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TETA F Publishes Report on 84th Legislative Session

TETA F has published a comprehensive report on the 84th Texas legislative session. The report details the budget process and includes an insider look at some of the nearly 200 bills TETA F tracked this year. The report can be accessed on the TETA F website here.

RACs to Receive Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Project Funding

During the 84th legislative session, an additional $1.5 million was appropriated for cardiovascular disease and stroke projects. Of this new funding, the majority will be awarded to the Regional Advisory Councils in order to continue to build systems of care for stroke and heart attack.

This funding was a priority for TETA F and many of you helped secure this appropriation by contacting your lawmakers throughout the session. TETA F has been in frequent conversation with Dr. Neal Rutledge, Chair of the Texas Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke Council, over the past months. He is a strong believer in the RAC system and was in agreement with us that more money needed to be distributed to the RACs this biennium.

More information on this funding will be available soon.

DSHS Holds Stakeholder Meetings on Trauma Designation, RAC Rules

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) held two stakeholder meetings in June to discuss rule changes related to trauma designations, Trauma Service Areas and Regional Emergency Medical Services/Trauma Systems.

Stakeholders met June 23 in Austin to discuss proposed changes to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Rule 157.122 Trauma Service Areas and Rule 157.123 Regional Emergency Medical Services/Trauma Systems. DSHS staff explained the recommended changes line by line and took input from the stakeholders present, which included staff/board members from at least 8 RACs. The DSHS State Trauma Director will be sending all RACs a new version of the rule, incorporating the new...
recommendations, by the end of July.

DSHS also offered an opportunity for stakeholder input on the Trauma Center Designation rule, TAC 157.125 on June 24. This was the first of several planned meetings as DSHS continues their effort to provide drafts of these rules by the August GETA C meetings. Trauma Program Managers, RAC Executive Directors and hospital leadership provided input and offered recommendations to DSHS during this daylong review.

Additional stakeholder meetings will be scheduled over the next several weeks and months. TETAF will share dates and times for these meetings as they are scheduled. All members of the trauma community are encouraged to participate.

**TETAF Announces Reduced Consultation Fees**

The mission of the Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Foundation is to support and strengthen the state’s trauma and emergency response infrastructure. Having a strong statewide trauma system is essential to protecting Texans and ensuring that everyone has access to high quality trauma care when it is needed.

Because of its desire to strengthen the statewide trauma system, TETAF has lowered its fees for conducting trauma center consultation surveys. During these on-site visits or mock surveys, a TETAF consultant works with you and your team to identify strengths as well as opportunities for improvement. These consultation surveys may help you address specific issues in your program and/or help you prepare for an initial trauma center designation survey or a recertification survey.

TETAF has reduced the cost of these surveys to eliminate barriers for some hospitals that want to pursue trauma center designation, and to ensure that all hospitals have access to the expertise of TETAF consultants. As you know, TETAF contracts with hospitals seeking Level III and IV designation to perform designation surveys which are recognized by the Texas Department of State Health Services. No one understands trauma center designation requirements better, nor how to operationalize them more effectively.

Please contact TETAF’s Brenda Putz at bputz@tetaf.org or at 512/595-1125 for more information. You may schedule consultation surveys online here.

**Nursing Facilities Must Inform EMS of AED Installation**

Effective April 29, 2015, the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) has adopted Texas Administrative Code 19.1935 concerning automated external defibrillators. The new section of Chapter 19, Nursing Facility Requirements for Licensure and Medicaid Certification, requires nursing facilities to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) available for use at the facility and contains training, use and notification requirements.

Chapter 19 requires nursing facilities to notify the local emergency medical services provider within 24 hours after acquiring an automated external defibrillator of the existence of the AED, the location of the AED in the facility and the type of AED.

Facilities must also notify local emergency medical services provider by calling 9-1-1, per standard CPR procedures, while using an automated external defibrillator on a resident.

