



**TETAF Board of Directors Conference Call  
Thursday, June 2, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. CDT  
Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The conference call meeting called to order by Dr. Brian Eastridge at 4:04 p.m. Copies of agenda and previous minutes can be found on the TETAF web site.

**2. Board Member Roll Call**– Brian Eastridge/Dinah Welsh

Present: Scott Christopher

Brian Eastridge

Lisa Hutchison

Kathy Rodgers

Dudley Wait

Hilary Watt

Jim Parisi (4:15 p.m.)

Robert Saunders (4:25 p.m.)

Raj Gandhi (4:45 p.m.)

Absent:

Courtney Edwards

Jorie Klein

Lisa Price

Ricky Reeves

Craig Rhyne

Lori Vinson

Robin Garza

A Quorum is not established at the opening of the meeting, but later established at 4:15 p.m. Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz and Courtney DeBower were also in attendance.

**3. Proposed Change in Meeting Schedule** – Brian Eastridge

Ms. Welsh reported that a TETAF Update conference call, where many trauma, acute care and EMS stakeholders were invited was held June 1. Ms. Welsh stated that for the month of June this new format of having a TETAF Update call and a TETAF Board of Directors meeting will allow the Board of Directors to have a greater focus on the business of TETAF. It was noted that the previous meeting structure was not as productive for the Board as desired. Ms. Welsh commented that future Board of Director meetings will be scheduled to allow as many Board members as possible to participate and attend the meeting. Ms. Welsh stated that TETAF has not received any negative or positive feedback from stakeholders on the new TETAF meeting structure but discussed the need to discuss and change the meeting schedule permanently at the August TETAF General Meeting. Ms. Welsh added that the TETAF staff members desire the leadership of the Board members while at the same time want to continue to provide forums for members to hear updates and provide feedback. Mr. Wait commented that the EMS Alliance initially struggled with its meeting structure, and currently schedules as many

'action' item votes as possible during their face-to-face meetings. Mr. Christopher commented that he can get the Board meeting minutes out in a timely fashion for stakeholders to review. All agreed that the TETAF Update meetings/calls should continue. Dr. Eastridge said the meeting structure will be further discussed as necessary at the August Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Wait questioned if there will be a July 2016 conference call. Currently, there is a Board of Directors meeting scheduled for July 12, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

#### 4. TETAF Update

- TETAF Board Restructuring Update/Discussion

Dr. Eastridge stated that an independent consultation is being considered to better optimize how TETAF can support and improve the Texas trauma, acute care and EMS systems. He reported that he held discussions with an American College of Surgeon (ACS) expert yesterday, and received a keen interest from that physician for performing a TETAF consultation. The discussion included utilizing a couple of ACS reviewers during the consultation to involve as many stakeholders as possible. The ACS physician recommended performing an ACS survey of the entire State of Texas. It was noted that some of a 'state survey' groundwork has already been accomplished. The ACS physician requested a 1-2 page whitepaper on exactly what TETAF's Board of Directors wants to accomplish with the consultation. Dr. Eastridge and Ms. Welsh will draft this requested document as soon as possible. Ms. Rodgers asked when the consultation would likely occur. It was noted that the consultation would have to be planned around the ACS reviewer's schedules. Mr. Christopher asked about the cost of the consultation. Dr. Eastridge stated approximately \$20,000, and Ms. Welsh confirmed that TETAF has reserve funds available to cover these costs. Dr. Eastridge commented the value of experiencing a 'red' financial year to insure a 'black' financial future. *Mr. Christopher provided a motion for TETAF to continue discussions and planning, led by Dr. Eastridge, for a consultative TETAF restructuring review with the ACS, with Department of State Health Services (DSHS) involvement up to a cost of approximately \$20,000.<sup>00</sup>. Mr. Parisi provided a second for this motion with the agreed upon amendment to include the ACS reviewer's expenses in addition to the \$20,000.<sup>00</sup>. A quorum of the Board was noted to be present. There was no opposition to the motion.*

- Perinatal Update

Ms. Brenda Putz informed the Board members that TETAF continues to move forward in establishing a perinatal designation program. She reported that dedicated perinatal information has been established and is available on the TETAF website. Ms. Putz stated a perinatal logo has been created to help distinguish this program from the Trauma program/services. Ms. Putz stated she is very pleased with the response and cooperation she has received from the perinatal community and stakeholders. The Board members were informed that the perinatal rules will be released this year and that the designation requirement will begin September 1, 2018.

