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May 2017

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## Rep. Phillips Proposes DRP Elimination, Alternative

# Trauma Funding

For the past few sessions, TETAF has worked tirelessly to prevent elimination of the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) without a replacement source of trauma funding. Currently, almost 50% of the revenue raised from the DRP is designated for the Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account (5111), the largest source of state trauma funding. Elimination of this program without replacement funding would be detrimental to our state trauma facilities, EMS providers and Regional Advisory Councils.

For the past few sessions, every DRP repeal bill filed has neglected to account for the funding the system relies on. However, Rep. Larry Phillips (R-Sherman) has filed a bill this session that finally proposes alternative funding and TETAF has joined a broad coalition of organizations representing hospitals, law enforcement, counties and the judiciary to support the committee substitute to [HB 2068](#).

CSHB 2068 would eliminate the DRP while continuing to penalize irresponsible drivers, including those convicted of driving while intoxicated. The bill recently was voted out of the House by a wide margin and now moves to the Senate for consideration. TETAF encourages all stakeholders to support this legislation and make their voice heard [here](#).

In addition, the conference committee continues to meet to negotiate the final version of the state budget. Lawmakers need to [hear from you](#) firsthand in order to ensure trauma and emergency healthcare funding is maintained.



*Rep. Larry Phillips (R-Sherman) speaks passionately about the Texas Trauma System on the House floor.*

## **TETAF General Meeting Tuesday, May 9 in Austin**

The next quarterly TETAF general meeting will take place at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin.

**TETAF General Meeting**

Tuesday, May 9

5:30 pm

Wyndham Garden Hotel

An [agenda](#) is available online. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

## **GETAC Meetings Available Via Free Live-Stream**

Can't make it to Austin for the GETAC quarterly meetings? TETAF provides a live-stream and archive free of charge [online](#). The May 2017 GETAC meetings will take place May 10-12 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin.

## **Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Leaders Recognized Throughout May**

There are numerous ways to recognize the trauma and emergency healthcare leaders in your life this month. TETAF will be using our social media accounts to recognize the hard work of our stakeholders. How are you recognizing these occasions? Send photos to [Courtney DeBower](#) and we will share them in next month's newsletter!

**National Trauma Awareness Month**

**National Stroke Month**

**National Nurses Week** (May 6-12)

**National EMS Week** (May 21-27)

EMS for Children Day (May 24)



## TETAF Accepting Applications for Trauma Surveyors

TETAF is currently adding a limited number of trauma surveyors to our verification team.

Applicants must be a physician or nurse with current experience coordinating and managing a Trauma Center and have direct experience in the preparation for and successful completion of trauma facility verifications/designations for no less than two successful surveys. They must be currently employed in the coordination of care for trauma patients and employed by a facility that maintains a trauma

designation in good standing with no contingencies with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

More information and an application are available [online](#).

## **Governor Abbott and Dr. Hellerstedt Call on Local Officials to Take Action Against Zika**

Governor Greg Abbott and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt recently sent a letter to County Judges and Mayors across the state asking for their continued assistance in combating locally-transmitted Zika virus in Texas.

“With the ongoing risk posed by Zika, we are requesting your continued assistance in delaying locally transmitted Zika virus in Texas this year by promoting precautions to prevent mosquito bites and taking action to reduce mosquito breeding grounds in your communities,” reads the letter. “We expect local mosquito transmission to resume and persist as the weather warms and mosquito activity increases. The Texas Department of State Health Services stands ready to provide technical expertise as you prepare your locality’s Zika response plans or prepare to conduct community engagement efforts,” the letter continues.

In addition to the letter, Governor Abbott and Commissioner Hellerstedt hosted a Zika prevention roundtable with elected leaders and health officials on May 5th, at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

The Department of State Health Services has created a new listserv to share information and resources

about Zika virus. Subscribers will receive email notifications about national and state resources as well as important updates and alerts.

To subscribe, [click here](#) or visit the Health Care Provider page of TexasZika.org and click “Sign up for e-mail updates” in the top right corner of the page.

## **What is GETAC and Why Should You Care?**

*This article appeared in the Spring 2017 edition of Texas EMS Trauma News, published by the Department of State Health Services.*

The Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) was created in 1999 by the Texas Legislature as a 15-member Council “to advise the department regarding matters related to the responsibilities of the executive commissioner, commissioner, and department” in Chapter 773, Emergency Medical Services, of the Health and Safety Code.

Chapter 773.012 details the composition and charge of the Council. Each Council member represents a different stakeholder group in the EMS and trauma system and one-half of the representation is to be from rural areas. It includes a board-certified emergency physician, an EMS medical director, a fire chief, a trauma surgeon or nurse, an EMS educator, an EMS air medical crew member, a county-level EMS provider, a pediatrician with emergency care expertise, an EMS volunteer, two members of the general public and representatives from a rural trauma facility, an urban trauma facility, a fire-based EMS service and a private EMS provider. Regardless of your role, you have a stakeholder representative on the Council.

