

## MEETING MINUTES 11/21/2005

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Monday, November 21, 2005, 6:00p.m. – 8:57p.m.

**Call to Order:** Chair Edward M. Racht MD called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present included: Edward M. Racht MD; Maxie Bishop, Jr; Marti VanRavenswaay; Vance L. Riley; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; Mike Click, RN; Ronny Stewart, MD; F.E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Joan Shook MD, Professor; Shirley Scholz, RN, CCRN, EMT-P, CMTE and Pete Wolf, Vice Chair. Members absent: Hector G. Longoria; Frederick N. Hagedorn MD; Kris J. Gillespie, and Mario Segura, RN.

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by Shirley Scholz and seconded by Mike Click, followed by amendments offered by Pete Wolf, and another motion by Dr. Joan Shook that was seconded by Mike Click, to approve meeting minutes from September 2, 2005. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

**Chair Report:** Dr. Racht welcomed everyone to the meeting, and initiated his report by commending the Texas EMS and Trauma Systems community for its hard work during hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He noted that Texas had been recognized nationally for its outstanding efforts, and that the unified state response was validation that “we can do more as one than we can do as many.”

Dr. Racht announced that he knew of a medical director that had received his new EMS specialty license plates and thanked State EMS Director Terry Bavousett for his diligence in adding EMS medical directors to the list of those who qualify to display these special license plates on their private vehicles.

He reported that the National Scope of Practice draft was in its 4<sup>th</sup> version and had now been forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for its review, and the council would begin a “next steps” dialogue with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Dr. Racht stated that there was excellent stakeholder response that included approximately 55 applications for membership on the GETAC Stroke committee that was established by Senate Bill 330 of the 79<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislature. He announced the appointment of J. Neal Rutledge, MD, as committee chair and Mike Click as GETAC liaison to the committee. He also announced the appointment of the following members and their appointment terms: Joe Anzualda MD; Tim Berry, EMT-P, LP; Walter Buell, MD; Lee Buono, MD; Lester B. Collins III, MD; Brent Dalley, EMT-P; Liana Dawson, MD; Shirley DeBell, RN, BS; Ray Fowler MD; James Grotta, MD; Kimberly Lawson, RN; Anne Leonard, RN, MPH; Khalid Malik, MD; Michael Mohun, Jr., MD; Victoria Parada, MD; David Sherman, MD; and Kevin Wilson, MBA. The committee will be seated and given its charge in February 2006.

**Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Staff Reports:** Richard Bays, Assistant Commissioner for the Division for Regulatory Services, thanked all who participated in hurricane Katrina and Rita efforts. Mr. Bays reported that it was a tremendous learning experience and that DSHS is reviewing which components of its response plan worked well and what needed improvement. He asked for all to share any of their own ideas with the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination staff so that all public input can be collected for DSHS to review. He discussed the EMS provider reimbursement and invited stakeholder input into the process.

Mr. Bays also discussed upcoming changes in hospital rules as they relate to emergency preparedness, and stated that the role of regional advisory councils (RACS) in the state emergency preparedness plan would be further explored. He explained that there was still ongoing dialogue with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) related to the trauma designation of children's hospitals. Mr. Bays also reported that a vendor has been identified for the DSHS "niche hospital" study, and that he had recently submitted comments about niche hospitals to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Kathryn Perkins, director for Health Care Quality Section, reported that the work performed by RACs during the two hurricanes cemented their role in statewide emergency situations. She also discussed how the state's evacuation plan for the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) that calls for the availability of a high percentage of the ambulances available within appropriate proximity to Galveston underscores the need to address the funding of EMS. Ms. Perkins informed council members that DSHS has been doing 100% criminal background checks—including a review of both felony and misdemeanor records—for initial licensure and re-licensure of EMS individuals since 9-1-05, and stated that this is consistent with the direction in which other state professional licensure offices are also heading. An in-depth article about deferred adjudication will appear in an upcoming issue of Texas EMS Magazine, and will be disseminated to stakeholder via the usual list serves as well as being placed on the EMS\Trauma Systems website. Ms. Perkins also reported that the Hospital Licensing rules packet is moving forward to the DSHS Council for review.

