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TETAF Prepares for Start of 2017 Legislative Session

The 85th legislative session begins Jan. 10 in Austin and the TETAF staff and Board of Directors are working diligently to prepare for the challenges ahead.

More than 700 bills have been pre-filed as of Dec. 1. Included are three bills to eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program, a bill to eliminate the automatic driver's license suspension provision, multiple bills related to red light camera elimination, distracted driving legislation, a bill to allow EMS professionals to carry a firearm and a proposal for a study of workplace violence against nurses. These bills will be discussed in detail during the weekly TETAF Legislative Workgroup meetings.

The main mission of the workgroup is to prepare stakeholders to advocate for the [legislative priorities](#) recommended by the workgroup and approved by the TETAF Board of Directors. However, the workgroup is also an excellent opportunity to brainstorm with other stakeholders about individual priorities and bills of interest to the trauma and emergency healthcare community.

In addition, the 2017 Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 21, prior to the start of the Feb. GETAC meetings. Advocates from throughout the state are invited to Austin to meet with lawmakers and share their first-hand knowledge of the lifesaving Texas Trauma & Emergency Healthcare System. Please plan to attend this important advocacy opportunity. Registration will be available soon.

TETAF also encourages each RAC to meet with their local state lawmakers and has created a "Legislator Lunch" package containing numerous resources, including an updated list of all State Senators and State Representatives by RAC. The "Legislator Lunch" is intended to be an informal opportunity to educate lawmakers on the trauma and emergency healthcare system, what a RAC is, their role in the community and the needs of both the RAC and the system. These resources are available to all TETAF stakeholders.

Please contact [Courtney DeBower](#) for more information on any of the TETAF advocacy initiatives. Additional legislative updates and resources are available on the TETAF website at www.tetaf.org/advocacy/ and www.tetaf.org/news/.

DSHS Associate Commissioner Kathy Perkins Retires, Shares Well Wishes & Advice with Stakeholders

Department of State Health Services Associate Commissioner, Division for Regulatory Services, Kathy Perkins retired Nov. 30 after more than 27 years of service to the state. Ms. Perkins worked tirelessly to support and advocate for the trauma and emergency healthcare system throughout her career and is a friend and colleague to many.

During her farewell remarks at the Nov. GETAC meeting, Ms. Perkins provided some remarkable words of wisdom to all of us in the trauma and emergency community, and TETAF would like to share those remarks with all of you:

So, my last report to you; I knew this day would come and that this would be hard. I truly love our mission. So, I tried to think of what I really wanted to say to all of you phenomenal people that it has been my honor and privilege to work with.

Keep moving forward; we have built a great system, but there are always things that can be done to make it better; continue to look critically at yourselves and your systems with the patient foremost in your mind, then you will always do the right thing.

Work together; hash out your differences behind closed doors, agree on major goals and your message, then present your case; what a mission you have and when you are united (EMS, Docs, RNs, RACs, TFs), I think you are unbeatable.

Money isn't everything; we did so much before we had any; I understand that many things we need and want to provide the best care to patients are expensive, but there continues to be benefit in the simplest of strategies, talking to each other; there will never be enough \$\$\$, so please don't let it divide you.

I am going to take some time to decompress and enjoy my family and friends. I do hope to keep in touch.

View Past GETAC Meetings via USTREAM Free of Charge

As part of TETAF's efforts to serve trauma and emergency healthcare stakeholders throughout the entire state, we offer a GETAC USTREAM channel free of charge to all stakeholders. [Click here](#) to view all of the most recent council & committee meetings, as well as past meetings dating back to 2011.

TETAF also offers a large collection of resources on our website. Visit www.tetaf.org/resources/ for more information.

FY 2017 Uncompensated Trauma Care Application Deadline Extended, Reporting Request

The DSHS FY 2017 Uncompensated Trauma Care (UCC) application deadline has been extended until

Feb. 28, 2017. An updated application is available [online](#).

In regard to the reporting in the last quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2015, DSHS is also asking facilities to convert one of the ICD-10 codes to a qualifying ICD-9 codes that meets the inclusion criteria, if possible. If your facility cannot complete this request, please contact the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination and direct your questions and/or concerns to:

Elizabeth Stevenson, RN

Designation Program Manager – Neonatal, Stroke, and Trauma

Phone: (512) 834-6794

Email: Elizabeth.stevenson@dshs.state.tx.us

OR

Indra Hernandez

Contracts Manager

Phone: (512) 834-6669

Email: indra.hernandez@dshs.state.tx.us

Upcoming TOPIC Courses in Texas

Seven TOPIC courses have been scheduled in Texas for 2017. The Society of Trauma Nurses TOPIC course is taught to all members of the trauma system team who participate in the on-going assessment, evaluation and improvement of trauma care. The course was developed in response to the need for education and better understanding of the performance improvement process in trauma

care. TOPIC focuses on the on-going assessment of the continuum of trauma care with a structured review of process and discussions of strategies to monitor trauma patient outcomes.

The course offers practical application for all Levels of trauma centers, from entry level to mature phase of program development. The Modules are taught with a focus on didactic, operational definitions, sample tools, case study examples and take home points.

January 20, 2017, Arlington, Texas

February 22, 2017, Austin, Texas

March 2, 2017, Arlington, Texas

May 10, 2017, Austin, Texas

July 8, 2017, Arlington, Texas

August 16, 2017, Austin, Texas

September 7, 2017, Arlington, Texas

Registration is available [online](#).

New Video on Civilian-Military Trauma Care

A recent report of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine states that advances in military trauma care achieved during the Afghanistan and Iraq wars can be translated to the civilian sector to improve trauma care for all Americans. Sustaining these military advances, and closing the gap between the military and civilian sectors, can help to improve trauma care—to protect those the nation sends into harm's way, and to benefit every American.

A recently released video features the report's main messages and can be used to share this message in your region. The video, as well as additional resources, is available [online](#).



Texas Perinatal Services Program

The Texas Perinatal Services Program has begun scheduling [surveys](#) for 2017. Kathy Clayton and Kim Dally are working diligently to ensure your survey is scheduled as soon as possible. Look for

communications from this team soon as they coordinate and schedule your hospital survey.

In addition, TETAF has provided numerous resources you may find useful as you build your program:

- [TETAF Website](#)
- [TXNICU Coordinators Forum](#)
- TETAF Perinatal Distribution List - [Sign Up Here](#)



Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

ICYMI: Updates to Texas Trauma Center Application & Survey Process

TETAF and the Department of State Health Services have partnered to streamline the trauma center application and survey process for Texas trauma centers. Effective June 1, trauma centers should submit an abbreviated DSHS application for designation 12 months in advance of expiration. At the same time, the trauma center should go to www.tetaf.org/services/ and submit a "Request for Survey" (RFS) form. TETAF staff will then contact the trauma center directly to coordinate a survey date.

The new TETAF Pre-Survey Questionnaire (PSQ) should be submitted to TETAF six months prior to the

survey date. During this transition year, if a trauma center has already completed the previous version of the DSHS application, that application will be accepted and utilized by the surveyors.

TETAF has created a [timeline](#) to assist you in the new process. We welcome your questions and recommendations as we quality assure this new process over the next several months. Contact [Brenda Putz](#) with any questions or suggestions.

TETAF Calendar

A full list of educational opportunities and upcoming meetings can be found on the [TETAF website](#).

Jan. 10 – 85th Legislative Session Begins

Feb. 21 – Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol (Austin)

Feb. 22-24 – Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (Austin)

** Please submit any additional educational opportunities to [Courtney DeBower](#).*



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