

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)



September 2016

Table of Contents

[TETAF Board Meets for Quarterly General Meeting, Votes on Legislative Priorities for 2017](#)

[EMS Rule Revisions Posted for Public Comment, Upcoming Hearing](#)

[Interested in Serving on a GETAC Committee?](#)

[ACS Committee on Trauma Introduces Needs Assessment Tool](#)

[Texas Health and Human Services Agencies Begin Major Transformation](#)

[NICU Update](#)

[Last Call for Nominations: Texas EMS Awards](#)

[ICYMI: Updates to Texas Trauma Center Application & Survey Process](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

TETAF Board Meets for Quarterly General Meeting, Votes on Legislative Priorities for 2017

The TETAF Board of Directors met Aug. 23 for the quarterly TETAF General Meeting. Items of interest included a report from the TETAF auditor, a discussion of a finance committee to be appointed, an update on the new Texas Perinatal Services program of TETAF and an in-depth discussion of potential legislative priorities submitted by the Legislative Workgroup.

The TETAF Board of Directors voted to formally support three legislative priorities as staff prepare for the 85th legislative session, beginning in Jan. 2017. Those priorities include:

- **Increase & Preserve Funding for the Trauma System.** The population of Texas has grown more than 63 percent in the past 25 years. At a time of growing demands on the system, state funding has been stagnant or declining. Rural and frontier communities already are experiencing a lack of access to timely emergency healthcare. Urban areas have more resources but still struggle to maintain services. If Texas wants to maintain its unique, highly effective trauma and emergency healthcare system, the Legislature must ensure a more adequate, stable funding stream to support Emergency Medical Services, Regional Advisory Councils, designated hospitals and the Emergency Medical Task Force. The majority of state funding for the trauma and emergency healthcare system is currently generated through the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP). Therefore, it would be irresponsible to repeal the DRP without enacting a program to generate comparable funding.
- **Dedicated Funding for Regional Advisory Councils.** The twenty-two Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) have been hit hard by recent funding cuts. These unique entities unite competing healthcare providers to develop, implement, maintain and continuously improve regional trauma and emergency healthcare plans. This critical component of the system needs to be adequately financed and expanded to improve patient outcomes and save lives. The state-mandated

responsibilities of the RACs have expanded, despite minimal state funding. The continued functions of the RACs are threatened without additional state funds. An additional, specific appropriation to the RACs would allow for increased regional coordination to ensure that all Texans are given the best chance of survival when facing an emergency healthcare situation.

- **Replace the Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Funds Appropriated from the Tobacco Fund (Fund 5046).** In 2011, the \$100 million corpus of the Permanent Tobacco Fund for EMS and Trauma Care was raided to provide funding for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). This action has left Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) without the funds they need to save lives in emergency situations. Previous appropriations of the interest from this tobacco fund provided several million per year for local project grants to support EMS and coordination of regional trauma and emergency healthcare through the RACs. At the end of the 2016-17 biennium, approximately \$11.6 million will remain in Fund 5046. This fund no longer can produce the interest needed to provide a perpetual source of funds for EMS providers and the 22 RACs. The provision allowing the diversion of funds must be repealed, and the money restored, even if it takes several sessions to fully restore the \$100 million corpus.

TETAF will be working with lawmakers to ensure that these priorities are addressed during the next legislative session. The TETAF Legislative Workgroup will continue to meet regularly over the next few months. To join the workgroup, contact [Courtney DeBower](#).

EMS Rule Revisions Posted for Public Comment, Upcoming Hearing

The proposed EMS rule revisions have been [posted](#) in the *Texas Register* for public comment.

Comments on the proposal are due by Sept. 12 and may be submitted to:

Joseph Schmider

Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination

Health Care and Quality Section

Division of Regulatory Services

Department of State Health Services

Mail Code 1876,

P.O. Box 149347

Austin, Texas 78714-9347

(512) 834-6700 or Joseph.Schmider@dshs.state.tx.us

There will also be a hearing to receive public comment on Sept. 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The hearing will take place at:

Texas Department of State Health Services

Lecture Hall K-100

1100 West 49th Street

Austin, Texas 78756

Interested in Serving on a GETAC Committee?

The Department of State Health Services is accepting applications to serve on various GETAC committees until midnight, September 30. The application form can be downloaded from the

News/Features column of the DSHS Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination [website](#).

- Applications (via email) are due in the Office by **midnight, September 30**. Due to tight timelines, applications received after that time will not be reviewed or considered.
- Committees are made up of 11 members. Committee appointments are open to anyone seeking either re-appointment or initial appointment.
- OEMS/TS will work with the GETAC council chair and committee chairs to coordinate the selection process.
- The announcement of new and/or re-appointed committee members will be made at the November GETAC meeting. New committee members will meet with their respective committee for the first time at the February GETAC meetings.
- Applications are only accepted electronically. Be sure to use the submit button/email address printed on the application to ensure your application is received.
- Be advised that failure to complete all fields on this form may result in your application being excluded from consideration for committee service.

