

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Friday, August 13, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – 12:20 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; Fred Hagedorn, MD; Shirley Scholz, RN, CCRN, EMT-P, CMTE; Ronny Stewart, MD. Members absent included: David Jimenez; Joan E. Shook, MD; Vance L. Riley; Kris J. Gillespie; and John Simms.

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by F.E. Shaheen and seconded by Mario Segura to approve meeting minutes from May 7, 2004, with a correction to the Injury Prevention report to add that Dr. Errington C. Thompson was appointed to be the vice chair of the IP Committee. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

**Chair Report:** Dr. Ed Racht welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported that on August 12<sup>th</sup>, GETAC held a workgroup meeting with stakeholders to discuss progress on the Strategic Plan and GETAC liaisons for special projects and meetings, and to discuss membership of standing committees.

Many strategies have been completed, while many others are in progress. Most that are working or not started were considered to still be important enough to continue, while a few were determined to no longer be relevant. In addition, several new issues were discussed and added to the plan. The Council and stakeholders also discussed an idea of creating a foundation that could assist everyone involved in Texas EMS and trauma to better reach mutual goals. Jorie Klein presented a proposal for the continuing discussion.

The Council also discussed possible changes to the composition of GETAC standing committees, task forces and work groups. Consensus was reached on the following principles:

- There will be a requirement of attendance of at least 50 percent of meetings in any rolling 12-month period for all council/committee/task force members.
- It is the responsibility of the Council and committee chairs to assure that membership appointments reflect appropriate representation on committees/task forces (i.e., type of provider, geography, etc.)
- Committee chairs do not have to be GETAC members; however there must be a GETAC liaison on each committee/task force and GETAC members are encouraged to attend the various meetings to understand the issues that are being discussed.

Dr. Racht announced that Richard Bays, current associate commissioner for Consumer Health Protection, was recently appointed as the new assistant commissioner for the Division of Regulatory Services in the Department of State Health Services that will begin on September 1, 2004. He also announced that Kathryn Perkins, current chief of the Bureau of Emergency Management, has been appointed as the director of the Health Care Quality Section, which will include oversight of EMS Regulation and EMS/Trauma Systems.

Dr. Racht asked for volunteers to represent GETAC on a workgroup to review/revise the current DSHS hospital licensing rules. Dr. Racht also announced that Dr. Donna George had resigned as co-chair of Air Medical Task Force and that David Rives will step in as co-chair.

**Texas Department of Health (TDH) Staff Reports:** Richard Bays, currently associate commissioner for Consumer Health Protection, reported on the re-organization of Texas Department of Health and the Bureau of Emergency Management in preparation for the transition to the Department of State Health Services. Mr. Bays introduced Dr. Phil Wang, who discussed what injury prevention work the agency, in partnership with the Austin Fire Department, is doing to prevent fires.

Kathryn Perkins, currently bureau chief for TDH's Emergency Management, announced that as of September 1, Steve Janda was selected unit director for the EMS Trauma Systems Coordination Office, which will have EMS Trauma Systems Group and the Stakeholder Info Group. She talked about specifics regarding the role of this new organizational unit. Ms. Perkins reported on the preparation for the transition to DSHS; changes in regulatory processes are continuing; implementation of the new EMS/Trauma System funding (HB-3588, SB-1131); status of rule revisions.

Linda Jones, program manager, Bureau of Epidemiology, reported on the staff action plan to address registry issues; the steadily increasing participation in the EMS/Trauma Registry; and the ongoing meetings to address error and warning flags.

**Standing Committee/Task Force Reports: Trauma Systems** – 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 collated draft to the November meeting for final review.

**EMS Committee** – Chair Pete Wolf reported that the committee discussed draft rule 157.14 (First Responder Organizations). This draft rule was developed after previous discussions in the EMS committee concerning weaknesses in the current rule. The committee made several suggestions for changes. The draft rule will be updated and made available for review by the committee members and public prior to the next EMS Committee meeting.

**Combined Education/EMS/Medical Directors Committees** –Dr. Ed Racht reported that the combined committees met prior to the GETAC meeting. The committee members discussed the potential impact that the draft National EMS Scope of Practice document would have on the licensed and certified personnel in Texas, particularly for the EMT-Intermediate level of certification. The committee agreed that the link to the document needs to be disseminated and the issue discussed again during the November GETAC meeting. The combined committees also reviewed draft rules 157.33 (Certification); 157.34 (Recertification); 157.38 (Continuing Education); and 157.40 (Paramedic Licensure); and would ask GETAC to approve them with the changes that were made at the meeting.

**Injury Prevention (IP)** - Chair Mario Segura reported that the committee met jointly with the Data, Informatics and Research Task Force. The committee discussed plans for the 2004 EMS Conference, which includes staffing a booth called "Ask the Experts," where people can

come ask IP committee members about injury prevention topics. The IP Plan for Texas is on the Bureau's website. The IP Resource Manual has been recently updated and should be on the Bureau's website soon. Mr. Segura also reported that the Texas Suicide Prevention Community Network had put on a conference a few days earlier to educate people about suicide prevention. Governor Rick Perry had declared September 5-11, 2004, as Suicide Prevention Week in Texas.

Bob Folden, chair of the Data, Informatics and Research Task Force, reported that he had gotten a list of possible topics to research from the Rural Task Force and that DIRT was investigating where to get information to begin the research.

**Pediatric Committee** – In Dr. Joan Shook's absence, Muriel Lanford reported that the Pediatric Committee further discussed pediatric-specific equipment for EMS providers; specific requirements for TDH-credentialed surveyors for trauma designation; the addition of a pediatric-specific component to EMS continuing education requirements; and supporting new legislation that would increase the age and/or height requirements for the use of car seats for children. Additionally, the pediatric committee requested to have a joint meeting with the Trauma Systems Committee at the November GETAC meetings.

**Air Medical Task Force**– Chair Shirley Scholtz reported that the Task Force discussed the helipad liability issues at its July 29, 2004, meeting in Arlington and the task force's intention to now provide input into TDH 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 examine the issue of industry standards for liability insurance. The Task Force intends to schedule another meeting in September in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

**Medical Transport Provider Task Force** – F.E. Shaheen and Wayne Morris, co-chairs, reported that the task force had completed work on the four charges that had been given to the group. The co-chairs praised the work and cooperation of the committee members and then distributed a four-page document that had been approved by the task force. The document included prioritized short-term and long-term goals that the group believes would solve some of the problems occurring with medical transport providers. This document will be attached to the GETAC minutes. The co-chairs will also provide the bureau a larger packet of suggestions developed by the task force as well.

**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: Draft revised rule 157.32 (EMS Education Program and Course Approval) was not ready for this meeting and will be brought at a future meeting for review and vote.**

*A motion was made by F.E. Shaheen and seconded by Marti Ravenswaay to approve draft rules 157.33 (Certification), 157.34 (Recertification), 157.38 (Continuing Education), and 157.40 (Paramedic Licensure) with the minor revisions recommended by the Combined EMS, Education and Medical Directors committees for proposal by the Health and Human Services Commission for public comment. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Dr. Ronnie Stewart and seconded by Maxie Bishop that GETAC endorse the Texas Child Occupant Safety Advocates' concept of requiring a child under eight*

*years of age or 57 inches in height to be in a child safety seat when riding in a car. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Jorie Klein requested that Governor Perry be asked to make a proclamation that September 11<sup>th</sup> be First Responders Day.*

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

**Last Meeting Date for 2004: November 20, 21 and 22nd in conjunction with the 2004 Texas EMS Conference were announced.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.