In brief, GETAC is charged to assess the need for emergency medical services and trauma care systems in Texas and develop strategic plans for the same. The Council meets at least quarterly and appoints committees to assist in executing its charge. A Stroke Committee is mandated by statute. Additional committees address vital areas of the emergency healthcare system. Between the Council and committees, approximately 125 volunteers participate in the 3-day GETAC quarterly meetings. The Texas EMS Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF) provides live streaming and archives of the meetings at [http:// www.ustream.tv/channel/getac](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/getac). So, even if you cannot attend in person, you can watch via the wonders of the internet at any time. Within the strategic planning process, GETAC has created a vision and a mission for the Texas Emergency Healthcare System that are read at each committee and Council meeting to remind us of our focus;

*Vision: A unified, comprehensive and effective Emergency Healthcare System for a healthy and safe Texas.*

*Mission: To promote, develop and maintain a comprehensive data-driven Emergency Healthcare System that will meet the needs of all patients and will raise the standards for high quality community health care by implementing innovative techniques and accountable systems for the delivery of emergency care for the entire population.*

It is my job to assure the meetings run smoothly; progress is made at and between meetings and the work-product of the Council is realistic, accessible and actionable. It sometimes seems like the process is painfully slow, except when it seems like we are moving too quickly. We have been accused of not being inclusive and also of being too focused on consensus. I believe it is called change, and the only thing worse than change is stagnation. I also worry about “mission creep.” When you have so

many motivated and talented people working together, we can begin to reach beyond our charge and legislative responsibilities. It is a delicate balance and an ongoing challenge. It is also fun and rewarding! So, what does this really mean and why does it matter to you? We have and will continue to accomplish many great things that benefit Texas. When you are frustrated with something in our system and you ask yourself “why do THEY do that” maybe what you should be thinking is “why don’t I do this” and help shape the future of our emergency healthcare system. Become involved, if we do not do this FOR ourselves, our patients and our communities, someone else will do it TO us. This is a noble endeavor and I invite you to serve with us.

I cannot adequately express my appreciation and admiration to the DSHS staff, volunteers and attendees that contribute to the progress and process of the Council. We owe them for so many things, primarily that of being safe and having the resources should we ever need them. Please remember to reach out to your stakeholder representative and thank them, or for any issues you may have. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, suggestions or concerns. I am here to serve and represent you and most importantly our patients and citizens.

Robert D. Greenberg, MD, FACEP

Chair, Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council

## **Submit Your Nominations for the Texas EMS Awards**

The Department of State Health Services is currently accepting nominations [online](#) for the 2017 Texas EMS Awards.

**EMS Educator Award** honors a state-certified EMS instructor or course coordinator who advances EMS

education in Texas through innovation, collaboration and a commitment to students.

**EMS Medical Director Award** honors a physician who has served as a medical director, on-line or off-line, for an EMS organization, and continually demonstrates a commitment to excellent patient care.

**EMS Administrator Award** honors an administrator, researcher or manager at the local, city, county, regional or state level who has made a positive contribution to EMS and is committed to building a strong team able to respond effectively.

**Public Information/Injury Prevention Award** honors an EMS group or individual for outstanding achievement in public education or injury prevention.

**Citizen Award** honors a private citizen for a heroic lifesaving act or unique advocacy of EMS.

**Private/Public Provider Award** honors a ground or air organization that demonstrated leadership in EMS in patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education or training.

**Volunteer Provider Award** honors an organization staffed by volunteers that demonstrated leadership in EMS in patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education or training.

**First Responder Award** honors a first responder organization that demonstrated leadership in EMS in patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education or training.

**Air Medical Service Award** honors a public or private air medical service in Texas that has demonstrated the highest standards in providing patient care, leading the way in innovation and

commitment to patient care.

**Outstanding EMS Person of the Year** honors an EMS-certified person who has demonstrated uncommon leadership and courage in providing emergency medical service to the citizens of Texas.

**Telecommunicator of the Year** honors a person or team who handled a call or system event with a level of professionalism and efficiency that allowed the first responders on the scene to give the patients the best care possible. An individual or a team is eligible for the award.

**Trauma Center Award** honors a designated trauma facility in Texas that has demonstrated leadership and high standards in implementing injury prevention programs and providing trauma patient care to the citizens and visitors of Texas.

**Regional Advisory Council Award** honors a regional advisory council in Texas that has demonstrated leadership and high standards in improving emergency medical service and improving the Texas EMS/Trauma System.



## Texas Perinatal Services Update

The next meeting of the state Perinatal Advisory Committee will take place Tuesday, May 16 at 10:30 am. The meeting is open to the public and will also be lives-streamed [online](#).

Perinatal Advisory Council  
Tuesday, May 16 at 10:30 am  
Health and Human Services Commission  
Brown-Heatly Building  
4900 North Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, TX

Questions regarding [agenda](#) items or meeting arrangements should be directed to David Williams, Council Coordinator, Health and Human Services Commission, 512-380-4374, or [david.williams@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:david.williams@hhsc.state.tx.us).

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The Texas Perinatal Services Program of TETAF is currently scheduling surveys for all levels of Texas neonatal facilities. TETAF credentialed surveyors will provide the hospital with the required report for submission to the Texas Department of State Health Services, Office of EMS/Trauma for designation. The TETAF survey experience offers an educational opportunity with experienced, knowledgeable neonatal medical staff and neonatal program management. Request a survey [here](#).



**Texas Perinatal Services**  
EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS  
A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

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## TETAF Calendar

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

**May 9 – TETAF General Meeting (Austin)**

**May 9 – Texas Trauma Coordinator's Forum (Austin)**

**May 10-12 – Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (Austin)**

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



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