

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Friday, February 11, 2005, 10:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Call To Order: Chair Ed Racht, MD, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Members present included: Ed Racht, MD; Marti VanRavenswaay; Pete Wolf, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop Jr., LP; Mario Segura, RN; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; Shirley Scholz, RN, CCRN, EMT-P, CMTE; Joan E. Shook, MD; Vance L. Riley; and Ronny Stewart, MD. Member absent: F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Kris J. Gillespie; Fred Hagedorn, MD and Christopher Maravilla.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Mario Segura and seconded by Joan Shook, MD, to approve meeting minutes from November 22, 2004, with a request by Mario Segura that corrections be made to note that the Injury Prevention Committee had recommended use of national data sets by the Texas EMS/Trauma Registry during its committee report and to correct the spelling of Marti VanRavenswaay's last name under the section entitled "Discussion of Reports/Public Comment on Action Items" on page 3 of the document. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Ed Racht welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced the resignation of John Simms, Rural Trauma Facility representative, and the appointment to GETAC of Christopher Maravilla, General Public representative, who replaced David Jimenez.

Dr. Racht reported that there was excellent stakeholder response to the call for applications to GETAC committees, and announced the names and appointment terms for the Pediatric, Education, Injury Prevention, Trauma Systems, and EMS Committees. The Medical Directors Committee list is not yet finalized.

Dr. Racht reported that he had received a large volume of comments about the draft National EMS Scope of Practice Model and virtually all were consistent in their content. He provided written input on behalf of GETAC to the National Association of EMS Directors regarding the draft.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Assistant Commissioner for the Division for Regulatory Services, reported on transitions and related issues at DSHS, including ongoing changes in regulatory and administrative processes; details about the new governor-appointed DSHS advisory council and the new departmental rule review process; HB3588 issues; budget cuts from FY04/05; Automated External Defibrillators in state buildings project; and Hospital Licensing rules. Mr. Bays challenged the Council to consider providing input to DSHS regarding: 1) EMS licensure being tied to abiding by patient triage guidelines of a provider's regional trauma system plan; 2) Monetary incentives from HB 3588 monies for designated trauma facilities willing to provide medical care capabilities beyond their current designation levels; 3) Financial consequences for designated trauma facilities lacking on-call trauma physician compensation plans; and 4) Whether DSHS or the Texas Department of Insurance would better address concerns about EMS subscription plans. On behalf of DSHS, Mr. Bays express his gratitude to all in attendance for volunteering their time and personal resources to participate and provide valuable input.

Kathryn Perkins, Director for Health Care Quality Section, reported for the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS). Ms. Perkins gave updates on the implementation of the EMS/Trauma System funding programs (HB 3588, SB 1131); the Legislative Budget Board report; status of current rules review/revisions; extraordinary emergency fund monies currently available; centralized test scheduling; centralized phone system; and legislative bills that have been filed with the legislature.

Linda Jones, Program Manager, State EMS/Trauma Registry, reported on staff changes; public use data file; a Memorandum of Understanding regarding data submission with the National EMS Information System; a comparison/contrast of state and national Healthy People 2010 objectives; the region registry workshop on March 30; pending grant applications; and she requested that the council endorse the National EMS Data Set.

Standing Committee/Task Force Reports:

Combined EMS/Education/MD Committees – Chair Pete Wolf reported that the combined committees received a presentation by Phil Dickison, National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) regarding computer adaptive testing; Texas/national statistics for NREMT exams; and the Longitudinal EMT Attribute & Demographic Study (LEADS) Project.

Mr. Wolf reported that the combined committees were presented with recommendations from Pediatric Committee representative Muriel Lanford RN regarding pediatric-specific equipment for EMS providers, pediatric-specific education requirements for DSHS-credentialed trauma designation surveyors, and adding pediatric-specific continuing education (CE) requirements for EMS personnel. He reported that the combined committee recommended the EMS Committee review the GETAC-approved draft §157.11 Provider Licensing to consider adding additional pediatric equipment to the supply list, and the Education Committee review the GETAC-approved draft §157.38 Continuing Education to consider revising the education content area to include a specific pediatric area, which is currently included under “special considerations”.

Trauma Systems Committee – Chair Ronny Stewart MD reported that the committee reviewed the revised draft rule §157.125 Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation, and will be finalizing its recommendations at the committee’s May meeting. Dr. Stewart reported that committee vice chair Jorie Klein, RN, has collaborated with stakeholders to develop hospital performance measures related to the Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account (HB 3588) disbursements. Dr. Stewart also reported that Dinah Welsh of the Texas Hospital Association gave a status update of a legislative proposal that could significantly reduce the current hospital allocation portion of the account.