If your appointment to a committee expires in 2016, you **MUST** reapply to be considered for re-appointment to that committee. To check when a term expires, click [here](#).

Applications are being accepted for the Air Medical, Cardiac Care, Disaster Preparedness, Education, EMS, Injury Prevention, Medical Directors, Pediatric, Stroke and Trauma Systems committees. Committee members serve three-year terms.

For information, contact Colin Crocker at colin.crocker@dshs.state.tx.us or 512-834-6700, ext. 2706.

ACS Committee on Trauma Introduces Needs Assessment Tool Aimed at Resolving Trauma Center Debate

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma has recently released a new instrument to measure the trauma center needs of the various regions in the U.S. In August 2015, the committee convened the Needs Based Trauma Center Designation Consensus Conference, a broad group of stakeholders involved in the establishment, operation or designation of trauma centers throughout the country. The goal of this conference was to begin work on a set of practical methods and metrics to determine a needs based designation of trauma centers that would be broadly accepted.

The final product—the ACS NBATS tool—is designed to evaluate the need within a particular geographic area. The assessment tool evaluates the number of centers needed, starting from a clean slate and then making adjustments for existing trauma centers. The ACS NBATS tool does not specifically assess the impact of adding an additional center to a region, nor does it determine the relative merit of a particular facility becoming a trauma center.

A follow-up meeting of the consensus group is scheduled to convene this year to continue the work of refining the tool and to expand pilot testing. More information and a full list of participants is available [online](#).

Texas Health and Human Services Agencies Begin Major Transformation

At the direction of the Texas Legislature, the state's health agencies have begun an immense restructuring with the intent to make the system more efficient and effective.

On Sept. 1, approximately 4,000 employees and more than 120 programs and functions officially moved to the Health and Human Services Commission from four other agencies, including the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

This move is the first of two waves of the state's significant health agency transformation designed to help Texans find and receive services more efficiently. The first phase moves many client services and administrative functions to HHSC. The second wave, set for Sept. 1, 2017, moves certain regulatory programs, state hospitals and state supported living centers to HHSC from other agencies. After the move, DSHS will continue to operate but will focus its efforts on core public health functions. No programs were eliminated as a result of the system overhaul.

NICU Update

The Department of State Health Services has posted their neonatal application packets [online](#). Please note that the NICU survey process differs from trauma or stroke. NICU facilities will first need to be surveyed first (TETAF has posted the NICU Survey Request form [online](#)). Once the facility is surveyed, they will complete the state application and include their survey report to apply for designation. Please note that designation is determined by the state, based on the findings from the survey.

Surveyor training will begin soon, with pilot surveys planned for the Fall. TETAF is still accepting [applications](#) for registered nurses, neonatal nurse practitioners and pediatric surgeons.

The next meeting of the Perinatal Advisory Council will take place in Austin on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 10:30 am. More information is available [online](#).

Last Call for Nominations: Texas EMS Awards

Texas EMS Award nominations are being accepted until September 30. Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a person or organization that best exemplifies what the Texas EMS/Trauma system has to offer. Each category honors a person or organization that exemplifies the best that the EMS/trauma system has to offer.

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](#).

ICYMI: 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 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.

Upcoming Meetings

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

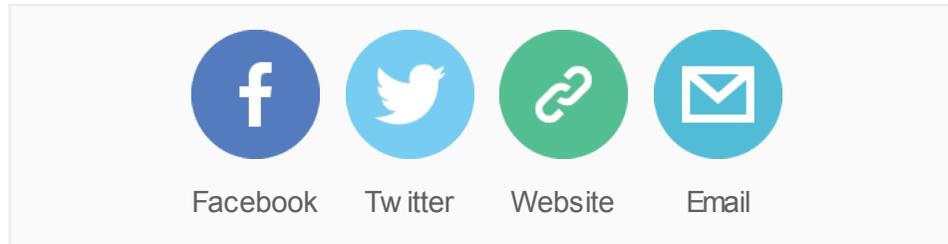
Sept. 9 – EMS Rule Revision Hearing & Public Comment Opportunity (Austin)

Nov. 19-21 – Governor’s EMS & Trauma Advisory Council (Dallas)

Nov. 20 – TETAF General Meeting (Dallas)

Nov. 20-23 – Texas EMS Conference (Dallas)

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



Copyright © 2016 Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Foundation, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe <<Email Address>> from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

