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**March 2016**

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## **TETAF Mourns the Loss of Board Member Shae Watson**

It is with great regret that we share the passing of TETAF Board Member Shae Watson. Shae served as the RAC Division Chair and was a member of the TETAF Board of Directors for the past 2 years. She also served as the Executive Director of the Northeast Texas Regional Advisory Council and was a friend to many in the trauma and emergency healthcare community.

"Her strong faith, infectious laugh and positive exuberance for life will always be a strong memory. She left a great legacy for many," said TETAF CEO Dinah Welsh.

Funeral services will be held at the Macedonia Baptist Church, Saturday March 12 at 2:00 pm. The address is 168 Payton Road, off Hwy 67 in Texarkana.

## **Texas TQIP Collaborative Meets in Austin, TMD & Administrator Appointed**

Members of the Texas TQIP Collaborative met Feb. 11 for the first organizational meeting. TQIP participating facilities were invited to select their top 2 choices for a TMD and their first choice for an Administrator. The TETAF Board of Directors have confirmed those candidates that were selected Feb. 11 and have appointed:

*Dr. Charles Bayouth & Dr. Raj Gandhi - Co - Trauma Medical Director*

*Terry Valentino – Administrator*

The leadership will be meeting soon to finalize the mission, vision and goals for the collaborative.

Thank you again to all of the candidates for their time and interest.



*Dr. Charles Bayouth*

*Dr. Raj Gandhi*

*Terry Valentino*

## **TETAF Welcomes Holly White, Perinatal Project Manager**



Please join TETAF in welcoming Holly White, RN, BSN, CPN to the team as the Perinatal Project Manager. Holly has 18 years experience as a RN and has extensive background in neonatal and pediatric settings, as well as emergency nursing. She has experience working in both a major metropolitan area, as well as a rural hospital in West Texas. Holly has a working knowledge of the Trauma and Emergency Healthcare System and the Regional Advisory Councils. She will support TETAF in the

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development of the NICU designation process and will also support the RACs in the collaboration and coordination of the NICU community into the RAC system. Starting this month, Holly will provide regular updates on the perinatal project for the TETAF newsletter.

## Perinatal Project Update

HB 15, of the 83rd Texas legislative session, created a Perinatal Advisory Council charged with developing and recommending criteria for designating levels of neonatal and maternal care. The primary purpose being to improve neonatal and maternal outcomes in the state of Texas. The process includes making recommendations for specifying the minimum requirements needed to qualify for each level of care, designating neonatal and maternal care regions and a process for determining levels of care.

These requirements are based on the national standards noted in the *Guidelines for Perinatal Care, Seventh Edition* published jointly by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The Perinatal Advisory Council is currently working on the maternal recommendations. They have completed their recommendations for the proposed Neonatal Designation Rule and the rule has been published for public comment (Texas Register Vol 40, No 47, Section 133.183-133.190). It is expected to be finalized in March 2016.

The neonatal levels of care will range from:

Level 1 - Well Nursery

Level 2 - Special Care Nursery

Level 3 - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Level 4 - Advanced Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

A designation process will determine the level of care for all neonatal facilities in Texas. In addition, the neonatal and maternal care regions will align with the existing Trauma Service Area Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Each RAC should have a neonatal committee or subcommittee to assist with the collaboration.

Once the final rule is published, TETAF will begin to formally develop the survey process. Additional information will be available in the next couple months to assist facilities in applying for their survey, as well as education on how to meet the new guidelines.

TETAF looks forward to working with stakeholders to improve outcomes for mothers and babies throughout the state.

## **TETAF Hosts Successful Hospital Data Management Course**

TETAF and DSHS partnered once again Feb. 24-25 to bring registrar education to Texas Trauma Registrars. The TETAF Hospital Data Management Course was a great success, with 70 participants from throughout the state traveling to The Woodlands to participate.

