



**TETAF Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Friday, February 10, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. CDT**  
**Airport Hilton Hotel – Austin, TX**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brian Eastridge at 10:26 a.m.

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

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

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

**3. TETAF Restructure**

Dr. Eastridge opened the meeting by commenting that after hearing and considering the input of stakeholders the TETAF Board will push the TETAF restructure to this next GETAC meeting. He stated that the objective for today’s meeting is to form a solid plan for action. Dr. Eastridge said that those stakeholders historically pushing for a rapid TETAF restructure process are now endorsing the utilization and input of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

**• Restructuring History and Current Status**

Ms. Dinah Welsh reviewed the history of trying to get the ACS to do survey and the unexpected scheduling delay causing us to think of an alternative process for a quicker restructure. The ACS delay was shared with the TETAF Officers and the Board right away. Everyone agreed that TETAF wanted restructure as soon as possible, but also wants to ‘get it right’. The value of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party opinion is appreciated. Ms. Welsh reiterated that TETAF needs to remember that everyone in process is important and we can’t be divisive. The Board discussed whether we’re pushing this too fast now. Mr. Ricky Reeves stated that now is not the best time for restructuring with legislative session in progress. Mr. Scott Christopher noted that it would be advantageous to get the ‘lay of the land’ after session valuable

to making better educated decisions. Mr. Dudley Wait stated that TETAF Board should focus on what is best for the ‘future’ of the systems, rather than just a temporary restructure

Mr. Jim Parisi shared that there are some out there who think we’re operating outside our bylaws. He stated he would prefer delaying the restructuring process, but it needs to be addressed. Mr. Parisi stressed that TETAF cannot have members associated with an “unethical board” regardless of whether those claims are founded, and that it is disheartening for a Board member to invest time/money to be accused of unethical behaviors. Mr. Wait commented that the TETAF Board has done some things operationally that resulted in things that the bylaws do not support. He stated that it is incumbent upon us to make sure what we do is covered in the bylaws or not expressly against the bylaws.

- **TETAF History / TETAF Changes in Past 8 Years**

Ms. Welsh went through some of the history of TETAF and pointed out the fact that TETAF was formed primarily to provide survey services (also advocacy and grants). She stated that the RACs provided seed money to help invest in trauma system. Ms. Welsh and Ms. Brenda Putz were initially hired. TETAF experienced a “right-sizing” of survey costs. The original Board message to Ms. Welsh when she was hired was that RACs were providing seed money until TETAF could become self-sufficient. Within a few months RACs made clear to the TETAF organization that they wanted RAC fees reduced or eliminated. Ms. Welsh stressed that TETAF is now self-sustaining, and its revenues are primarily generated from surveys. TETAF is also an advocacy organization. The Board members were provided a handout from 2009 created by Ms. Jorie Klein as a TETAF Concept Document. Ms. Welsh commented that this is very comprehensive document.

- **TETAF Stakeholders and RAC Input**

The Board discussed the role of the RACs related to TETAF, noting that they are both part of TETAF and TETAF is an organization of RACs. It was noted that RACs look different across the state ... all parts under a RAC umbrella vs. the parts being a piece of a total RAC pie. The Board agreed that RACs want equal representation; RACs want their Executive Directors to represent their constituents; RACs want TETAF to deliver a ‘product’; and RACs want to be able to work with TETAF staff; RACs feel that they have limited input into TETAF; RACs want to do what is best for the group; RACs want greater RAC participation on the Board; and RACs do not support rushing the restructure process. Ms. Welsh commented that everybody’s opinion is correct because that is their ‘world’. The Board was informed that RAC provide \$77,000 of the TETAF \$1,700,000 budget. Ms. Welsh described the RAC supported funding history for TETAF. It was noted that RACs do represent all providers in the system. TETAF needs to allow the mature/functional RACs to remain independent, while at the same time helping the other RACs with systems development as necessary.