Steve Janda, director of the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS), gave an update of EMS and Trauma Systems funding programs, and noted that approximately \$578,000 remains in the extraordinary emergency funds that are available to stakeholders. Mr. Janda reported that 229 Texas hospitals had currently achieved trauma designation status: Level I-13; Level II-9; Level III-40; Level IV-167; with approximately 15 hospitals in active pursuit of designation.

Linda Jones, program manager of the Environmental Epidemiology and Injury Surveillance Group, reported on activities related to the EMS/Trauma Registry: Nicole Brannon, new Trauma Registry Specialist joined the staff at the end of September; charts were distributed picturing the leading causes of injury related hospitalizations for 2003 for each RAC; the first public use data file (featuring 2003 data) will be ready in January; more detailed RAC reports will also be ready early next year; the Group has applied for the EMSC Partnership Grant which will be focused on improving system wide pediatric performance measures and bringing the EMS/Trauma Registry into compliance with the latest NEMSIS data set. Ms. Jones then introduced Michael Schnyder, Director of the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center. Mr. Schnyder explained how the National Association of State EMS Directors is working with its federal partners to develop a national

EMS database. Such a database would be useful in developing nationwide EMS training curricula, evaluating patient and EMS system outcomes, facilitating research efforts, determining national fee schedules and reimbursement rates, addressing resources for disaster and domestic preparedness, and providing valuable information on other issues or areas of need related to EMS care. With EMSC grant funding and technical assistance from NEMSIS it will be possible for Texas to make a substantial contribution to this effort.

### **Standing Committee/Task Force Reports:**

**EMS Committee** – Chair Pete Wolf reported the committee discussed subscription plans, the national EMS Scope of Practice model; the DSHS certification\re-certification application; and pediatric equipment list. The committee voted to be included in a future combined meeting with the Medical Directors and Pediatric Committees to discuss pediatric equipment.

**Education Committee** – Chair Jodie Harbert III reported that the committee discussed computer-based testing; §157.43 Course Coordinator Certification; §157.44 EMS Instructor Certification; and §157.49 EMS Operator\Operator Instructor Training and Certification. The committee recommended that §157.43 be sent to DSHS legal for review; endorsed §157.44 with recommendations to remove language relating to skills instruction; and endorsed §157.49. The committee also discussed the HIPPA education requirements for EMS students and appointed two of its members to schedule a meeting with the Texas Hospital Association to discuss the issue. The Committee also discussed the National Scope of Practice and recommended that “...or show serologic confirmation of immunity” be added to the DSHS the Hepatitis B Policy and in rule.

**Pediatric Committee** – Chair Joan Shook MD, reported that the committee discussed disaster preparedness for pediatric patients; the RACs’ role in the state disaster plan; and children’s special needs during disasters.

**Trauma Systems Committee** – Chair Ronny Stewart, MD expressed his appreciation to Dr. Racht and the EMS/Trauma Systems community for its response during hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Dr. Stewart reported the committee discussed and approved proposed changes to §157.131 Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account; §157.128 Denial\Suspension\Revocation of Trauma Facility Designation with minor changes; and §157.125 Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation. Dr. Stewart also reported that the committee discussed the issues of financial incentives to hospitals providing certain additional trauma services and financial disincentives to hospitals without physician compensation plans, and appointed Craig Daniel MD and Marjorie Lygas RN to lead a work group to address these issues. The committee also discussed appointing a short-term work group to review burn care as it relates to the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant for hospital preparedness that is administered to Texas hospitals through DSHS.

**Injury Prevention (IP) Committee** – In the absence of Chair Mario Segura, Committee Member Jennifer Northway reported that the committee discussed statewide injury prevention reports; the Texas Suicide Prevention Partnership; the status of HB794; Project Starfish; and an injury prevention white paper.