TETAF would like to thank the faculty for their continued support of registrar education in Texas:

- *Andy Botello, CSTR, Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas*
- *Adrian Conder and Rose Walker, Program Specialists, EMS & Trauma Registries – Registry Operations Support Team, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin*
- *Courtney Edwards, RN, M.S.N., M.P.H., Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas*

- *Debbie Hutton, RHIT, CSTR, himagine solutions, inc.*
- *Irene Lopez, RN, B.S.N., CSTR, himagine solutions, inc.*
- *Preston Love, RN, LP, Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council, San Antonio*
- *Terry Valentino, RN, BSN, EMT-P, Baylor Scott & White Central Texas*

Special thanks to Memorial Hermann The Woodlands for hosting the course and to SETRAC for inviting TETAF to bring this course to their RAC.

The demand for the course was great, leading to a large waiting list. TETAF is currently exploring the possibility of a second course in 2016. More information will be available soon. Thanks to everyone who made this course another success!

Please save the date, June 15, for a EMS Data Management Course in Temple.

## **TETAF Pre-Survey Questionnaire in Final Stages of Development**

The TETAF Pre-Survey Questionnaire (PSQ) is in the final development stage. TETAF and DSHS will partner to provide webinar based training on the new trauma center application process in the next several weeks. Additionally, there will be an educational presentation at the quarterly Texas Trauma Coordinator's Forum meeting on May 10 in Austin.

TETAF and DSHS will provide updates as additional educational opportunities become available. If you have any questions, please contact [Brenda Putz](#).

## **\$10 Million Appropriated to DOD Trauma Clinical Research Program**

The federal omnibus spending bill passed at the end of 2015 includes a \$10 million line item appropriation for a Trauma Clinical Research Program within the Department of Defense (DoD) Health Program. The Trauma Clinical Research Program will create a coordinated, multi-institution, clinical research network to advance the study of military-relevant topics in trauma care and trauma systems.

Dr. Ronald Stewart provides more information and a historical look at the need for this program [here](#).

## **Representative Zerwas to Speak at TEMSA Conference**



State Rep. John Zerwas, MD (R-Simonton) will serve as the keynote speaker for the Texas EMS Alliance Conference in June. Rep. Zerwas is a Houston-area lawmaker and an important player in determining health care policy.

The conference will offer a leadership track examining public policy, business, clinical, legal and operational issues that are impacting the future of EMS in Texas, as well as a billing/coding track focusing on billing, coding, and compliance issues. The billing/coding track is created specifically for billing and coding professionals within Texas EMS organizations.

More information on the conference is available [here](#).

## Past GETAC Meetings Available Online

Missed the February GETAC meetings in Austin? TETAF Provides a complimentary live-stream of all committee and council meetings via our [ustream channel](#). Those meetings are also available for viewing at a later date. Of note this month, TETAF has also provided a recording of the Freestanding Emergency Departments and Alternative Care Sites Taskforce meeting.



## Health & Human Services Transformation Update

The draft transition plan containing initial recommendations will be posted on the HHS Transformation

website and delivered to the Transformation Legislative Oversight Committee on or before March 1. (update newsletter when available) Comments may be submitted by email, fax or regular mail.

HHS has also posted a new “Answers to Common Questions” [page](#). The initial list of questions and answers will expand as more questions come in to the HHS Transformation mailbox.

## March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

Brain Injury Awareness Month celebrates brain injury survivors, their families and their caregivers, while raising awareness about the prevalence of this issue.



The Health & Human Services Commission, Office of Acquired Brain Injury (OABI) will be raising awareness, providing education, promoting prevention and offering service referral and coordination related to brain injury throughout the month.

On March 18th, OABI will also be hosting a Brain Injury Awareness Day celebration in Austin. Attendees will learn more about OABI's projects, the impact of this massive public health problem, and hear from survivors as they share their stories.

**What:** OABI Brain Injury Awareness Month Open House

**When:** 3:00 – 5:00 pm on March 18th (come and go as you please)

**Where:** Twin Towers Conference Room, Suite 203E (Across from the OABI Office at Suite 225E), 1106 Clayton Lane, Austin, TX 78723.