- Pre-Survey Questionnaire Update

Ms. Putz announced that the trauma survey pre-survey questionnaire has been completed, and the review process going live June 1, 2016. She reported that TETAF continues to work with DSHS on the requirement for the application to be submitted 12 months in advance of survey, and she noted that DSHS is working on abbreviating this portion of the application. Ms. Putz stated that TETAF continues to develop an electronic version of the TETAF pre-survey questionnaire.

- New Website Launch ([www.tetaf.org](http://www.tetaf.org))

Ms. Welsh noted that the newly revised TETAF website has been up for approximately two weeks. She encouraged all the Board members to please review the site and provide feedback, and let her know if they encounter any website issues.

#### 5. Legislative Update – Dinah Welsh

Ms. Welsh began the update by informing the Board members that TETAF has recently spent a significant amount of time discussing legislative needs for EMS. Topics that have been discussed is an EMS fuel tax exemption and balanced billing. Mr. Wait confirmed that there are many efforts underway currently to address EMS issues in the next legislative session.

The interim Legislative Study on EMS and Trauma Systems public hearing planned for July 13, 2016 was discussed. Ms. Welsh commented that possible witnesses to testify at this hearing are being approached. She stated that Dr. Ken Mattox and Mr. Eric Epley have been asked to testify. Ms. Welsh noted the importance of hearing testimony that covers all of the components of the EMS and Trauma System. She stated that the hearing will have a DSHS overview, invited testimony and public comment/testimony. The Board was informed that TETAF needs to be sure that all of the public testimony is productive. Ms. Welsh stated the TETAF Legislative Workgroup is discussing ways to add RAC processes into legislation to improve funding and/or strengthen RAC activities and responsibilities. She stated the next TETAF Legislative Workgroup conference call meeting is at 10 a.m. on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She stated the TETAF Legislative Workgroup face-to-face meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> has a conflict with a DSHS Legislative Appropriations Request meeting at 10 a.m. Attendees will be encouraged to attend the DSHS meeting and the TETAF workgroup meeting will begin immediately after at the TETAF offices. Ms. Welsh announced that there will be a Texas Hospital Association meeting on June 30, 2016 to discuss trauma and emergency healthcare systems with Kathy Perkins providing an update.

#### 6. Treasurer’s Report – Jim Parisi / Dinah Welsh

Ms. Welsh reported that the updated financial reports need to be reviewed with Mr. Parisi. She stated that the most recent financial reports will be shared with the Board members as soon as possible.

Ms. Welsh informed the Board members that two bids have been received for performing a financial audit of TETAF. A highly recommended CPA firm with a \$9,000 bid was chosen. Ms. Welsh commented that this activity was previously supported and approved by the Board of Directors.

#### 7. Secretary’s Report – Scott Christopher

Mr. Christopher was present and provided the report. He noted that the May 10, 2016 meeting minutes have been posted for review and approval. *Ms. Hilary Watt made a motion to accept these meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Raj Gandhi provided a second for the motion. There was no further discussion and the minutes were passed unanimously.*

#### 8. Open Discussion

Dr. Gandhi requested that his appointment to the Board of Directors be verified to be consistent with the TETAF Bylaws. *Ms. Welsh stated she will perform this verification.* There was discussion over the advantages and disadvantages of holding Board member elections in 2016, or rather keeping the existing Board until after the TETAF restructure consultation recommendations are received. Ms. Rodgers commented that delaying Board elections until after the restructure plan was decided upon

was approved by the Board in February 2016. Ms. Hutchison inquired about the process for Board elections after the consultation. It was discussed that the TETAF Board would make recommendations to the membership on an election process and necessary Bylaw changes. The group agreed to further discuss this topic with stakeholders during the August 2016 face-to-face meeting.

**9. June Action Items**

- There were no additional items identified as requiring action.

**10. Next Meetings – Dinah Welsh reviewed the future meetings.**

- TETAF Board of Directors meeting – unsure if July 11<sup>th</sup> or July 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Welsh will announce to the Board members as soon as possible.
- TETAF General meeting – August 23, 2016 @ 5:30pm (Wyndham Garden Inn Hotel, Austin).

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

***Minutes Recorded by:  
Scott Christopher, Secretary***