

MEETING MINUTES 11/20/2006

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Monday, November 20, 2006, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Chair Edward M. Racht, MD called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Members present include: Edward M. Racht, MD; Pete Wolf, EMT-P, Vice Chair; Gary Cheek, RN, EMT; Mike Click, RN; Luis G. Fernandez, MD, FACS; Fredrick N. Hagedorn, MD; Jodie Harbert III, LP; Hector Longoria; Vance L. Riley, MPA, LP; Shirley Scholz, RN, CCRN, EMT-P; F.E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Joan Shook, MD; Ronald Stewart, MD; and Tivy L. Whitlock. Members absent: Marti VanRavenswaay.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Edward M. Racht, MD, and seconded by Jodie Harbert III to approve the meeting minutes from August 11, 2006. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Racht welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared and thanked them for attending the 2006 EMS Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Racht discussed the committee structure of GETAC, explaining that there are eight standing committees and several task forces. He said his intention is to make improvements to the council's procedures to ensure they are efficient and effective.

He also reminded council and committee members that they must complete the Texas Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act training before December 31, 2006. Failure to complete both training videos could result in suspension from committees and/or the council.

Dr. Racht asked Steve Janda, director of the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMSTS), to present the 2007 meeting dates for GETAC. They are as follows: February 21-23, 2007, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Austin; May 23-25, 2007, at the Hilton Austin Airport; August 22-24, 2007, at the Hilton Austin Airport; and November 17-19 in Houston in conjunction with Texas EMS Conference 2007. These dates will soon be posted on the OEMS/TS website.

Dr. Racht stated that applications for GETAC committees will be available on the OEMS/TS website starting the week after Thanksgiving for those that are interested in applying. The deadline to turn in applications is January 2, 2007 and should be either mailed, faxed, or emailed to OEMS/TS.

Dr. Racht reported that the 2006 GETAC Journey of Excellence Award will be presented on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 at the EMS Conference Luncheon.

Lastly, Dr. Racht announced the resignation of Gary Cheek, RN, EMT-I, from GETAC and expressed his appreciation and that of the Texas EMS/Trauma Systems community for Mr. Cheek's many years of service and leadership.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Staff Reports: Kathryn C. Perkins, assistant commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services, reported that reimbursements for EMS providers who responded for Hurricane Katrina should be completed by December.

Ms. Perkins said she has attended several meetings concerning the DSHS Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR). She also noted that 60 bills have been pre-filed by elected officials for the upcoming 80th Texas Legislature, and approximately half of these may impact the DSHS Regulatory Division. She invited stakeholders to monitor Senate Bill 28, "relating to transferable physician order for life-sustaining and related treatment," which may have a significant impact for EMS providers.

Mr. Janda followed with an update on the state EMS and trauma systems funding program. He also reported that 245 Texas hospitals currently had achieved trauma designation status: Level I – 13; Level II – 10; Level III – 41; and Level IV – 181. There are 11 hospitals in active pursuit of designation.

Maxie Bishop Jr., state EMS director, briefly discussed news from the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT), reminding the council that Texas will go to computerized testing through NREMT starting January 1, 2007, and students will begin applying and paying online. He also asked all coordinators to go online and register for the program; DSHS will soon begin reviewing them for approval.

Linda Jones, program manager of the Environmental Epidemiology and Injury Surveillance Group, said her group is planning to acquire an intern through a fellowship program to assist with the workload. Ms. Jones also discussed three project grants that have been approved for needed programs, and mentioned that she will be presenting the first EMS/Trauma Registry Data Quality Award on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 at the EMS Conference luncheon.

Standing Committee/Task Force Reports:

Combined EMS Committee and Air Medical Committee – EMS Committee Chair Pete Wolf and Air Medical Committee Chair Shirley Scholz reported that the committees discussed EMS subscription rule 157.11 and draft revisions. Both committees reviewed and voted to proceed with the necessary steps for the proposed draft. The committees will vote whether to pass the subscription rule at the next meeting in February.

Air Medical Committee– Chair Shirley Scholz reported that the committee continued discussions concerning liability and subscription plans. She informed the council there were six questions sent to the Office of the Attorney General in regards to these

subscription plans, and a response was received. The committee has considered adopting the CAMTS standards for the subscription plans but also is looking for an alternative, state-approved plan.

EMS Committee – Chair Pete Wolf reported that the committee was updated on what the Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Task Force discussed at its meeting. The committee discussed the draft changes to DSHS Rules 157.12 and 157.13 as well as the recently drafted 157.11. The committee also discussed considering EMS as an essential service and the “gurney car” bills (HB 1126, SB 521).

Education Committee –Chair Jodie Harbert III reported that the committee looked at the 2002 National Instructor Guidelines and voted to replace the 1986 guidelines with the 2002 guidelines. The committee saw a presentation concerning the HIPAA compliance update for EMS educator programs. The committee also discussed and agreed to continue with the current hepatitis B immunization requirements for students

Injury Prevention –In the absence of Chair Gary Kesling, PhD, Mario Segura, RN, reported that the committee was not able to hold a meeting because it did not have a quorum.

Medical Directors – Chair Steve Ellerbe, DO, reported that discussion topics included the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) draft that was provided for the meeting. The committee heard from the Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Task Force and also from a representative of the Stroke Committee.

Pediatric Committee –Chair Joan Shook, MD, reported that there needs to be more information available to the public about pediatric concerns. Dr. Shook will be working with Greg Wilburn, coordinator for the DSHS Regulatory Division’s contract management functions, to create a website with this type of information.

Stroke Committee –In the absence of Chair Neal Rutledge, MD, GETAC liaison Mike Click reported for the committee. Discussion items included recommendations for the transport plan; recommendations for the training requirements; recommendations for the stroke facility criteria and how they will be designated; and coordination plans for the stroke facilities.

Trauma Systems Committee –Chair Ronald Stewart, MD, reported that Jorie Klein, RN, vice chair, served in his place at the committee meeting. The committee discussed pediatric transfers by Level I and Level II designated trauma facilities, compared both levels and reviewed the trauma designation application process for both levels.

Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) Strike Force – Leigh Anne Bedrich, MA, LP, reported that a draft rule has been completed and an invitation has been extended to all committees for any further input or suggestions.

EMS and Trauma Regulatory Task Force –Co-Chair Dudley Wait, EMT-P, reported the task force has met three times since the August GETAC meeting and has shown a great deal of progress. The task force also set up a survey booth area in the exhibition hall at Texas EMS Conference for those interested in providing input to this task force. The next meeting will be January 10, 2007.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness –Co-Chair Eric Epley reported that the suggested list of participants for this committee is still being finalized. There was also discussion about the ambus (ambulance-bus) and the advantages of it being part of evacuation plans.

Other Reports/Public Comment on Action Items:

DSHS Preparedness Coordination Council – No one available to report.

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council – No one available to report.

DSHS Hospital Licensing Rules Review Workgroup – No one available to report.

Texas Foundation for EMS/Trauma Care – Jorie Klein, RN, reported that the foundation's bylaws have been approved.

General public comment:

There was no general public comment at this meeting.

Action Items:

There were no actions items presented.

Meeting Dates for 2007: February 21-23, 2007, May 23-25, 2007, August 22-24, 2007, and November 17-19 in Houston, Texas in conjunction with the 2007 EMS Conference.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.