Discussion of conversations with RACs:

Ms. Lori Vinson shared that HOTRAC doesn’t want restructuring to impact TETAF advocacy efforts, and thinks that TETAF should advocate for the entire system. However, if current structure continues, there should be more RAC representation on Board. This RAC has heard that some RAC Executive Directors do not represent their membership well. HOTRAC will support either way, but feels that TETAF needs to decide which direction we’re going. Ms. Lisa Hutchison stated that the Piney Woods stated that they wanted equal representation on TETAF; same input as bigger RACs. Ms. Courtney Edwards spoke with the Chair and Executive Director of RAC L. She stated that both seemed to feel that the board is in the best position to make these decisions. They feel they get the biggest bang for their buck from TETAF’s advocacy involvement. Ms. Hilary Watt spoke with RAC M and they would like to see RACs work together with TETAF for the good of the system. She stated she also spoke with RAC V and they want whatever is best for the group. Mr. Wait shared that STRAC feels there should be more board representation. Ms. Brenda Putz mentioned that TETAF does take nominations

from all 22 RACs and many choose not to submit a name. Ms. Edwards stressed that we need board members who WANT to be involved. Ms. Welsh shared that Ms. Robin Garza spoke with Mr. Darrell Pile, and he expressed concern about rushing the process. Dr. Mattox talked about TETAF as developed for the trauma system as a whole. She also reached out to RAC C but did not hear back from them.

Dr. Raj Gandhi expressed his concern that if RACs are consolidated, there will be less reason for participation. The Board discussed RAC autonomy. Dr. Gandhi also shared that he, and others, feel they are looking out for all RACs, not just their current RAC, by serving on the board.

Mr. Reeves pointed out that there are eight elected positions on the TETAF board and the rest of the officers are Division chairs. All agreed that an individual is only going to be nominated / elected if they already participate at the State level. Mr. Christopher commented that all of the Divisions have 22 seats for each RAC to have a 'voice'. Many RACs chose not to participate.

All agreed that the Governance group will have to visit with ALL 22 RACs. Potentially significant travel costs to obtain this comprehensive input were discussed. It was recommended to do interviews in Austin, utilize tele-conference, and utilize RAC cluster meetings. The need to ask consistent questions at all of the meetings was appreciated.

The Board discussed the impact of the loss of Tobacco funding on RACs. It was noted that many RACs would flounder and/or close their doors without the Tobacco funding. It was identified that if a TETAF equal RAC distribution proposal succeeds, then RAC equality in TETAF becomes more important.

All agreed that the current TETAF focus is the legislative session through the end of session. Also the 'lay-of-the-land' after session will help us make an educated decision on the best path of restructure.

The Board discussed the current House Bill 1148 in session related to HUB RACs. The current HPP inequities were noted. Mr. Wait commented that HB 1148 language should require the rule to say that a percentage of funding goes to administration expenses and a separate percentage goes to the sub-RAC for program spending. The Board discussed the difference is that the contractor and sub-RAC relationships under HPP and HB 1148 are different. Ms. Welsh commented that Dr. Ken Mattox's testimony to the state prompted Representative Sarah Davis' filing the regional HUB bill. Mr. Wait added that Representative Davis' bill is interested in efficiencies and a 25 year plan, and if passed will likely lead to better capabilities to get future funding.

All agreed that TETAF will change schedule to engage RACs heavily after the Legislative session when the funding and legislative climate is better known. The end result for the restructure will continue to be Board elections in November 2017. The Board appreciated that the TETAF membership has spoken and TETAF Board has listened. It was determined that there is no need for a motion on this topic at this time. Ms. Welsh stated that she will send an email to the membership on summary of today's meeting.

- **TETAF Business / TETAF Future / Governance Proposal**

Ms. Welsh shared a proposal on developing an effective governance enhancement plan. She reported that TETAF has engaged James Rice/Larry Walker (Integrated Healthcare Strategies). This agency has recently provided a proposal for developing a Governance Enhancement Plan (provided as a handout). This entity has a strong working knowledge of the current challenges in healthcare. This agency will assess the organization with stakeholder input and then continue to work with the organization to implement their recommendations. Phase 1 and 2 of the proposed work plan will cost \$53,500. Ms. Welsh stated that she is willing to get this agency to give a presentation to the Board. It

was noted that the cost of this activity is significantly more than the ACS consult survey. The Board agreed that the governance guidance is what is needed, which should optimize our response to the ACS recommendations. Mr. Wait commented that the structure of TETAF made sense at the time it was formed. The Board members agreed that TETAF needs to have a third party also look at our organizational structure for opinion, i.e. organization of RACs or an organization that RACs are a part of. Mr. Christopher inquired whether TETAF needs to shop for other governance proposals. Ms. Welsh shared that she has contacted another group but has not yet received a proposal from that organization. Mr. Wait recommended that each Board member could contact some of their former clients. Ms. Welsh will contact the other firm for comparative proposals. Dr. Eastridge commented that this will be a significant investment, and is worth shopping to some degree.

