

## MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Friday, May 7, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 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; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop Jr., LP; Mario Segura, RN; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; David Jimenez; Shirley Scholz, RN, CCRN, EMT-P, CMTE; and Kris J. Gillespie. Members absent included: Ronny Stewart, MD; Joan E. Shook, MD; Fred Hagedorn, MD; Vance L. Riley; and John Simms.

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Mario Segura to approve meeting minutes from February 13, 2004. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

**Chair Report:** Dr. Ed Racht welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the Governor had re-appointed F.E. Shaheen, John L. Simms, and Joan E. Shook. The governor also appointed Vance L. Riley and David Jimenez to GETAC with terms ending 2010. He also said that during the next meetings in August, the Council might have a special meeting to review progress on the Strategic Plan and to discuss membership of standing committees. He also would like to hear from council members about the issue of GETAC liaisons for special projects and meetings; he indicated that he is getting a number of requests for such. Finally, due to Dennis Hebner's resignation, Dr. Racht appointed Bill Waechter as co-chair for the Air Medical Task Force. Donna George remains as co-chair with Mr. Waechter.

**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, including new appointments to the agency and transition plans for TDH to become the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Mr. Bays asked that GETAC have a representative assist hospital licensing with rule revisions.

Kathryn Perkins, chief, Bureau of Emergency Management (BEM), reported on the preparation for the transition to DSHS; the CLIA waiver, which will not be able to be held by TDH anymore; the changes in regulatory processes such as centralization of provider licensing application receipt and processing; the transfer to Texas Online for web-based recertification/re-licensure; status of rule revisions; the draft application for the Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account (HB-3588); the status of rule revisions.

Linda Jones, program manager, Bureau of Epidemiology, reported on the staff action plan to address identified registry issues; and an extension of the planned target date for 2003 database submission deadline of August 1, 2004, because of the current closure due to maintenance.

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

**Trauma Systems** – In the absence of Dr. Ronny Stewart, Jorie Klein reported that the Committee continued its review of revised draft rule §157.125, Designation of Trauma Facilities, including criteria, standards, and audit filters. The Committee plans to meet in July to finish its review of this rule. The Committee endorsed the document developed by the Texas Association of Regional Advisory Councils opposing the reorganization of Bureau of Emergency Management.

**EMS Committee** – Chair Pete Wolf reported that the committee discussed the First Responder Organizations (FRO) rule, specifically regarding the extent of state regulatory authority for “recognizing” FROs. The Committee asked BEM staff to draft rule language reflecting this authority for their next meeting. The Committee reviewed draft-revised §157.11, 157.12 and 157.13, making only minor revisions, and voted to recommend to GETAC that the rules be proposed for public comment. The Committee also indicated its interest in being invited to the meetings with the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) this summer. The Committee agreed with the document developed by the Texas Association of Regional Advisory Councils opposing the reorganization of Bureau of Emergency Management.

**Education Committee** – Chair Maxie Bishop reported that the committee discussed the EMT-I issue in regards to trying to assure that advanced life support is available in the rural and frontier areas of Texas. They decided to meet with the EMS and Medical Directors committees to further work on this issue. Committee members also indicated interest in being invited to the NREMT meetings this summer.

**Injury Prevention (IP)** - Chair Mario Segura reported that the committee met jointly with the Data, Informatics and Research Task Force. The committee discussed potential legislative issues and plans for the 2004 EMS Conference. Mr. Segura announced that Dr. Errington C. Thompson was appointed to be the Vice Chair of the IP Committee.

**Pediatric Committee** – The Pediatric Committee did not have a quorum, so no official business was conducted. The Combined Trauma Systems and Pediatric Committee meeting was then cancelled.

**Medical Directors Committee** – Dr. Ed Racht, in the absence of Dr. Fred Hagedorn, reported the Committee discussed the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) and the membership of the Committee. The Committee will develop a Position Paper template for discussion at the next meeting. TCEP has applied for a Chapter Grant to fund development of a State Medical Director’s Course.

**Rural Task Force**– Chair Pete Wolf reported that the Task Force continued work on the development of an elected officials’ guide.

**Air Medical Task Force**– Chair Shirley Scholtz reported that the Task Force discussed its current structure and process with Dr. Racht and agreed that no changes would be made for at least a year. They then met with representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. These representatives, along with TDH, outlined the federal and state agencies’ authority with regards to designated trauma facilities, air medical providers and hospital landing pads, and answered questions from Task Force members. Due to personal reasons, Dennis Hebner resigned as co-chair of the Task Force.

**Medical Transport Provider Task Force** – Wayne Morris, co-chair, reported on the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The Task Force is making progress and has completed the first three of its four charges from Dr. Racht. Their next meeting will be June 11, 2004, in Austin.

**Emergency Medical Dispatch Resource Center Pilot Workgroup** – Ernie Rodriguez was absent from the GETAC meeting. Mrs. Perkins reported that the Emergency Medical Dispatch Resource Center Pilot draft request for proposals (RFP) had been sent to BEM for review and that a meeting was scheduled with workgroup members the next week to discuss next steps.

**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:**

Note: The vote on draft revised rule §157.11 Requirements for an EMS Provider License (draft included in the GETAC handouts for this meeting) was deferred until the Medical Transportation Provider Task Force completes its work as there may be recommendations for rule revisions to be considered from that group and §157.14 Requirements for First Responder Organization Registration was deferred until BEM completes rule revisions to be considered by the EMS Committee.

*A motion was made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Ms. Gillespie that would allow Dr. Racht to appoint someone either from the Council or an interested stakeholder to be a liaison for GETAC at special projects and meetings. The motion passed unanimously. (After the vote, Dr. Racht requested anyone who is interested in being liaison for the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council to contact him or the Bureau – Dr. Racht has appointed Dr. Todd Maxson.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mr. Segura that GETAC recommend the proposed draft revised rule §157.12 Rotor-wing Air Ambulance Operations (draft included in the GETAC handouts for this meeting) to the Board of Health for public comment with the revisions recommended by the EMS Committee. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mr. Bishop that GETAC recommend the proposed draft revised rule §157.13 Fixed-wing Air Ambulance Operations (draft included in the GETAC handouts for this meeting) to the Board of Health for public comment with the revisions recommended by the EMS Committee. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Pete Wolf and seconded by Mr. Segura that Dr. Racht develop a letter from GETAC to Mr. Albert Hawkins, Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, and Governor Rick Perry similar to the document developed by the Texas Association of Regional Advisory Councils opposing the reorganization of Bureau of Emergency Management. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Maxie Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Kris Gillespie that Dr. Racht appoints liaisons for special projects and meetings. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

**Meeting Dates for 2004: August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with the 2004 Texas EMS Conference were announced.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.