

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Monday, November 22, 2004, 5:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Call To Order: Chair Ed Racht, MD, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Members present included: Ed Racht, MD; Marti VanRavenswaay; Pete Wolf, EMT-P; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop Jr., LP; Mario Segura, RN; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; Fred Hagedorn, MD; Shirley Scholz, RN, CCRN, EMT-P, CMTE; Joan E. Shook, MD; Vance L. Riley; Kris J. Gillespie; and Ronny Stewart, MD. Member absent: John Simms.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Marti VanRavenswaay and seconded by Ronny Stewart, MD, to approve revised meeting minutes from May 7, 2004, and to approve the August 13, 2004, minutes. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Ed Racht welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported that the application process for the six standing committees was discussed, including terms and deadline of receipt of applications on December 31, 2004. He explained that he and Pete Wolf, Vice Chair, and the committee chairs would select the committee members and announce the new members at the February 11, 2005, meeting.

Dr. Racht announced that David Jimenez, general public representative, had resigned from the council. He introduced new member, Vance Riley, who replaced Raymond Holloway as the representative for fire chiefs. He also announced the appointments of the following GETAC liaisons: Jim Parisi, RN, vice president, East Texas Medical Center, to the DSHS Hospital Licensing Rule Review Workgroup; and Leon Charpentier, EMT-P, Harker Heights Fire Department, to the Department of State Health Services Preparedness Coordination Council.

Dr. Racht introduced Ken Bouvier, president of the National Association of EMTs.

Dr. Racht reported that Texas Governor Rick Perry had issued a proclamation honoring first responders at a September 10, 2004, ceremony in Austin.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Staff Reports: Richard Bays, assistant commissioner for Division for Regulatory Services, reported on the transitions and related issues at DSHS, including ongoing changes in regulatory and administrative processes; new DSHS advisory council appointed by the governor (no dates have been set for the meetings); HB3588 issues; and the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Bays reported that Albert Hawkins, commissioner for Health and Human Services, will be the final approver of rules from DSHS.

Kathryn Perkins, director for Health Care Quality Section, announced that Derek Jakovich was selected as unit director for the Patient Quality Care Unit, which has EMS Compliance North, South, and Central Groups. Mrs. Perkins reported on the preparation for the transition to DSHS; the continuing changes in regulatory processes; and the implementation of the new EMS/Trauma System funding (HB-3588, SB-1131).

Steve Janda, director for Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS), reported that the National Registry will be coming to Austin during the February GETAC meetings; the status of rule revisions; current designated facilities; and the EMS Awards Luncheon at the conference.

Linda Jones, program manager, State EMS\Trauma Registry, reported on the staff's action plan to address registry issues; the steadily increasing participation by providers in the EMS/Trauma Registry; and the ongoing meetings to address error and warning flags.

Standing Committee/Task Force Reports:

Combined Pediatric/Trauma Systems Committees – Chair Dr. Joan Shook reported that the Pediatric Committee discussed pediatric-specific equipment for EMS providers; pediatric-specific education requirements for DSHS-credentialed trauma designation surveyors; adding continuing education (CE) requirements for EMS providers; recommending formal Regional Advisory Council-specific definitions of “pediatric patients.” Dr. Shook stated that the committee would like a status report of the request sent to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) asking for clarification of the current exemption of children’s hospitals from meeting trauma designation requirements to receive disproportionate share monies in view of a now-established state designation process for these pediatric facilities. The committee requested to have its CE recommendations for EMS providers to be placed on the EMS/Medical Directors/Education committees’ next agendas; pediatric-specific equipment recommendations for EMS firms to be placed on the EMS and Medical Directors agendas; and RAC standards for pediatric patients to be placed on the RAC Chairs agenda.

EMS Committee – Chair Pete Wolf reported that the committee discussed draft rule §157.14 (First Responder Organizations) and made minor changes; the rule will be presented at the next GETAC meeting. The committee also discussed the National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

Trauma Systems Committee – Chair Dr. Ronny Stewart reported that the committee met all day on July 27, 2004, and completed its review of revised draft rule §157.125 (Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation), including criteria, standards and audit filters for Level IIIs and IVs. Staff will be bringing a draft to the February meeting for final review.

Education Committee – Chair Maxie Bishop reported that Gregg Margolis gave a presentation about the National EMS Scope of Practice Model and the committee discussed how the proposed draft would affect Texas EMS. The committee requested further stakeholder input and requested that GETAC develop a position paper regarding the National Scope of Practice draft document.

Injury Prevention (IP) Committee - Chair Mario Segura reported that the committee met jointly with the Data, Informatics and Research Task Force. The committee discussed planned activities at the 2004 EMS Conference, including staffing a booth called “Ask the Experts.” The committee discussed the IP Resource Manual to be updated on the OEMS/TSC’s website soon and linking State EMS\Trauma Registry documents to the page. The committee discussed how to get more providers involved with injury prevention activities. Clifann McCarley made a presentation about a grant program involving thirteen hospitals participating in a research project to determine the effectiveness of brief interventions in the emergency department of intoxicated trauma patients in order to decrease recidivism rates. The committee also endorsed recommending that the State EMS\Trauma Registry use the National EMS Data Set.

Medical Directors Committee – Chair Dr. Ed Racht reported that the committee discussed the potential impact that the draft National Scope of Practice Model would have on the licensed and certified personnel in Texas, particularly for the EMT-Intermediate level of certification. The committee agreed to appoint a “strike force” to move forward with the full pilot of the Comprehensive Clinical Management Plan (CCMP).

Air Medical Task Force– Chair Shirley Scholtz reported that the task force discussed its September and October meetings regarding the helipad liability issues. The task force’s intention is to now provide input into DSHS Rules §157.11 (Requirements For An EMS Provider License), §157.12 (Rotor-wing Air Ambulance Operations), and §157.13 (Fixed-wing Air Ambulance Operations) and to examine the issue of industry standards for liability insurance. The task force intends to further discuss the issues at their next meeting on January 18, 2005, in San Antonio.

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.

Action Items:

A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Marti VanRavenswaay to make the changes recommended by the Medical Transportation Provider Task Force to EMS Rule 157.11 (Certification) for review by GETAC. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Maxie Bishop and seconded by Mario Segura that Dr. Racht develop a position paper for GETAC regarding the National Scope of Practice Model that reflects issues identified by committees and includes stakeholder input to GETAC received by January 10, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Maxie Bishop that EMS Rule §157.14 (First Responder Organizations) be placed on the next GETAC agenda as an action item. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by F.E. Shaheen and seconded by Pete Wolf for Dr. Racht to move forward and appoint a task force to report back to GETAC at the February meeting about the implementation of the CCMP. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by F.E. Shaheen and seconded by Dr. Ronny Stewart to approve the revisions to the GETAC Procedural Rules. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting Dates for 2005: February 9th-11th, May 25th-27th, August 24th-26th and November 19th-21st in conjunction with the 2005 Texas EMS Conference were announced.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.