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August 2016

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TETAF General Meeting August 23

The next TETAF General Meeting will take place Tuesday, August 23 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin.

TETAF General Meeting

Tuesday, August 23

5:30 PM

Wyndham Garden Hotel

Lady Bird Lake Ballroom

3401 South Interstate 35

Austin, TX

All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Stop the Bleed: Free BCon Courses Offered During GETAC

Continuing TETAF's commitment to the Stop the Bleed campaign, we will continue to partner with trauma professionals to offer BCon (bleeding control for the injured) courses throughout the year. This course has been developed for direct training for immediate responders (lay personnel) and professional first responders in external hemorrhage control in response to a call from the Hartford Consensus for direct training.

At least two additional courses will be offered during the August 2016 GETAC meetings in Austin. One

at the Texas Capitol and one at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Registration is now open [online](#).

Congratulations to the Panhandle Regional Advisory Council on training 64 individuals in their region on proper bleeding control and tourniquet use!



House Appropriations, Public Health Hold Hearing on Trauma System

On July 13, the Texas House Appropriations and House Public Health Committees met to hear invited and public testimony on an interim charge to study the trauma system in Texas. In preparation for next session, the two committees are studying financing, service delivery, planning and coordination among EMS providers, Regional Advisory Councils, EMTF and hospitals. This is a groundbreaking opportunity for trauma and emergency healthcare stakeholders to educate lawmakers in advance of the 2017 legislative session.

The hearing began with testimony from the Legislative Budget Board on the various state funding sources for trauma. The committee members also heard from Kathy Perkins from the Department of State Health Services Office of EMS/Trauma. Ms. Perkins provided a historical look at the trauma system and shared in depth about the hospital designation process and the role the RACs play within the system.

Lawmakers also heard from two panels of invited witnesses, and numerous public witnesses, who covered a wide range of trauma and emergency healthcare topics, from both a rural and urban perspective:

- Dr. Ken Mattox, speaking on behalf of SETRAC, shared that the trauma and emergency healthcare system is being asked to do more with less and encouraged lawmakers to look at ways to make the system more efficient, in addition to providing additional funding.
- Eric Epley, Executive Director of STRAC, detailed the role that EMTF plays within the system and outlined EMTF response to several disasters.
- Dudley Wait, Texas EMS Alliance, discussed the EMS cost of readiness, and detailed the problems related to reimbursement and uncompensated care.
- Justin Boyd, testifying on behalf of the Panhandle RAC and TETAF, highlighted the challenges faced by rural and frontier EMS providers, including funding and education.
- John Henderson, speaking on behalf of the Texas Hospital Association, detailed the struggles faced by rural and frontier trauma facilities.
- Jorie Klein, testifying on behalf of Parkland and TETAF, spoke to the loss of funding from the tobacco fund and the potential impact on the trauma system. She also testified on the recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report and recommendations for a national trauma care system to achieve zero preventable deaths after injury. Ms. Klein answered questions about Parkland's role in treating the victims of the

recent shootings in Dallas.

- Dr. Brian Eastridge, speaking on behalf of TETAF, testified about the need to quickly get patients to the right facility. He also stressed the need to recognize EMS as an essential service, adequately fund RACs and maintain disaster preparedness resources.
- Marshall Foster, a recent survivor of a high speed motorcycle crash, traveled to Austin to share his story and remind lawmakers that supporting the trauma system ultimately means supporting the patient.

Also testifying were Susan Foster, Mary Ann Contreras, Darrell Pile, Mike Easley, Jonathan Sell and Josh Vandever. The hearing is archived [online](#).

The information obtained by the committee during the recent hearing will be used to prepare an interim report on the trauma system that will be shared with the rest of the legislature and may be used to guide future legislation. There are additional ways to influence the report, which will be prepared over the next few months. Stakeholders are encouraged to reach out to their local lawmakers to share firsthand the work being done in their communities.

TETAF has created various documents you may find helpful when visiting with lawmakers:

- [Trauma System Handout \(long version\)](#)
- [Trauma System Handout \(short version\)](#)
- [Tobacco Fund Summary](#)
- [Guide to Texas Advocacy](#)

TETAF has also sent a [letter to Texas leadership](#) requesting that trauma and emergency healthcare spending be exempt from the 4% budget cuts requested of state agencies. Contact [Courtney DeBower](#) with any questions regarding the interim study or these documents.



Motorcycle crash survivor Marshall Foster (center) testified July 13, alongside his mother Susan (right) and Mary Ann Contreras of JPS (left).

U.S. House Hearing Focuses on National Trauma System

On July 12, witnesses testified before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

on a proposed bill to facilitate the assignment of military trauma teams to civilian trauma centers to ensure military trauma readiness. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine has recently released recommendations for a national trauma care system to achieve zero preventable deaths after injury.

Hundreds of U.S. service member lives could likely be saved in future wars if trauma care were optimal. Those potential gains soar into the tens of thousands of lives saved if past and future improvements in military trauma care could be systematically translated into the civilian sector.

The [report](#) presents a vision for a national trauma care system driven by the clear and bold aim of zero preventable deaths after injury and minimal trauma-related disability, to benefit those the nation sends into harm's way in combat as well as every American.