**TETAF Offers Trauma and Injury Prevention Symposium**

TETAF will again offer a Trauma and Injury Prevention Symposium (TIPS) on Aug 17 in Austin. This one-day seminar is designed for physicians, nurses, injury prevention coordinators, registrars and other personnel working in the field of injury prevention. The sessions and speakers will provide valuable information to help all levels of designated trauma centers implement a coordinated, multidisciplinary
evidence-based approach to injury prevention or enhance existing programs.

TETA F is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Commission on Accreditation. Nurses who attend the entire educational symposium and complete an evaluation will receive 6.75 contact hours.

**Trauma Survey Process FAQ Released**

TETA F has recently released a new document providing information and answering questions about the TETA F survey process to help hospitals and Trauma Program Managers. This helpful FAQ document can be found on the TETA F website.

**Educational Opportunities**

**July 8 – Panhandle RAC Trauma Conference (Amarillo)**
Presented by Panhandle Regional Advisory Council and the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation, this conference will be of interest and benefit to physicians, nurses and EMS personnel who respond to and treat trauma patients, including traumatic burns and chemical burns. Register here.

**July 10, 11, 12 – EMS Instructor Course I (Fort Worth)**
This National Association of EMS Educators course represents the didactic component and practical application of the beginning education process to become an EMS instructor. The content of this course aligns the NAEMSE developed modules with the curriculum objectives of the 2002 National Guidelines, and has been designed to provide a basic introduction of concepts for the beginning EMS educator. Register here.

**August 3, 4, 5 – 2015 EMS Evolution (Montgomery, TX)**
The first annual TEMSA conference with industry experts and vendors will feature a variety of speaker topics to include operational best practices, reimbursement updates, community paramedicine, as well as other useful takeaway presentations. Register here.

**August 10, 11 – Sharper Coding for Trauma**
This course is tailored to the needs of Trauma Data Managers, Registrars, Trauma Program Managers, Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator’s and Nurse Practitioner’s responsible for collecting and reporting trauma information within their hospital, region, state and the National Trauma Data Bank. Register here.

**August 17 – TETA F Injury Prevention Symposium (Austin)**
This one-day seminar is designed for physicians, nurses, injury prevention coordinators, registrars and other personnel working in the field of injury prevention. The sessions and speakers will provide valuable information to help all levels of designated trauma centers implement a coordinated, multidisciplinary evidence-based approach to injury prevention or enhance existing programs. Register here.

**August 18 – TETA F General Meeting**
TETA F will meet in person for the August General Meeting. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 18 at 5:30 pm at the Embassy Suites Austin (5901 N I-35 Frontage Rd, Austin)

**August 19 – TOPIC Course (Austin)**
The STN TOPIC course is taught to all members of the trauma system team who participate in the ongoing assessment, evaluation and improvement of trauma care. The Society of Trauma Nurses has developed the "Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Course" in response to the need for education and better understanding of the Performance Improvement process in trauma care. Register here.
August 19, 20, 21 – Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
GETAC will meet August 19-21 in Austin at the Crowne Plaza hotel. More information can be found here.

September 2, 3 – Pediatric Care After Resuscitation
This course is designed to give pediatric nurses who work in acute care, critical care and perioperative areas the foundational, evidence-based information and critical thinking skills necessary to care for the hospitalized injured child. PCAR covers a wide range of pathophysiological and nursing concepts and is designed to be a broad, core-level program, rather than an advanced or specialty-specific course. More information here.

* Please submit any additional educational opportunities to Courtney DeBower.

Request Trauma Surveys in Advance

Level III and IV designated trauma facilities whose trauma recertification surveys are upcoming should schedule well in advance. TETAF is scheduling at least four months out due to the demand for surveys and availability of surveyors. Those hospitals requesting surveys with less than four months advance notice may be delayed. Please request a trauma survey or a stroke survey online. If you have any questions, please contact TETAF’s Brenda Putz.

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