



**TETAF Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. CDT
Wyndham Garden Hotel – Austin, TX
Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brian Eastridge at 5:34 p.m.

2. Board Member Roll Call – Dinah Welsh

Present:	Scott Christopher	Absent:	
	Brian Eastridge		Jim Parisi
	Courtney Edwards		Ricky Reeves
	Raj Gandhi		Craig Rhyne
	Robin Garza		Lori Vinson
	Lisa Hutchison		
	Lisa Price		
	Kathy Rodgers		
	Robert Saunders		
	Dudley Wait		
	Hilary Watt		

A Quorum was established at the opening of the meeting.

All TETAF staff were in attendance.

Around-the-room introductions by name and RAC were performed.

3. TETAF Legislative Update

Ms. Dinah Welsh began by noting that the Texas Legislature is in the final weeks' activities. She commented that many uncertainties regarding legislation still remain. The legislative session ends on Memorial Day.

Texas Budget

Ms. Welsh explained that there are House and Senate versions that must be combined to one State budget for the next two years. Creating a State budget is only required action during the Legislative session. The Board members were informed that there is 'base' funding (\$112M/yr) for EMS, Trauma, RACs. Ms. Welsh added that this is about the same amount as distributed during the last biennium. She stated that being evenly funded compared to previous years is viewed as a good thing. A Conference committee consisting of 5 House representatives and 5 Senate representatives will determine the final outcome. Ms. Welsh commented that Representative Davis and Senator Schwertner very influential, because they oversee the Health articles and sit on the conference committee. Ms. Welsh said there is a \$6M/yr funding-to-RACs 'rider' currently sitting in limbo and will have an uphill climb to passage. She stressed that TETAF continues to fight for this funding.

It was announced that the Drivers' Responsibility Program (DRP) was repealed in the House last week with an alternative funding source (i.e. increase state traffic fines from \$30 to \$50 to be split between General Revenue and EMS/Trauma). This was through HB2068. Ms. Welsh stated that Representative Zerwas is looking for \$5M for air medical agencies to use for Medicaid matching. She stated that a similar bill has not been introduced in the Senate yet, and it is unknown who will carry that legislation there. This is looking like 'extra' money and who will be the threat to claim it.

Mr. Dudley Wait commented that if TETAF puts something out for stakeholders to take action on, we are strongly encouraged to please take that action as soon as possible. It was noted that TETAF has many tools on their website's Advocacy page to educate and contact legislators. All agree that the Legislative message remains to maintain funding and increase funding for EMS/Trauma/RACs. Ms. Welsh stated that TETAF continues to push for additional dollars AND to maintain what is currently provided. Ms. Welsh added that Mr. Brian Yarbrough recently visited with Senator Schwertner and reported that the Senator specifically asked about RAC funding.

Ms. Welsh stated that HB1148 is still waiting on the Senate side for referral to a committee. She commented that this legislation will likely not progress to the level for stakeholders to have opportunity to testify.

The Board was informed that the author of the Stroke System bill was unaware of existing systems. Ms. Welsh stated that the author called TETAF last week and said they were not pushing the bill any further.

It was reported that the State texting bill has passed through the House, but is floundering on the Senate side.

In closing, Ms. Welsh expressed her thanks to everyone for their efforts this legislative session. Ms. Hilary Watt expressed thanks to TETAF for the legislative letter language ... voter voice. There were no audience questions.

4. TETAF Perinatal Update, A Program of TETAF

Ms. Brenda Putz announced that the most recent addition to the TETAF staff is Ms. Carla Rider, who will be coordinating the NICU program activities within TETAF. Ms. Putz stated that TETAF has had a total of 92 requests for surveys; and have completed 20 surveys. She informed the Board members that TETAF and the surveyors are getting good evaluations, and identifying many opportunities for improvement. Ms. Putz stated that DSHS has designated 4 hospitals. TETAF has trained 49 NICU surveyors. In closing, Ms. Putz said that TETAF is also keeping tabs on the maternal-child rule development.

