

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Friday, February 13, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 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; Joan E. Shook, MD; Pete Wolf, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop Jr., LP; Ronny Stewart, MD; John L. Simms; Mario Segura, RN; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; Fred Hagedorn, MD; Shirley Scholz, RN, CCRN, EMT-P, CMTE; and Kris J. Gillespie. Members absent included: Raymond P. Holloway; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; and Rebecca Campuzano-Salcido.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Kris Gillespie and seconded by Pete Wolf to approve meeting minutes from November 23, 2003. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Ed Racht welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported that yesterday, February 12th, GETAC held a workgroup meeting with stakeholders to discuss the current re-organization of the Texas Department of Health into the Texas Department of State Health Services and the potential impact on EMS Regulation and EMS/Trauma Systems in Texas. The meeting produced good discussion and ideas of what could be done. A plan was proposed, but no action was taken before the meeting adjourned. Dr. Racht recognized the recent death of Bill Watson, Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council Chair and Director of North Blanco County EMS, with a moment of silence. Dr. Racht then introduced TSA "B" RAC Chair, Cathy McMahan, who related the story of her recent serious car crash and experiences with the Texas EMS/Trauma System on her trip home from the August GETAC meetings. Dr. Racht stated that there were four positions on GETAC that were up for appointment or reappointment. Dr. Racht suggested that any changes to committee membership/terms and the updating of the implementation of the Strategic Plan be put on hold until the results of the re-organization is known.

Texas Department of Health (TDH) Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Associate Commissioner for Consumer Health Protection, reported on the HB 2292 consolidation of agencies under the Health and Human Services Commission and discussed possible restructuring plans for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Kathryn Perkins, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Management (BEM), reported on the changes in regulatory processes such as centralization of provider licensing application receipt and processing; centralization of test scheduling; transfer to Texas Online for web-based re-certification/re-licensure; status of rule revisions; implementation of two new National Registry (NR) Basic tests and the planned 2007 implementation of computer-adaptive testing. Ms. Perkins also reported that the Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account (HB-3588) had a current balance of ~3.5 million dollars. Ernest Oertli, Chief, Bureau of Epidemiology, reported on the EMS/Trauma Registry workgroups regarding "Errors and Flags" and "Regional Registries"; the staff action plan to address identified registry issues; and an extension of the planned target date for 2003 database closure of July 1, 2004, because of the current closure due to maintenance. They plan for an EMS/Trauma Registry Workgroup meeting in March 2004.

Standing Committee/Task Force Reports:

Medical Transport Provider Task Force – Wayne Morris, Co-Chair, reported on the February

6th meeting. The Task Force heard reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Inspector General Office on Medicare/Medicaid fraud. The Task Force's next meeting is March 3rd in Austin at 1100 West 49th Street, M-739.

Emergency Medical Dispatch Resource Center Pilot Workgroup – Ernie Rodriguez reported that the workgroup has continued its work using email. They have been reviewing the Request for Proposals and are almost ready to provide recommendations. They have also done work on a transfer protocol and a training website. The workgroup's next meeting will be done by conference call on February 18th.

Trauma Systems – In the absence of Dr. Ronny Stewart, Jorie Klein reported that the committee's major topic of discussion at the January 21st and 22nd meeting was draft §157.131 *Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account*. Ms. Klein reported that the committee voted to recommend the draft to GETAC for consideration for proposal by the Texas Board of Health. The Committee also continued work on the draft revisions to §157.125 *Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation*.

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 John Simms that GETAC adopt the revised GETAC procedural rules based on last meeting's discussion (draft included in the GETAC handouts for this meeting). The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Gary Cheek that GETAC recommend proposal of rule §157.25 Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order (draft included in the GETAC handouts for this meeting) to the Texas Board of Health. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Stewart and seconded by Mario Segura that GETAC recommend proposal of rule §157.130 Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care System Account and Emergency Medical Services, Trauma Facilities, and Trauma Care System Fund (draft included in the GETAC handouts for this meeting) to the Texas Board of Health. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Mr. Cheek that GETAC recommend proposal of §157.131 Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account (draft included in the GETAC handouts for this meeting) to the Texas Board of Health with the revisions recommended by the Texas Hospital Association (THA) regarding definitions and the formulae for distribution (handed out by THA at the meeting) and recommended by TDH regarding an annual application, and with the removal of the section stating that "hospitals should have" an agreed upon physician incentive program ...” The motion failed on a vote of 3 for and 7 against.

A motion was made by Mr. Simms that was the same as the above motion but without the removal of the section regarding a physician incentive plan, and changing “should” to “may”. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Maxie Bishop that GETAC recommend proposal of §157.131 Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account (draft included in the

GETAC handouts for this meeting) to the Texas Board of Health with the revisions recommended by the THA regarding definitions and the formulae for distribution (handed out by THA at the meeting) and recommended by TDH regarding an annual application, and including the section regarding a physician incentive plan, but removing the phrase “agreed upon”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Mr. Wolf that GETAC accept the “GETAC Position Statement” developed over the past two days, with attachment of the meeting sign-in sheets to indicate participation of stakeholders, for delivery to the Health and Human Services Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting Date for 2004: May 6th & 7th, August 12th & 13th, and November 20th & 21st in conjunction with the 2004 Texas EMS Conference were announced.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.