbursement.	29	TDHBEM	Completed – Upfront monies are provided where allowed by state law.
System Finance	Stakeholders will evaluate and promote the passage of the TDH exceptional item that will provide additional grant funds for EMS/Trauma Systems, enhance TDH’s ability to provide technical assistance/a comprehensive data system, and provide resources to implement the EMSC program.	29	All Committees/Task Forces GETAC	Completed – Stakeholder organizations were present at Legislative hearings regarding the TDH budget and filed legislation HB-3588 and SB-1131 and spoke in support of EMS Regulatory and System needs. Two new accounts were created by the passage of both bills. Monies began accumulating in these funds in early 2004. The rules for implementation were recommended by GETAC and adopted by the Texas Board of Health on 7/1//2004.
System Finance	Stakeholders will promote the passage of legislation to fund uncompensated EMS/trauma care.	29	GETAC	Working – See above. The passage of HB-3588 and SB-1131 address uncompensated trauma care in hospitals, but not uncompensated pre-hospital care.
System Finance	Stakeholders will promote the appropriation of all EMS fees to TDHBEM.	29	GETAC	Working – Stakeholders were present at Legislative hearings regarding the TDH budget and have spoken in support of EMS Regulatory needs; however, the 78 th Legislature did not pass such legislation.

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System Finance	Stakeholders (e.g., TAA) will request an evaluation of health care payer policies (i.e. Medicare, Medicaid, insurance companies, etc.) and recommend that patient transport not be a criterion for compensating EMS providers for emergency care (i.e., treat and release, response during MCIs, etc.).	29	EMS Committee	Working – A bill was filed directing a study on Medicaid reimbursement (SB598) during the 78 th Legislative Session, however it did not pass. It is expected that this issue will arise again during the 79 th Legislature.
System Finance	Stakeholders will recommend the establishment of appropriate benefits for EMS that are congruent with their police and fire counterparts.	29	EMS Committee	Working - Stakeholder organizations provided testimony on this issue to the Senate Inter-Governmental Relations Committee on their 2002 interim charge regarding EMS, however, no legislation was passed by the 78 th Legislature.
System Finance	GETAC, with stakeholder assistance, will recommend that the state establish Medicaid EMS reimbursement rate schedules that are congruent with the national Medicare reimbursement rate schedules.	29	EMS Committee	Working – Stakeholder organizations provided testimony regarding the bills that were filed to increase Medicaid reimbursement for EMS (HB110, HB111, HB112) as well as one directing a study on Medicaid reimbursement (SB598), however, none of these bills were passed by the 78 th Legislature.