**Medical Director Committee** – In the absence of chair Steve Ellerbe, DO, Dr. Ed Racht, reported that the committee did not have a quorum at its meeting, but discussed topics including

follow-up information about patients to EMS providers by hospitals; Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) and the issue of honoring only Texas DNRs or accepting those from other states as well; and an answer to the question “What is a patient.”

**Air Medical Committee** – Chair Shirley Scholz reported the committee discussed and voted to recommend to DSHS that it adopt current Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) standards as the minimum standards for rotor and fixed-wing EMS providers. It also voted that DSHS license rotor and fixed-wing EMS providers by either CAMTS-deemed status or by a survey process using the afore-mentioned minimum standards by DSHS-approved/CAMTS-trained surveyors, the cost of which would be borne by the provider.

**Comprehensive Clinical Management Program Task Force** – Leigh Anne Bedrich, Co-Chair reported ongoing progress toward implementation of the CCMP with three site visits scheduled for early 2006.

#### **Other Reports/Public Comment on Action Items:**

DSHS Preparedness Coordination Council – GETAC Liaison Leon Charpentier reported that Eduardo Sanchez, MD, commissioner of health, requested the council to develop a plan for to move 4,000-5,000 people during a disaster situation and to continue to review other methods by which the state prepares for disaster situations.

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council – In the absence of GETAC Liaison Todd Maxson, MD, Linda Jones, DSHS program manager of the Environmental Epidemiology and Injury Surveillance Group, reported that the council discussed a TBI registry.

DSHS Hospital Licensing Rules Review Workgroup – GETAC Liaison Jim Parisi, reported that DSHS legal counsel is reviewing the final draft rules and that a rules pack are moving forward to HHSC for approval. The workgroup also discussed mid-level providers in the emergency department; transfers of trauma patients; and bringing the rules in line with Medicare rules.

Texas Foundation For EMS/Trauma Care - Jorie Klein, RN, reported that the Foundation is moving forward with adoption of corporate bylaws in a meeting to be held on November 22, 2005

Institute of Medicine – Allan Johnson reported that he had attended the “Environmental Public Health Impact of Disasters: Hurricane Katrina” meeting on October 20, 2005, which focused on environmental exposures in the region and their subsequent impact on public health.

**General Public Comment:** Public comment was heard on a number of issues, including the DSHS hepatitis B policy; the concept of an EMS Commission; funding of the Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account (Driver Responsibility Program); and the emphasis on public health rather than the role of the Texas emergency healthcare \trauma system during hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**Action Items:**

*A motion was made by Dr. Ronny Stewart and seconded by Marti VanRavenswaay to send §157.128 Denial\Suspension\Revocation of Trauma Facility Designation with minor changes to DSHS Council for approval. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by F.E. Shaheen and seconded by Dr. Ronny Stewart to appoint a task force to discuss EMS Commission and bring back information to the next meeting. The motion failed with a vote 5 against, 3 for, and 3 abstentions.*

*A motion was made by Gary Cheek and seconded by Dr. Ronny Stewart for EMS Committee to hold an open forum before their next meeting to address the EMS Commission issue. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Shirley Scholtz and seconded by Marti VanRavenswaay that the Council endorse adding the following changes into to §157.11EMS Provider Licensing & 157.12 Rotor-wing Air Ambulance Operations and send to DSHS Council for approval: adoption of current Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) standards as the minimum standards for rotor and fixed-wing EMS providers; DSHS licensing of rotor and fixed-wing EMS providers by either CAMTS-deemed status or by a survey process using the afore-mentioned minimum standards by DSHS-approved CAMTS-trained surveyors, the cost of which would be borne by the provider. The motion passed by a vote of 12 for and 1 against.*

*A motion was made by Maxie Bishop and seconded by Mike Click to hold the GETAC November 2006, meeting in Dallas, Texas, in conjunction with the 2006 EMS Conference. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Meeting Dates for 2006:** February 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, May 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2006, August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and November 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the 2006 EMS Conference in Dallas.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.