5. TETAF Governance Restructuring Update

Integrated Healthcare (Jim Rice / Kelly Prchal)

Ms. Welsh announced that the TETAF Board chose this organization in April 2017. The Integrated Healthcare Strategies (IHS) has a lot of experience with our type of organization. Ms. Welsh stated that IHS met with the TETAF Board members this afternoon; and is welcoming TETAF audience input tonight. There is also time from 1pm - 3pm tomorrow for stakeholders to visit with IHS personnel. This will be the stakeholder's 'initial' opportunity for input, with many other venues planned in future. Ms. Welsh introduced Mr. Jim Rice and Ms. Kelly Prchal.

Mr. Jim Rice opened by explaining that his group will be working with stakeholders and the TETAF Board members on a Governance enhancement project. He commented that they will look at existing structures and processes. He stated that TETAF and IHS are planning interviews and stakeholder input meetings between now and August 2017.

Mr. Rice described a process overview. He stressed that IHS will be looking at internal, external and trending influences to develop a plan. Ms. Kelly Prchal encourages stakeholders to provide any information they feel informative. Want to make it easy for them to be provided information and data. Mr. Rice said his goal is to get qualitative judgements on what is working / not working. He added that opportunities for governance design will be investigated and analyzed. He explained a Big G (structure) vs. Little G (processes) model. The Board members and the audience were informed that IHS will provide some preliminary observations as soon as available, with a Final Report with recommendations delivered near the end of August 2017.

The floor was opened for question / comments.

- Ms. Christine Reeves commented that we have lost the focus on who the TETAF membership is. She stated that RACs pay dues, but it is unclear what the dues represent. Mr. Rice replied that IHS will be looking at the RAC/TETAF relationship from many angles.
- Ms. Cheryl Coffee stated that stakeholders desire transparency for how RAC dues are spent. She said that RACs want to see ‘value’ for the dues paid.
- Many expressed the opinion that this venue tonight is not felt as a ‘safe place’ to voice concerns. Ms. Prchal encouraged everyone to provide questions/issues on blank paper to IHS personnel.

6. Texas TQIP Update

Mr. Raj Gandhi announced that the TQIP group will be meeting this Thursday at 08:30 a.m. He said that the workgroup has QI projects and data to present. Mr. Gandhi added that Texas TQIP is working on extramural funding to establish a system like in Michigan.

7. TETAF Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Welsh reminded the Board members that they passed January financials at the February meeting. The Board needs to approve the February and March financials, but the March data was available late.

Ms. Welsh reviewed revenue and expense figures. She explained that survey revenue and expenses are down from budget expectations. She commented that there has been some bottlenecking experienced in the survey scheduling process. She noted that placement of additional staff onboard recently should help and alleviate these delays. Ms. Putz says many NICU hospitals cancelled their surveys near their scheduled survey date, and that is creating scheduling issues. She stated that audience members should inform their hospitals that they should accept the dates scheduled during this initial cycle. Ms. Lisa Hutchison moves to pass the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Ms. Courtney Edwards provides a second for the motion. There was no further discussion. There was no opposition to the motion.

8. TETAF Secretary’s Report

Mr. Scott Christopher stated that the draft minutes for the February 21, 2017 and the April 6, 2017 TETAF Board meetings have been made available for review. There were no additions or corrections identified as necessary. Ms. Kathy Rodgers provided a motion to approve February 21st minutes, with Ms. Hilary Watt seconding the motion. There was no further discussion and no opposition voiced. Mr. Raj Gandhi motioned to approve the April 6th minutes. Ms. Robin Garza seconded this motion. There was no further discussion and no opposition voiced.

9. Open Discussion

- Dr. Eastridge encourages everyone to provide input to Integrated Health Strategies.

10. May Action Items

All items requiring action have already been completed.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Eastridge at 6:43 p.m.

Scott Christopher, Secretary