Pediatric Committee – Reporting for Chair Joan Shook MD who was unable to attend, committee member Sally Snow RN reported that the committee’s recommendations for pediatric-specific continuing education for EMS providers and guidelines for pediatric-specific equipment for ambulances were presented at the Combined EMS, Education, and Medical Directors committee meeting and that the recommendations were well-received with minor suggestions. She reported that pediatric patient guidelines for trauma regional advisory councils (RACS) were presented at the RAC Chairs meeting, and requested that there be a standing agenda item at their quarterly meetings to solicit feedback on the implementation of the recommended guidelines. Ms. Snow also stated that still pending is the status request for legal opinion 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 pediatric facilities.

Injury Prevention (IP) Committee - Chair Mario Segura RN reported that the committee met jointly with the Data, Informatics and Research Task Force. The committee discussed plans for Texas EMS Conference 2005, where its plans to work with the EMS\Trauma Registry on a shared booth in the exhibit hall. He reported that committee member Molly Wilkins will submit a pre-conference proposal for a two-hour suicide prevention workshop, and a proposal for a one-hour suicide prevention workshop during the conference. The committee heard a presentation from John Posey of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who outlined that group’s legislative agenda for sobriety checkpoints. Mr. Segura reported after experiencing technical problems, the Injury Prevention Manual will soon be on the OEMS/TS website. Mr. Segura also reported that the committee voted to support the idea of the Texas Foundation for EMS and Trauma Care.

Medical Directors Committee– Reporting for Chair Fred MD who was unable to attend, Dr. Racht reported that the committee discussed the Comprehensive Clinical Management Plan (CCMP) Strike Force Team and implementation of two or three pilot sites in the next several months, and anticipates endorsement of a rule proposal within about a year. The committee discussed the bill filed for stroke centers, and the American Heart Association’s Steve Brown addressed the committee about proposed stroke designation center legislation. Legislation pertaining to field phlebotomy services by EMS providers on behalf of law enforcement (HB 14 and HB 80) was discussed, and the committee voiced concerns it has about the impact that the legislation could have on providers and personnel.

Air Medical Task Force– GETAC liaison Shirley Scholtz discussed the task force’s January 18, 2005 meeting in San Antonio. Ms. Scholtz reported on recent Federal Aviation Administration recommendations regarding air medical providers; updated recommendations to GETAC regarding a proposed state accreditation process for air medical providers, formation of RAC air medical transportation committees, and recommended changes to the trauma facility designation rule. Texas Hospital Association representative Dinah Welch presented a letter of support for the Air Medical Task Force’s recommendations with several amendments.

Data Informatic Research Task Force (DIRT)– Chair Dr. Bob Folden reported that the task force met with the Injury Prevention Committee and discussed support for the EMS\Trauma Registry’s public use data file and that it needed to include Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) data; and the fact that there are a number of items in the Health People 2010 that Texas does not collect and the need to expand the EMS\Trauma Registry’s data set to include those items. He also reported that the on February 3, 2005, Federal Register reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a Draft Acute Injury Care Research Agenda for public comment and recommendations.

Rural Task Force– Chair Pete Wolf reported that the task force advocates the expansion of National Registry tests sites to better serve rural and frontier areas, and requests that DSHS address the issue with National Registry staff. Mr. Wolf announced that the Texas Elected Official’s Guidebook to rural EMS was completed and a limited number had been printed. He stated that the document will be located on the OEMS/TS website for anyone who wanted to print a copy for themselves..

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 Dr. Ronny Stewart and seconded by Dr. Joan Shook to endorse the Texas Hospital Association amendments to the recommendations of the Air Medical Task Force as written in the letter presented to the council. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Ronny Stewart and seconded by Dr. Joan Shook that the Air Medical Task Force become a standing committee. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Ronny Stewart and seconded by Mario Segura to revise §157.12 Rotor-wing Air Ambulance Operations and §157.13 Fixed-wing Air Ambulance Operations to adopt Commission on Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) standards into the rules as a minimum with the following provisions:

- a. At the time the rule goes into effect, non-CAMTS accredited air ambulance EMS providers would be given two years to come into compliance; and*
- b. New air ambulance providers seeking Texas licensure could apply for a 12-month provisional license from DSHS before CAMTS accreditation would be required.*

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mario Segura and seconded by Dr. Ronny Stewart for the council to endorse the National EMS Data Set. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Marti VanRavenswaay to approve §157.14 Requirements For First Responder Organization Registration with the minor changes that were made. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Ronny Stewart and seconded by Maxie Bishop Jr. for the council to endorse the Medical Directors Committee’s position on legislation pertaining to field phlebotomy services by EMS providers on behalf of law enforcement (HB 14 and HB 80) The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mario Segura and seconded by Dr. Ronny Stewart for the council to endorse DSHS Texas EMS/Trauma Registry establishing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding data submission with the National EMS Information System. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting Dates for 2005: May 25th-27th; August meeting dates still to be determined; and November 19th-21st in conjunction with the 2005 Texas EMS Conference were announced.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:15p.m.