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Register Now: Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at

the Capitol

TETAF invites all emergency healthcare professionals, stakeholders, advocates and survivors to join us in Austin on Feb. 21 for the 2017 Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol.

After a morning briefing, attendees will walk to the Capitol to meet with lawmakers and share firsthand both the successes and the needs of the trauma and emergency healthcare system. This is a great opportunity to educate lawmakers and advocate for the system. No prior legislative experience is necessary. Attendees will be provided talking points, handouts and guidance on how to hold a successful meeting with lawmakers and staff.

Registration is now available [online](#). More details and a full agenda will be provided to attendees soon.

The TETAF general meeting will take place later the same day. The GETAC quarterly meetings begin the next day.

Preparation Continues for 2017 Legislative Session

The TETAF legislative workgroup continues to meet regularly in preparation for the 85th legislative session, beginning today, Jan. 10 in Austin. The main mission of the workgroup is to prepare stakeholders to advocate for the [legislative priorities](#) recommended by the workgroup and approved by the TETAF Board of Directors. However, the workgroup is also an excellent opportunity to brainstorm with other stakeholders about individual priorities and bills of interest to the trauma and emergency healthcare community.

More than 1400 bills and resolutions have been pre-filed. Included are three bills to eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program, numerous bills making changes to the program, bills related to red-light camera elimination, distracted driving legislation, EMS liability and employment discrimination legislation and a bill creating a new disaster recovery fund.

On Monday, Jan. 9 the Comptroller released the Texas Biennial Revenue Estimate, the estimated amount of funding available to the legislature for general-purpose spending. The 2018-2019 revenue estimate of \$104.9 billion is a 2.7% decrease from the previous biennium. As expected, the lower revenue estimate will mean tighter budgeting at the Capitol. All trauma and emergency healthcare stakeholders will need to work together to educate lawmakers on the funding needs of the system.

The TETAF legislative workgroup is open to all trauma and emergency healthcare stakeholders. Contact [Courtney DeBower](#) to join the workgroup or with any questions regarding the upcoming legislative session.

House Public Health Committee Releases Interim Report

The Public Health Committee of the Texas House of Representatives recently released an interim report providing guidance to lawmakers as they begin the 85th legislative session. There are references to emergency healthcare including the RACs, infectious disease response and emergency communications. The full report is available [online](#).

Texas Perinatal Services Update

The Texas Perinatal Services Program of TETAF continues to schedule [NICU surveys](#) for 2017. Kathy Clayton and Kim Dally are working diligently to ensure surveys are scheduled as soon as possible. If you have submitted a survey request, look for communications from this team soon.

TETAF encourages all NICU facilities to utilize the following resources:

- TETAF Website - [NICU Resources Page](#)
- [TXNICU Coordinators Forum](#)
- TETAF Perinatal Distribution List - [Sign Up Here](#)

Staff from the Texas Perinatal Services Program are also available to attend Regional Advisory Council/Perinatal Care Region meetings to provide more information on the survey process and answer any questions. Please contact [Brenda Putz](#) to schedule an appointment.



Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

Survey Update

As TETAF continues to improve the survey process, all survey reports will now be submitted electronically. Hospitals will no longer receive a hard copy of any survey documents. Please contact [Kathy Clayton](#) with any questions or concerns.

Stop the Bleed: TRAC-V Trains 200 in Tourniquet Use

Members of the Lower Rio Grande Valley RAC recently trained almost 200 teachers, staff and school nurses from the Harlingen Independent School District in proper tourniquet use. The training was part of the Stop the Bleed campaign, encouraging bystander intervention to control blood loss in an emergency.

Thank you to all who participated, including Lead Instructor Ernie DeLeon, RN, MSN, Trauma Program Manager at Valley Baptist Medical Center, Emergency Department Educator Danny Posada, RN, Valley Baptist Medical Center and Jorge Gomez, RN, Trauma Program Manager at Harlingen Medical Center.



ICYMI: FY 2017 Uncompensated Trauma Care Application Deadline Extended, Reporting Request

The DSHS FY 2017 Uncompensated Trauma Care (UCC) application deadline has been extended until Feb. 28, 2017. An updated application is available [online](#).

In regard to the reporting in the last quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2015, DSHS is also asking facilities to convert one of the ICD-10 codes to a qualifying ICD-9 codes that meets the inclusion criteria, if possible. If your facility cannot complete this request, please contact the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination and direct your questions and/or concerns to:

Elizabeth Stevenson, RN

Designation Program Manager – Neonatal, Stroke, and Trauma

Phone: (512) 834-6794

Email: elizabeth.stevenson@dshs.state.tx.us

OR

Indra Hernandez

Contracts Manager

Phone: (512) 834-6669

Email: indra.hernandez@dshs.state.tx.us

EMS Local Project Grants Redirected Through RACs

The Department of State Health Services Office of Emergency Medical Services Trauma Systems Coordination recently announced a new process for EMS Local Project Grant funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.

Instead of going through the state contract process, the funds will go through the Regional Advisory Councils. Watch for an announcement from your RAC for information on the process to provide support and enhancement to the pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services and trauma care systems.

More information on the Local Projects Grant Program can be found [online](#).

Become a National Registry Exam Representative for Texas

NREMT and DSHS are now accepting requests to become a National Registry Exam Representative for Texas. Exam Representative are volunteers who conduct and oversee Occupational Psychomotor Skills testing sites for the EMS professions on behalf of the National Registry of EMT's. Texas uses NREMT's national occupational exams for EMS certification and licensure.

More information is available [online](#).

TETAF Calendar

A full list of educational opportunities and upcoming meetings can be found on the [TETAF website](#).

Jan. 10 – 85th Legislative Session Begins

Feb. 21 – Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol (Austin)

Feb. 21 – TETAF General Meeting (Austin)

Feb. 22-24 – Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (Austin)

** Please submit any additional educational opportunities to [Courtney DeBower](#).*



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