



**TETAF Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call  
Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. CDT  
Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The conference call meeting was called to order by Dr. Brian Eastridge at 4:02 p.m.

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

Present: Scott Christopher  
Brian Eastridge  
Robin Garza  
Rajesh Gandhi  
Lisa Hutchison  
Jim Parisi  
Lisa Price  
Craig Rhyne  
Kathy Rodgers  
Robert Saunders  
Lori Vinson  
Hillary Watt

Absent: Courtney Edwards  
Jorie Klein  
Ricky Reeves  
Dudley Wait

A Quorum is established at the opening of the meeting.  
Dinah Welsh and Courtney DeBower were also in attendance.

**3. Interim Hearing Update**

Ms. Dinah Welsh opened by stating there has been a lot activity performed getting ready for the Interim study and the hearing. She said there are many invited witnesses to represent RACs, hospitals, EMS and the public. Ms. Welsh was unsure what invited testimony Mr. Mike Beasley with Preferred Health will present. He is noted to be pro-telemedicine. Ms. Welsh commented that otherwise many of the planning efforts are coming together nicely. There are many handouts provided to the board today with information that will be shared with the legislators. The funding matrix has been updated and will be shared also. A 4-page white-paper document has been created with in-depth information on RACs, EMS and Trauma systems. Dr. Eastridge is planning to distribute many of these documents at the hearing tomorrow, and TETAF will be following up with the legislators to address any questions from the documents. Ms. Welsh and Dr. Eastridge commented that the “key” message is that the amount of funding has never been adequate; and that while the population is increasing, the funding to develop, maintain and mature the systems of care is decreasing. The Board members were informed that TETAF has not identified a specific dollar number, but approximately \$10M seems appropriate (30%RAC, 70%EMS). Ms. Welsh stressed that we need to get a more specific dollar figure. Ms. Welsh announced that the Board will review the TETAF Legislative workgroup’s proposals at the August 2016 meeting. TETAF has created a document illustrating the history of RAC funding. Determination of the RAC’s funding ‘ask’ is needed. The foundation for this dollar value can be determined based on the historical RAC funding document. Ms. Welsh stated that

necessary RAC funding last session was discussed as 50¢ per Texan. The Board was informed that no determinations have to be made as of today on what the specific dollar amounts should be. Ms. Welsh announced that TETAF is working with the Texas EMS Alliance for the EMS ‘ask’. She stated that the Legislature currently is in a ‘fact-gathering’ stage. Scott Christopher asked if there are any last minute needs from Board members. Ms. Welsh replied that she is somewhat concerned about the possibility of tele-medicine and air-medical distracting from our messages. All agreed that we need to see how the hearing tomorrow plays out and continue legislative interactions. TETAF will let Board know how it goes.

#### **4. GETAC Trauma Committee Surveys**

Ms. Hillary Watt has asked RAC representatives for feedback on these surveys. The Board members were reminded that this is not a TETAF generated survey, but rather the GETAC Trauma Systems Committee is coordinating this survey. Ms. Watt commented that she is curious to know the results / needs identified from this survey.

#### **5. Board Appointment Approval**

The Board members were reminded that Dr. Gandhi requested at the last meeting that the process for his appointment as the Board Vice-Chair be reviewed. Ms. Welsh stated that the TETAF Bylaws have been distributed and reviewed, and that the TETAF Bylaws support the process that was performed; specifically for the TETAF Chairman to appoint an interim replacement that is later ratified by the Board members. There were no further questions or concerns expressed.

#### **6. Restructuring Update**

Dr. Eastridge announced that discussions with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) regarding a restructuring consultative visit are continuing. Ms. Welsh stated that TETAF is not certain what the consult timelines are, but the ACS is beginning to gather their survey team. The urgency desired by TETAF has been communicated to the ACS. TETAF will facilitate the ACS interaction with the various stakeholders and not just limit their evaluation to TETAF documentation and processes. The Board members agreed that perinatal activities need to be factored into the assessment.

