



**TETAF Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. CDT  
Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Raj Gandhi at 5:30 p.m. at the Austin Wyndham Garden Hotel.

**2. Board Member Roll Call – Dinah Welsh**

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

A Quorum is established at the opening of the meeting.

Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz and Courtney DeBower were also in attendance.

Around the room introduction by name and RAC representation was performed.

There were no affiliate members recognized being in attendance.

**3. TETAF Restructuring Update**

Dr. Raj Gandhi stated that the TETAF Board met on February 10, 2017. He informed the Board members that TETAF leadership has asked for a governance consult. He said that TETAF has one bid and awaiting a second bid for these services. Dr. Gandhi commented that the American College of Surgeon (ACS) consultative visit has been delayed and TETAF leadership has been asked to focus on the on-going Legislative session; but will stay with a November 2017 restructure timeline. Ms. Dinah Welsh described and reminded the TETAF Board members of why the ACS delay, due to schedule conflicts by the ACS principal leads. Ms. Welsh re-iterated that TETAF will focus on the legislative session, and that there will be multiple restructure meetings this summer.

**4. TETAF Legislative Update**

Ms. Welsh announced that the Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol was very successful. She expressed a TETAF thank-you to all who participated. Ms. Welsh stated that the House and Senate resolutions were received. She commented that the most important aspect was the time the stakeholders spent with their legislators. The Board members and the meeting audience members were encouraged to share any information during and since Capitol Day with TETAF staff members. Ms. Welsh also stressed that stakeholders provide any needed information TETAF needs to target to the legislators. And in closing, Ms. Welsh expressed TETAF's appreciation for the efforts of the Yarbrough group, which has been very productive and has provided more time for Ms. Welsh and Ms. Courtney DeBower to interact with Legislators.

- EMS/ Trauma System Funding

Ms. Welsh stated that the House & Senate budgets are different. She stated that in the House bill hospitals are targeted for \$165M, EMS for \$4.85M and RACs for \$4.36M; while the Senate bill targets \$112M for hospitals, \$5.91M for EMS and \$4.89M for RACs. Ms. Welsh commented that multiple bills have been filed to repeal the Driver's Responsibility Program (DRP). She also reported that there are several bills filed to alter the DRP. A replacement source for DRP funds has not been identified yet, but Legislators are discussing options at the Capitol.

Ms. Welsh discussed other notable bills (HB935, HB1407, HB1148). Mr. Christopher commented that HB1148 provides for a legitimacy for RACs. He stressed that RACs must be perceived as being arm and arm during this Legislative session. Mr. Ricky Reeves stated that Mr. Dudley Wait will provide the latest version of the draft bill. This will be a document for the Legislature to substantiate the RACs. Mr. Jim Parisi questioned if individual RAC autonomy was reflected in the HB1148 bill. Many stated that RAC autonomy was clearly included in the bill. The floor was opened for open discussion. Mr. Darrell Pile expressed his concern for what RAC futures look like without this legislation. He further stressed that there could potentially be a period in future without guaranteed RAC funding. It was pointed out that Ms. Kathy Perkins is no longer available to fight for the RACs. Mr. Christopher commented that historically good and bad examples of inter-RAC relationships. He stated that we should use the 'bad' relations for lessons learned in statute and rule making process. Dr. Ken Mattox publicly expressed his thank-you to all who have participated in the activities thus far related to HB1148. He stated that there was an active shooter incident at Ben Taub today, and that the Trauma system/network worked extremely well. Dr. Mattox compared the time when RACs were developed and had no funding and clear focus on activities, to today where RACs are clearly impacting patient outcomes and are responsible for effective response systems. Dr. Mattox recommends changing the description of HB1148 to the Texas Emergency Medical Response Preservation ACT of 2017. Dr. Raj Gandhi stressed that it is important that small RACs remain represented and autonomous in the final version of this legislation. Dr. Gandhi pointed out that each region has a different culture/demographic that should be maintained, and that all RACs need to maintain their representation. All agreed that this bill's most important aspect is to maintain and obtain funding for the RACs. Ms. Courtney Edwards echoed Dr. Gandhi's points that small RACs are important and must maintain their identity and individuality. Steph Loviwitch from RAC V voiced concern for small RACs being pushed aside as a result of HB1148 passage. Ms. Christine Reeves, representing HOTRAC, commented that the messages being provided by some RACs are not representative of all small RACs. She stated that she is afraid that RACs will be perceived as not getting along. It was appreciated by the Board members that this is the first legislation for RACs in 15 years. Dr. Gandhi asked stakeholders to send concerns to Ms. Dinah Welsh, Mr. Dudley Wait and/or Mr. Darrell Pile. Ms. Welsh expressed that she appreciates the strong opinions and concerns of all sides. Ms. Welsh added that TETAF will communicate stakeholder information regarding this bill as much as possible. She stressed that TETAF is committed to work with ALL the RACs. Ms. Welsh further stated that TETAF has to play a role in this bill, because it impacts the funding asks made to the legislature by TETAF. Ms. Welsh feels that Representative Davis' desire is that the 22 RACs continue to exist. Ms. Welsh closed the discussion by stating that she anticipates the filing of bills to pick up significantly soon.