- **Timeline**

Mr. Reeves mentioned that we could just hold elections with current structure. Mr. Wait commented that we may be setting people up for disappointment under that model. That process potentially sets the scenario for a short-term temporary term for a newly elected Board member. The Board discussed whether it could still stick to timeline of November elections.

Ms. Hilary Watt pointed out that the HPP contracts end July 1, 2017. Mr. Wait suggested that starting in mid-summer, TETAF should start having monthly meetings to move forward with a November election target. Dr. Eastridge commented that this plan keeps TETAF true to the original timeline. Ms. Welsh agreed that it is not a best option for TETAF coordination of a reorganization during the height of legislative session.

#### **4. TETAF Legislative Update**

Mr. Brian Yarbrough (lobbyist) was in attendance and was introduced to the Board members. He provided a background of his career and his company.

He informed the Board that the Legislature is at the 30-day mark, which is the start for the Committee work. Committee members were announced on 2/9/17. Mr. Yarbrough announced that Representative Zerwas assigned as the Appropriations Chair and Representative Longoria was assigned as the Vice-Chair. He pointed out that these two appointments are good for healthcare. He stated that Representative Fore Price was appointed to the Chair of Public Health (large job) which is good. Mr. Yarbrough discussed a bill's path through 'substantive' committee and then 'procedural' committee. Many bills die in the Calendars Committee. The importance of the Calendars Committee was reviewed.

The Board was informed that the State budget this session is at a \$4 billion deficit, and that there will be a lot of change since last session's budget surplus. It will be very easy for legislators to just say "no" to everybody. Mr. Yarbrough stated that the Senate has basically zeroed out various categorical budgets and is waiting for stakeholders to come with needs / spending plans. He stated that it is critical that the data being provided to the legislators is accurate; and that it is equally critical to make the 'appropriate ask' at the 'appropriate time'. It was noted that the data supplied to the legislators from DSHS is what they are going to believe. It was noted that TETAF will work backward from those numbers to determine the needed 'ask'.

Mr. Yarbrough explained his typical operational strategy for both Senate and House members, and tenured and new members. He stated that his agency uses a combination hallway conversations and formal visits with legislators. He stated that his typically visits with legislators involve a single-item agenda. Mr. Yarbrough described typical 'face time' with Senate *Aides* and House *Members*.

The Board was informed that many bills have been filed at this point in the session compared to previous sessions. Ms. Watt inquired what the ‘next steps’ were. Mr. Yarbrough and Ms. Welsh stated that they have been waiting on the Appropriation Chair assignment, and who to target when committee members have been assigned. TETAF continues to have conversations with Senate Staff members. Mr. Yarbrough reported that the honing of the Rider will be done at the Subcommittee meeting level. Ms. Welsh stated that Dr. Jeff Beason testified at the Health & Human Services Committee meeting a couple of weeks ago and did a very good job.

Ms. Welsh stated that the Day-at-the-Capitol is scheduled for February 21, 2017. TETAF is working with Mr. Yarbrough’s agency for consistent messaging. The value of that day will be the time spent by the stakeholders with their representatives. The Board was informed that an agenda for that day has been distributed. The House will provide recognition at 10:00 and Senate will provide recognition at 11:00. Ms. Welsh and Ms. Courtney DeBower stated that no press conference is scheduled at this point, because these have tended to get buried by ‘story of the day’. Ms. DeBower state the conference room is reserved just in case it is needed. The Board members were asked that if anyone has a survivor network that can come to present to please work with TETAF to get them to participate during Capitol Day. The testimony of these survivors is very beneficial. It was stressed that attendees need to make appointments with their lawmakers, as those visits are crucial.

**5. TETAF Treasurer’s Report**

The Board members agreed to move the Treasurer’s report to the February 21, 2017 meeting.

**6. TETAF Secretary’s Report**

The Board members discussed potential sensitivity necessity and/or bylaw requirement of disclosing TETAF Board closed session meeting minutes. Language will need reviewed/added to the Bylaws that these closed meetings may have recordings, but that the details of the closed session discussion will not be open to the public, but rather any actions formed in the closed session will be reported in the open Board session.

The Board agreed to move review and approval of the November and January Board meeting to the February 21, 2017 Board meeting.

**7. Open Discussion**

- The Board would like to share that they met today and have decided substantial changes will not be made until after this Legislative session. The Board will maintain a forward thinking perspective regarding restructure.
- Mr. Christopher commented that he feels the TETAF Board has lost focus of the TETAF Division activities due to their not formally reporting during the Board meetings anymore. There was brief discussion of adding a Division Chair Report as an addendum to the Board minutes.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

*Scott Christopher, Secretary*