#### **7. Discussion of Affiliate Membership Levels**

The Board members were informed that Affiliate Membership has been allowable per the TETAF Bylaws for some time. Ms. Welsh stated that TETAF has not historically solicited for these memberships. She said that during the TETAF budget preparations, she and Mr. Jim Parisi have determined that increasing this membership volume area is an opportunity for additional revenue. The TETAF web site includes the various membership levels. TETAF is sending out solicitation letters later this month. Ms. Welsh noted that there have been some concerns raised about the Affiliate memberships. Dr. Eastridge commented that he has heard from many regarding concerns for Affiliate memberships by hospitals; especially concerns from the RACs. He stated the concern of creating a potential conflict of interest if a hospital Affiliate member is someday having a designation survey performed by TETAF. Ms. Kathy Rodgers commented that currently the integrity of the TETAF survey process is solid. She also appreciated the idea of expanding the revenue opportunities. Ms. Robin Garza stated that she supports Affiliate membership, but the Board needs to access any potential liability on which organizations might be impacted. Mr. Parisi requests that our auditor be asked for an opinion. He added that the auditors are currently working with TETAF and hope to have a report in August. Mr. Christopher asked if Affiliate membership would create a significant amount of additional revenue. Ms. Welsh replied that TETAF needs to research this question in greater detail. Ms. Welsh noted that Level I and Level II Trauma facilities only pay TETAF for continuing education currently. Most of the surveying revenues are from surveys of Level III and Level IV Trauma facilities. It was noted that TETAF Texas TQIP is an outlay of resources, and that Level I and Level II Trauma facilities are getting a TQIP discount. Mr. Parisi commented that Level I and Level II Trauma facilities do not have a survey conflict of interest. Ms. Lori Vinson stated that there may be hospitals that are not trauma centers that are interested in Affiliate membership. Dr. Eastridge stressed that all

stakeholders need to appear as getting along with each other while going into the Legislative session. Ms. Garza added that there could be businesses outside the acute care arena that might be interested in Affiliate membership. All agreed that TETAF needs to determine what the concerns are and move forward. Ms. Rodgers made a motion for TETAF to move forward with Affiliate membership, and for TETAF to talk to the auditor regarding possible conflicts of interest. Dr. Eastridge suggested that TETAF place the pursuit of Affiliate membership solicitation on hold. It was noted that Affiliate membership is currently listed on the TETAF website, with instructions to contact TETAF offices for more information. Ms. Lisa Hutchison asked if TETAF needs to communicate the concerns to the auditors. Mr. Parisi recommended that TETAF just let the auditors determine if conflict of interest exists. Both Dr. Eastridge and Mr. Parisi commented that the TETAF Board members have a fiscal responsibility to the organization. Dr. Raj Gandhi commented that is near impossible to satisfy everyone. All agreed to place this agenda item on hold for now, but that the need for additional revenue in the future is needed. The agenda item can be discussed more at the August 2016 meeting.

#### **8. Texas TQIP Update**

Dr. Gandhi announced that TETAF and TQIP are working on confidentiality agreements and getting all the participants onboard. He added that the program is also working on removing the blinders on the data currently being reported.

#### **9. Treasurer's Report**

A Profit & Loss report through May 2016 was provided to the Board members. Mr. Parisi reviewed the year-to-date (YTD) actual values. YTD income is \$616,564, with actual survey income short of budgeted survey income. YTD expenses are \$673,355, creating YTD net income (loss) of \$(56,791), which is significantly behind budget expectations.

Mr. Parisi reported that the auditors will finish up their TETAF review by end of July and have their report ready before the August 2016 TETAF meeting.

Ms. Kathy Rodgers provided a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Ms. Robin Garza. There was no further discussion and the motion passed without opposition.

#### **10. Secretary's Report**

Mr. Scott Christopher reported that the minutes from the Board conference call meeting on June 2, 2016 were made available to the Board members for their review. Ms. Robin Garza made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Saunders. There was no further discussion and the motion passed without opposition.

#### **11. Open Discussion**

- Ms. Courtney DeBower stated that it has been announced today that Dr. Robert Greenberg has been appointed by the Governor to serve as the GETAC Chairman.
- There will be a BCON train-the-trainer course on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Austin.

#### **12. July Action Items – all previously covered**

#### **13. Next Meeting**

Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin TX, August 23, 2016 at 5:30p.m.

#### **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Raj Gandhi at 5:16p.m.

***Scott Christopher, Secretary***