Brain Injury Awareness toolkits are also available to help support local awareness campaigns. Toolkits

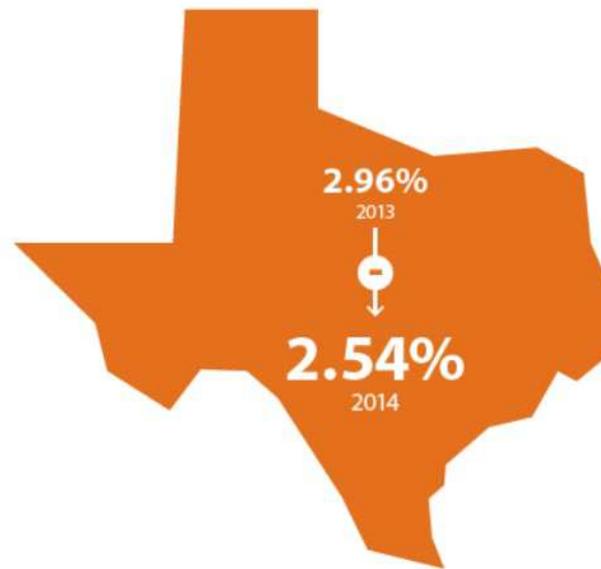
include educational materials, posters, concussion cards, flyers, fact sheets about the brain and green ribbons. Toolkits are free and can be shipped anywhere within Texas.

To RSVP for the open house or to order your Brain Injury Awareness Toolkit, contact OABI at 512.706.7191 or [oabi@hpsc.state.tx.us](mailto:oabi@hpsc.state.tx.us).

## **ICYMI: Texas Trauma Fatality Rate Drops Again**

A standard indicator of trauma system effectiveness is the case fatality rate. The trauma case fatality rate is the overall proportion of deaths within a particular population of trauma incidences. The Texas trauma case fatality rate continues to drop, at 2.54% for 2014, almost half a point lower than the 2013 rate of 2.96%. Congrats to everyone who helps keep Texas a model trauma system!

## MEASURING TRAUMA SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS: Trauma Case Fatality Rate



### **ICYMI: Provider Re-Enrollment Deadline Extension**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that the previous March 24, 2016 deadline for Medicaid provider re-enrollment is extended to Sept. 25, 2016. Though this extension gives states additional time to ensure providers comply with Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requirements, Texas Medicaid encourages all providers who have not yet submitted a re-enrollment application to begin this process immediately to avoid potential payment disruptions.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

### **March 12 – NTRAC Trauma Acute Care Conference (Wichita Falls)**

Save the date for the upcoming North Texas RAC conference. For more information call 940/764-3088 or email [lpresler@unitedregional.org](mailto:lpresler@unitedregional.org).

### **April 6 – TETAF General Meeting (Conference Call)**

Please contact [Courtney DeBower](#) for more information.

### **April 7-9 – TRAC-V Annual Trauma Symposium (South Padre Island)**

Registration is now open for the 19th annual TRAC-V trauma symposium. An agenda and more information is available [here](#).

### **April 13 – Texas Brain Injury Summit (Tyler)**

Participants will gain knowledge on many facets of brain injury, and will participate in the development of action plans for the prevention of brain injury, intervention and identification efforts, and the improvement of long-term services and supports in the community. More information is available [here](#).

### **April 15-16 – Texas EMS Educators Summit 2016 (Corpus Christi)**

Join your colleagues to discuss the state of EMS education in Texas and work together to shape the future of EMS education. Register online [here](#).

### **April 21-22 – National Rural EMS Conference (San Antonio)**

Save the date. For more information, contact Matt Strycker at 574-855-4671 or [stryckerm@nosorh.org](mailto:stryckerm@nosorh.org).

### **April 27 – Trauma Outcomes & Performance Improvement Course - TOPIC (San Antonio)**

More information available on the TETAF [website](#). The registration form is available [here](#).

**April 28 – Panhandle RAC Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Conference (Amarillo)**

Save the date. Registration will be available soon.

**April 28-29 – STRAC Regional Emergency Healthcare Systems Conference (San Antonio)**

Trauma, Stroke, Cardiac, Public Health and Disaster courses, breakout sessions and current event discussions relevant to all levels of care from the new EMT-Basic to Physicians. More information available [here](#).

**May 11 – Trauma Outcomes & Performance Improvement Course - TOPIC (Austin)**

More information available on the TETAF [website](#). The registration form is available [here](#).

**June 15 – EMS Data Management Course (Temple)**

Save the date for the upcoming TETAF EMS Data Management Course. More information will be available soon.

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

More information available on the TETAF [website](#). The registration form is available [here](#).

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



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