

MEETING MINUTES 9/2/2005

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Friday, September 2, 2005, 1:00p.m. – 2:20p.m.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Peter Wolf called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members present included: Maxie Bishop, Jr; Marti VanRavenswaay; Vance L. Riley; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; Mike Click; Ronny Stewart, MD; Mario Segura, RN; Hector G. Longoria; Kris J. Gillespie; Shirley Scholtz, RN and Pete Wolf. Members absent: Ed Racht, MD; Frederick N. Hagedorn, MD; Joan Shook MD; and F.E. Shaheen III.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Gary Cheek and seconded by Marti VanRavensway, to approve meeting minutes from May 27, 2005. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Vice Chair Pete Wolf welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of Chair Ed Racht MD, who was called away due to Hurricane Katrina preparations.

Mr. Wolf discussed the final draft version of the National Scope of Practice model scheduled to be released this month and the upcoming application process for the GETAC Stroke Committee.

The discussion concerning the formation of a RAC Chairs Committee was tabled, due to the importance of input from several people not present due to the hurricane.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Assistant Commissioner for the Division for Regulatory Services, was unable to attend due to Hurricane Katrina preparations.

Kathryn Perkins, Director for Health Care Quality Section, praised Texas EMS and Trauma System providers for their ongoing response to Hurricane Katrina. She reported that it has been one year since the state agencies' re-organization that led to the formation of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and she delivered updates on the implementation of the EMS/Trauma System funding programs (HB 3588, SB 1131). . She also reported that Fernando Posada, State EMS Compliance Manager-South Group, had safely returned from his tour of duty in Iraq.

Steve Janda, Director of the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS) provided an update on personnel changes in OEMS/TS. Mr. Janda reported that the 2005 Texas EMS Conference is scheduled for November 18 - 23, 2005 in Austin and reminded those in attendance that the 2006 and 2007 Conference will be held in Dallas and Houston, respectively. He stated that the Governor's Office had reported that the 2005 Star of Texas Award ceremony honoring Texas First Responders had been delayed pending completion of the state's emergency response to Hurricane Katrina. He advised that draft rule revisions that would appear before the Council this year would likely include 157.11 EMS Provider Licensing (changes recommended by the MTP Task Force); 157.16 Disciplinary Action (Provider); 157.32 EMS Education Program And Course Approval; 157.36 Disciplinary Action (Personnel); 157.37 Certification or Licensure of Persons With Criminal Backgrounds; and 157.128 Denial, Suspension, and Revocation of Trauma Facility Designation. Mr. Janda reminded the Council that funds are available to EMS providers to support unexpected emergent needs of EMS providers or DSHS-approved organizations, and reported that 218 Texas hospitals had currently achieved trauma designation status: Level I-13; Level II-9; Level III-40, Level IV-156; and approximately 26 hospitals in active pursuit of designation.

Linda Jones, Program Manager, State EMS/Trauma Registry, reported insufficient CDC funding to support Texas' application for a statewide injury control program and pursuit of other opportunities to achieve this goal; attendance by staff at a training session for the CODES (Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System) project and continued progress with this project; continuing efforts to improve data collection and data quality, including major computer system repairs; registry trainings at a RAC meeting in El Paso and at the South Texas Trauma Symposium; and "Cause of Injury Quick Reference Cards" will be mailed out before the next GETAC meeting. She also reported that recent legislative changes resulted in DSHS being assigned responsibilities for Child Fatality Review Team coordination. This function will reside in the DSHS Maternal and Child Health section. Two staff has been hired (epidemiologist, research specialist) and the group has developed a strategic plan.

Standing Committee/Task Force Reports:

EMS Committee – Chair Pete Wolf reported the committee discussed and approved recommendations to remove the word "disposable" from the phrase "disposable CO2 detection device" in the section entitled "Advanced Life Support (ALS) or BLS With ALS Capability" in Draft 1 of 157.11 Equipment List, August 22,2005, as proposed by the Pediatric Committee. Additionally, it was recommended that verbiage be added, stating that the equipment list could be modified only if specifically noted in the provider's protocols by the medical director. The committee also discussed Continuing Pediatric Education; 157.38; 157.43; 157.44; 157.49; §157.38 Continuing Education (pediatric-specific CE for providers); §157.43 Course Coordinator Certification; §157.44 EMS Instructor Certification; §157.49 EMS Operator\Operator Instructor Training and Certification; HIPPA requirements, subscription plans, and EMS cargo body vehicles.