The hearing commenced with opening statements from various members including Rep Richard Hudson (R-NC) and Rep G.K. Butterfield (D-NC). Hudson and Butterfield launched the Pediatric Trauma Caucus in May. The Subcommittee also heard statements from Rep Michael Burgess (R-TX) and Representative Gene Green (D-TX). The two recently published an op-ed regarding the importance of strengthening access to trauma care.

Jorie Klein, Trauma Program Director at Rees-Jones Trauma Center at Parkland led with testimony on behalf of the Trauma Center Association of America. She was joined by other members of the NASEM Committee on Military Trauma Care's Health System including David Marcozzi, MD and C. William Schwab MD, FACS. In addition, the Subcommittee heard testimony from Craig Manifold DO, FACEP, Committee Chair, American College of Emergency Physicians and Brent Myers MD, MPH, FACE, President-Elect, National Association of EMS Physicians.

A webcast of this hearing and additional information is available [online](#).



Jorie Klein, RN, BSN, testifying before the Subcommittee on Health.

Potential Eligible EMS Providers for FY 2017 EMS Allotment/Allocation Funding

The Department of State Health Services Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination is updating the list of potential eligible EMS providers for the FY 17 EMS Allotment/Allocation (also referred to as EMS/County fund).

This funding consists of EMS and Trauma Care System Account (9-1-1 funds), the Emergency Medical Services, Trauma Facilities, and Trauma Care System Fund (1131 funds) and the Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Fund (3588 funds). Funds are distributed through your Regional Advisory Council office.

If you are a Texas licensed EMS Provider providing 9-1-1 and/or emergency transfer service you may be eligible for funding through the EMS Allotment/Allocation fund. If you are a Texas licensed EMS Provider contracted to provide emergency medical services outside your county of licensure, you have until **August 31, 2016** to submit a copy of your contract or letter of agreement.

Please check the Excel sheet at the following link for your organization's name and contract status:

<http://dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/sb102elig.shtm>

Contact DSHS directly with any questions:

Susana Gutierrez, Contracts Specialist

Email: Susana.Gutierrez@dshs.state.tx.us

Phone: (512) 834-6700 Ext. 2377

OR

Indra Hernandez, Contracts Manager

Email: Indra.Hernandez@dshs.state.tx.us

Phone: (512) 834-6669

TETAF & Panhandle RAC Partner for Hospital Data Management Course

The TETAF Hospital Data Management Course instructors traveled to the Panhandle RAC in Amarillo in July. Hosted by BSA, and sponsored by the Panhandle RAC, almost 50 people attended the second offering of the course this year.

The faculty of the course continue to strive to provide trauma registry education and training to trauma registrars and trauma program managers throughout the state. TETAF appreciates Irene Lopez, Andy Botello, Kelly Stephens, Debbie Hutton, Joe Schmider, Adrian Conder and the DSHS epidemiology team for their work to make this course successful. Thank you also to BSA for their AV and logistical support.



Perinatal Update

The NICU Survey Request form is now active on the TETAF [website](#). Once the request for survey application form is received, the TETAF NICU survey coordinator will contact the requesting hospital regarding potential survey dates. Please note that surveys will occur after January 1, 2017.

The Texas Perinatal Services program has created an online forum for Texas NICU Coordinators to ask questions, share best practices and prepare for the NICU designation process. Join the forum online [here](#) to participate.

TETAF will continue to provide monthly NICU and perinatal updates in the newsletter. If you would like to receive more frequent updates, subscribe to the TETAF Perinatal Distribution List [here](#).



Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

Updates to Texas Trauma Center Application & Survey Process

TETAF and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) 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 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.

Texas EMS Award Nominations Now Open

Texas EMS Award nominations will be accepted until Sept 30. Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a person or organization that best exemplifies the Texas EMS/Trauma system.

When filling out the nomination, please use the space provided and keep your nomination as brief and concise as possible. Be specific, using examples when possible, to indicate why this person or organization should win. Keep in mind that the people who reviews the nominations probably will not be as familiar with your nominee as you are.

The nomination packets are given to programs in the Office of EMS and Trauma System Coordination and sent to each EMS zone office. Each program and zone ranks the nominations for each category and returns the information to the Office, where scores are tallied. Scores are kept confidential from all except those who tally the scores. Winners are announced at the Awards Luncheon at the Texas EMS Conference in November.

More information and the official nomination form are available [online](#).

HHS Announces New Actions to Combat Opioid Epidemic

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell recently announced several new actions the department is taking to combat the nation's opioid epidemic. The actions include expanding access to buprenorphine, a medication to treat opioid use disorder, a proposal to eliminate any potential financial incentive for doctors to prescribe opioids and a requirement for Indian Health Service prescribers and pharmacists to check state Prescription Drug Monitoring Program databases before

prescribing or dispensing opioids for pain.

In addition, the department is launching more than a dozen new scientific studies on opioid misuse and pain treatment and soliciting feedback to improve and expand prescriber education and training programs.

More information is available [online](#).

Upcoming Meetings

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

Aug. 23 – Stop the Bleed: BCon Course (Austin)

Aug. 23 – TETAF General Meeting (Austin)

Aug. 24 – Trauma Outcomes & Performance Improvement Course - TOPIC (Austin)

Aug. 24-26 – Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council – GETAC (Austin)



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