## 5. TETAF Perinatal Services Update

Ms. Brenda Putz informed the Board members that this service line is gaining momentum. Ms. Putz stated that TETAF has completed 8 surveys and has another 8 surveys scheduled. She commented that it is estimated that there will be approximately 50 surveys this fiscal year. Ms. Putz encouraged stakeholders to call TETAF with any questions. Ms. Putz commented that TETAF is moving as quickly as possible in developing this service line. The Board was informed that 24 NICU surveyors were recently TETAF trained. She stated that TETAF is getting great feedback from providers, and continues to use this feedback to improve the

process. Ms. Dinah Welsh further encouraged stakeholders to route their questions to TETAF resources (Brenda, Neonatologists, NICU nurses).

#### **6. Texas TQIP Update and Financing Discussion**

Dr. Raj Gandhi stated that TETAF is still waiting on decision from ACS if collaborative fee will be collected and distributed to TETAF. He stated that the initial word is that the ACS does not want to serve as the financial intermediary.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Jim Parisi reviewed the income, expense and net income figures for TETAF through January 2017. He noted that the balance sheet demonstrates \$911K in total assets & liabilities. Mr. Parisi stated that year-to-date TETAF is slightly behind on the number of surveys budgeted. He further commented that TETAF continues to manage expenses very well. Mr. Parisi said that TETAF gross profit year-to-date is positive. Mr. Ricky Reeves made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Ms. Kathy Rodgers provided a second to the motion. There was no further discussion. There was no opposition to the motion.

Ms. Welsh announced that Ms. Debbie Nichols and Ms. Kathy Clayton have recently joined the TETAF staff.

#### **8. Secretary's Report**

Mr. Scott Christopher presented the draft minutes from the November 20, 2016 and the January 20, 2017 TETAF Board meetings. The Board members have been provided time to review the draft minutes. Mr. Ricky Reeves made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Jim Parisi provided a second for Mr. Reeves' motion. There was no further discussion. There was no opposition to the motion. The minutes will be archived on the TETAF website for stakeholder reference.

#### **9. Open Discussion**

##### **▪ Division activity**

Mr. Christopher commented that since the Board meeting restructure there has been very little reporting and updates for what the Divisions are working on and accomplishing. Ms. Putz provided an update to the Board members on several of the Division's status.

- Education – working on the Data Management courses and the Panhandle Stroke/STEMI conference. The Division is also preparing for the Trauma Injury Prevention Symposium in August
- Stroke – Working with Education Division on the Panhandle Stroke/STEMI conference. The Division members continue to participate in stroke surveys. Ms. Putz commented that the Department of State Health Services remains at a standstill for stroke rule revisions.
- Trauma – Working on quantify Trauma Program Manager (TPM) time and activities. The Trauma rules revisions remain at a standstill. TETAF working at developing TPM manual and Trauma Registrar manual.

##### **▪ Rider Activity**

Mr. Ricky Reeves inquired about the status of the Trauma/EMS/RAC funding rider. Ms. Welsh stated that TETAF is requesting \$6M/year with \$3M fixed to each RAC and a variable \$3M for each RAC based on formula. She stated that TETAF has a meeting scheduled to further move these Riders along. TETAF is currently seeking the 'blessing' of the Committee chairs and who will 'carry' the bill. She commented that the most important thing related to the Rider success is for stakeholders is to continue to talk with their legislators about RACs.

##### **▪ HB1148 Senate Companion?**

Ms. Welsh explained that the bill can have a companion bill or get a Senate Legislative sponsor after being passed by the House. Mr. Darrell Pile voiced his support to creating a Senate companion bill. He commented that we need to check this with Representative Davis. Ms. Welsh said that a companion bill

has no clear advantage. Ms. Welsh further explained how bills can get stalled by the Calendars committee. It was noted that Representative Davis sits on Calendars committee.

- Dr. Mattox commented that there will likely be one of two outcomes; either more money for the RACs or limited/no money for the RACs. He stated that HB1148 will likely pass and he is challenging TETAF and Divisions to make it work (being responsible, effective and deliver). Dr. Mattox stressed that RAC stakeholders must “close the loop” on the responsibility given to us.

▪ **Texas Trauma Coordinators’ Lifetime Achievement Award**

Ms. Robin Garza announced that Ms. Sally Snow has been recognized and awarded this prestigious award.

**10. February Action Items**

There were no additional action items.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Raj Gandhi at 6:40 p.m.

***Scott Christopher, Secretary***