



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

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The conference call meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

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

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

A Quorum was established at the opening of the meeting.  
Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz and Courtney DeBower were also in attendance.

**3. Legislative Interim Update**

Ms. Welsh provided an interim update. TETAF staff continue to meet with lawmakers and legislative staff. Lawmakers are in heavy fundraising season. Dinah & Courtney have been attending fundraising events. This has been opening doors to lawmakers.

The DSHS legislative appropriations request was released recently and the EMS/Trauma funding came in very low. On last week's legislative workgroup call discussed contact with DSHS and acknowledgment of mistake. HHSC and DSHS Commissioners in prepared remarks at hearing acknowledged mistake and need to increase account 5111 appropriations by \$44 million. Because of huge error, a lot of time and energy spent on our issues and commissioner spoke to vital role of trauma system. TETAF hopes the LAR will be corrected. Legislative offices also seem to understand that this was a mistake. We will know if corrected as budget continues to move through the process (hopefully an official correction this month). THA and TETAF have both sent letters addressing the issue.

Ms. Rodgers inquired about level of trust that this was a genuine mistake and not another CPRIT type situation. Ms. Welsh shared that it seems to be a genuine mistake but that we need to be aware and cautious. She shared that DSHS staff have been very open about the need to correct the LAR.

Ms. Welsh shared that Hilary, Wanda and other RAC leaders have been working on a specific dollar ask for RACs. Currently they receive about \$3.9 million per year. RACs believe they need an additional \$6 million per year to cover all needs. Ms. Welsh is scheduling meetings with key appropriations gurus to sit down and share numbers, determine plausibility. Increases are always challenging, more than doubling the ask will be especially difficult. However, appropriations RACs have been given have never been based on true need. Riders also become very difficult when funding is pulled from various sources (trauma, stroke, cardiac, perinatal funds).

Ms. Watt inquired about DSHS LAR and if it has happened before/whether it was corrected then? Ms. Welsh shared that mistakes have been made but that she does not recall one this significant. Some mistakes have been fixed though. She also stated that she does not recall other mistakes receiving so much attention and acknowledgement from department. She also shared that the LAR is the base that the legislature builds a budget upon.

#### **4. Survey Process Update**

Ms. Putz shared that the first neonatal pilot survey has been scheduled. There are 27 surveyors who will be trained Monday/Tuesday. TETAF continues to receive surveyor applications. There is a strong desire by many to participate in the TETAF process. TETAF has also received 62 requests for survey from hospitals.

There have been a couple distractions recently – AAP (also approved as surveyor) went to DSHS with concerns about potential conflicts of interest. AAP wants to use out of state surveyors, and has asked DSHS regarding conflict of interest issues that could affect surveyors available for survey. TETAF has met with largest NICU employer and discussed concerns. TETAF has been very careful about conflict of interest and has also worked with DSHS to address any concerns. TETAF will continue to provide excellent service, just like with the trauma and stroke survey processes. As we move forward with development of NICU survey services, TETAF will vet process through board.

Ms. Welsh shared that both TETAF and AAP have been approved to survey all levels of NICU facilities and reminded the Board that level IV is the highest level for NICU. Ms. Putz shared that 7 level IV facilities have invited TETAF to survey. TETAF will hold another surveyor training in January and will be looking for approval from the Board to hire additional staff. Ms. Putz stated that TETAF has been well received by the perinatal community.

#### **5. TETAF Restructuring Consultation**

Ms. Welsh shared that TETAF continues to work with ACS on the restructuring process and another call is scheduled for next week. There was continued discussion about the need for a face-to-face meeting, possibly in conjunction with GETAC. It was shared that the day at the capitol events usually occur during February GETAC as well. Ms. Watt recommended Monday of GETAC week. Ms. Garza shared concern that the TIPS conference is historically held that day. Dr. Gandhi advised that TETAF hold the ACS meetings between the Tuesday day at the capitol events and that evening's general meeting. He shared that it is difficult for practioners who are not at GETAC for part of their job to be gone an extra day. General consensus was that TETAF would aim for Tuesday of GETAC for the meeting.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Welsh shared that revised tax records (2014 & 2015) will be filed this month with revised allocation of expenses and will include 1099 information for any board members who received honorariums. The accountant has also put in a request for the TETAF IRS year to be consistent with the fiscal year.

As part of the audit action items, Ms. Welsh has secured D&O insurance through Frost Bank. The new policy will also provide some coverage for surveyors when contracting for TETAF.

TETAF is opening an additional interest income account through Frost Bank – signature pages will be sent to officers as needed.

Ms. Welsh shared that there have been challenges for the finance committee to find a date that works for everyone. They hope to have a face-to-face meeting soon. TETAF staff have received confidentiality statements from the committee members.

Ms. Welsh introduced the July financials for approval. Mr. Parisi reported on the details last month. Ms. Welsh stated that financials can vary significantly based on predicted surveys performed and whether they come in as projected. Dr. Rhyne moved to pass the July financials, Ms. Rodgers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Secretary's Report**

The August and September minutes were circulated for review last week. Ms. Welsh shared one change needed to the September minutes – Dr. Eastridge should be noted as present. Ms. Watt moved to pass the August and September minutes as corrected, Ms. Garza seconded. The motion passed unanimously. TETAF staff will update the September minutes and post to the website as final.

## **8. October Action Items – all previously covered**

## **9. Next Meeting**

Sunday November 20 at 5:30 pm.

There was discussion whether the Board should hold a call the first week of November. Dr. Gandhi shared that many will be at the TQIP national meeting. It was decided for the time being to adjourn until November 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Raj Gandhi at 4:48 p.m.

***Minutes prepared by Courtney DeBower – TETAF staff***