Education Committee – Chair Jodie Harbert III reported that the Education Committee discussed and approved recommendations to remove the word "disposable" from the phrase "disposable CO2 detection device" in the section entitled "Advanced Life Support (ALS) or BLS With ALS Capability" in Draft 1 of 157.11 Equipment List, August 22,2005, as proposed by the Pediatric Committee. The committee also discussed the HIPPA requirements and the National EMS Scope of Practice Model Draft 2.0.

Trauma Systems Committee – Chair Ronny Stewart, MD reported the Trauma Systems Committee also discussed §157.131 Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account. He also reported that Steven Wolf MD, director of the US Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX discussed burn care as it relates to emergency preparedness, and Dr. Wolf will provide recommendations through the committee for the DSHS Hospital Preparedness program that is funded through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Dr. Stewart also reported that the Texas Foundation for EMS\Trauma Care is moving forward with development of its corporate bylaws.

Injury Prevention Committee – Chair Mario Segura reported that the committee was working on its mission, goals and injury prevention plan manual. Committee member Molly Wilkins will be presenting a QPR – Question, Persuade and Refer course relating to suicide prevention at the upcoming Texas EMS Conference. The committee will sponsor a booth at the conference where and will distribute injury prevention information. Mr. Segura also reported that the committee discussed Project Starfish and that committee member Gary Kesling has drafted an injury prevention white paper.

Pediatric Committee – Committee member Sally Snow, RN, in absence of chair Joan Shook MD, reported that the committee discussed actions taken by the EMS and Education Committees regarding pediatric equipment; pediatric committees within the RACs; and future issues that the committee would like to address. The committee requested that a Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) representative be invited to its next meeting to discuss the issue of disproportionate share hospitals (DSH) funding being tied to children's hospitals trauma designation if a legal opinion previously requested by the committee from HHSC has not been rendered. The committee also discussed removal of the word "disposable" from the phrase "disposable CO2 detection device" in the section entitled "Advanced Life Support (ALS) or BLS With ALS Capability" of Draft 1 of 157.11 Equipment List.

Medical Director Committee – James R. Loflin, MD, in the absence of Dr. Steve Ellerbe, reported that the committee discussed and approved 157.11 Equipment List, Continuing Pediatric Education; EMS Texas Physicians, “Who is a patient”. The committee requested a combined meeting with Pediatric to discuss the pediatric continuing education and requested to have a 1:00pm meeting on November 19th.

Air Medical Committee – Chair Shirley Scholtz reported the committee discussed and approved recommendations to 157.11 Equipment List, August 22, 2005, as proposed by the Pediatric Committee. The committee also discussed continuing pediatric education and subscription plans and will further discuss insurance issues as they may relate to the Texas Department of Insurance.

Data, Informatics and Research Task Force - Chair Mario Segura reported on the Data, Informatics and Research Task Force. He reported that committee member Bob Folden would be collaborating on a draft injury prevention white paper.

Comprehensive Clinical Management Program Task Force – Leigh Anne Bedrich, Co-Chair reported ongoing progress toward implementation of the CCMP. Arlington Fire & EMS, McAllen, and Harker Heights Fire have been preliminary selected for the Pilot Program.

Discussion of Reports/Public Comment on Action Items:

DSHS Preparedness Coordination Council – Leon Charpentier reported that the council has met twice since the last GETAC meeting, and that it continues to review the methods by which the state prepares for disaster situations.

DSHS Hospital Licensing Rules Review Workgroup – Kathy Perkins, in the absence of Jim Parisi, reported that the final draft rules are being reviewed by DSHS legal counsel and that a rules pack will be submitted to the November DSHS Council meeting.

Texas Foundation for EMS\Trauma Care - Jorie Klein, RN, reported that the foundation is moving forward with adoption of corporation bylaws and will be meeting in October for a final vote.

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

Action Items:

A motion was made by Gary Cheek and seconded by Maxie Bishop to send §157.38 Continuing Education to HHSC. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council tabled actions on §157.43 Course Coordinator Certification; §157.44 EMS Instructor Certification; and §157.49 EMS Operator\Operator Instructor Training and Certification and Air Medical Committee recommendations for §157.11 Equipment List

DSHS staff pulled 157.128 Denial\Suspension\Revocation of Trauma Facility Designation

Meeting Dates for 2006: This will be an agenda discussion item at the November 21st meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the 2005 Texas EMS Conference.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.