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June 2016

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# HHSC, DSHS Offer Opportunities for Stakeholder Input on Legislative Appropriations Request, Funding Priorities

The Department of State Health Services will conduct a public hearing June 10, at 10:00 a.m., to receive stakeholder input on program funding requests for the fiscal year 2018-2019 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). The LAR is the formal request for funding made by each state agency and institution. This stakeholder meeting serves as an opportunity to influence the funding priorities that DSHS will ask for from the legislature. It is an important part of the appropriations process and one of the first opportunities to provide stakeholder input.

The hearing will be held at 1100 W. 49th Street, Public Hearing Room M-100, Austin, Texas, and can be accessed by videoconference at various locations across the state. Written comments may be submitted to [lar@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:lar@dshs.state.tx.us) until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, 2016.

For more information about the hearing, please visit the DSHS [website](#).

Stakeholders can also give their input on the 2017-2021 Health and Human Services Strategic Plan at a public hearing on June 17, 2016, at the Brown-Heatly Building, 4900 N. Lamar in Austin and via telephone. The Health and Human Services System Strategic Plan is submitted to the Legislature and the Governor's Office in the summer of even-numbered years, as a foundation for the Legislative Appropriations Request. Past strategic plans are available [online](#).

HHSC, DFPS and DSHS will each develop strategic plans, and HHSC will develop a Coordinated Strategic Plan covering all health and human services agencies. Questions about this hearing can be

emailed to [strategicplancomments@hpsc.state.tx.us](mailto:strategicplancomments@hpsc.state.tx.us) or you can call 512-206-5802.

Written comments also will be taken until 5 p.m. June 17. More information is available [online](#).

## **TETAF to Offer Additional Hospital Data Management Course in Amarillo**



Due to the popularity of the February Hospital Data Management Course, TETAF has partnered with the Panhandle RAC to offer a second course in Amarillo on July 27-28. The TETAF Hospital Data Management Course is developed and presented by experienced registrars and will develop or enhance the knowledge and skills of trauma registrars in Texas.

Discounted registration rates are available for RAC A & B members, but the course is open to trauma registrars throughout the state. Registration is now open [online](#).

## **LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER: EMS Data Management Course**

Registration is closing soon for this year's EMS Data Management Course, designed for team members responsible for abstracting and submitting data to the Texas EMS Trauma Registry. EMTs, paramedics, nurses and physicians will all benefit from this course.

This year's EMS Data Management Course will take place in Belton. More information is available on the [registration page](#).



## NICU Update

The Department of State Health Services on June 3 formally adopted the neonatal level of care designation for Texas hospitals. These rules will go into effect on June 9. The final rule, along with comments received and the HHSC response, can be found on the Secretary of State [website](#).

Per the rule, hospitals must be designated by Sept 1, 2018 to receive Medicaid funding for neonatal care. The state application for survey is expected to be available in Sept of 2016.

TETAF's perinatal designation survey process is currently under development. Perinatal Project Manager Holly White and TETAF staff continue to move rapidly to develop a robust NICU survey process. First steps include the identification and credentialing of NICU subject matter experts to provide survey services. The application process is now open and eligible individuals are welcome to [apply](#). More information on TETAF survey services is available [here](#).

# Updates to Texas Trauma Center Application & Survey Process

TETAF & 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/](http://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.

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The DSHS website is currently undergoing updates and many links are not available. The trauma center designation application is currently unavailable. For the time being, inquiries and requests for applications should be directed to the state designation coordinators:

[Patricia Ashton-Garcia](#)

[Trish Bachel](#)

[Mike Murray](#)

## **U.S. House of Representatives Forms Pediatric Trauma Caucus**

U.S. Representatives Richard Hudson (R-NC) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) launched the Congressional Pediatric Trauma Caucus on May 24 with the goal of reducing the number of fatalities associated with pediatric trauma in the U.S.

The announcement coincided with a briefing focused on pediatric trauma as one of the most frequent causes of death among children in the U.S. and what can be done to prevent injuries and improve access to appropriate pediatric trauma care.

For more information about the Congressional Pediatric Trauma Caucus contact the American College of Surgeons at [ahp@facs.org](mailto:ahp@facs.org).

## **EMS Rule Revision Moves Forward, Public Comment to be Accepted**

The ongoing revisions to the state EMS rule (Texas Administrative Code Chapter 157) have been sent to the Health & Human Services Commission for approval to post for public comment. The expected

publication date is July 15. Once posted in the [Texas Register](#), stakeholders can submit official comments for review by DSHS staff. The department will then incorporate this stakeholder feedback into the rule where appropriate and publish again as final.

This is an important step in the process, and all EMS stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposed rule and offer comments as needed.

## Charles Smith Begins Appointment as HHSC Executive Commissioner



Charles Smith, the former Chief Deputy Executive Commissioner at HHSC, assumed the role of Executive Commissioner June 1.

Prior to this appointment to HHSC, Mr. Smith served as the Deputy for Child Support at the Texas Office of the Attorney General. In this role, Smith was responsible for the overall delivery of child support services performed by the division's 2,700 employees. Smith served as the Division's deputy director from 2004-2013 overseeing field operations. He led the Division's transformation to become the top-rated child support program in the nation. Smith is recognized as a leader in personnel management, analytics, innovation, organization, streamlining processes and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of operations. His work in this area has earned him multiple awards throughout his career, and under Smith's leadership the Texas Child Support Division was recognized as the most efficient and effective program in the nation for two years in a row.

Since arriving at HHSC, Smith has overseen the areas of Medicaid and CHIP, procurement and

contracting, health policy, social services, women's health services, mental health coordination, medical transportation and veteran services.

## **ICYMI: Governor's Office Seeks Nominations for 2016 Star of Texas Awards**

The office of Governor Greg Abbott is now accepting nominations for the 2016 Star of Texas Awards, which honor EMS professionals, peace officers and firefighters who were seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. Nominations for this year's awards must be submitted to the Governor's Office by June 15, 2016. The awards ceremony will take place in September.

“During the most challenging circumstances, our first responders have consistently put service above self by placing their lives on the line to protect and defend their fellow Texans,” said Governor Abbott. “In serving their communities with extraordinary valor and courage, the Star of Texas award recipients demonstrate the best of what Texas has to offer. I look forward to continuing the legacy of celebrating and honoring the brightest stars in the Lone Star State.”

To be eligible for the 2016 award, the critical incident must have occurred between Sept. 1, 2003, and June 15, 2016, and the first responder must not have previously received a Star of Texas Award. The nomination form can be accessed through the Governor's Office website [here](#).

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## **Upcoming Meetings**

*A full list of educational opportunities and upcoming meetings can be found on the*



TETAF [website](#).

June 15 – EMS Data Management Course (Belton)

July 27-28 – Hospital Data Management Course (Amarillo)

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

\* Please submit any additional educational opportunities to Courtney DeBower at [cdebower@tetaf.org](mailto:cdebower@tetaf.org).



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