



**TETAF General Meeting  
Wyndham Garden Inn – Austin, Texas  
Wednesday, February 09, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. CDT  
Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Jorie Klein at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was not recorded. Ms. Klein requested that everyone keep Shae Watson and Ricky Reeves in their prayers during their periods of illness.

**2. Board Member Roll Call– Scott Christopher**

Present:	Scott Christopher	Absent:	Brian Eastridge
	Courtney Edwards		Lisa Price
	Robin Garza		Ricky Reeves
	Lisa Hutchison		Robert Saunders
	Jorie Klein		Lori Vinson
	Jim Parisi		Shae Watson
	Kathy Rodgers		Dudley Wait
	Craig Rhyne		

A Quorum was established at the opening of the meeting. Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz and Courtney DeBower were in attendance. Representatives from the Texas DSHS were not in attendance.

**3. RAC Participant Round-the-Room Introductions – Jorie Klein**

Around-the-room introductions were held. Sign-in sheets are on file in TETAF office.

**4. Affiliate Organizations / Members**

There were no affiliate organizations or members identified as being present.

**5. Division Reports / Activities / Needs - (Brenda Putz)**

- Acute Care – Ms. Lisa Hutchison was present to provide a report. Ms. Hutchison reported that the division is reviewing the stroke rule recommended revision line-by-line, and providing stakeholder input to the Texas Dept. of State Health Services. Ms. Hutchison stated that the division continues to work with the TX Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke. There will be a Council meeting this Friday to discuss various initiatives including hypertension prevention and heart/stroke risk factor education.
- EMS – Mr. Robert Saunders was unable to attend the meeting. No report was provided.

- Education – Ms. Courtney Edwards was present to provide the report. She reported that the division is planning and coordinating the Data Management courses for hospitals and EMS agencies for 2016. Ms. Edwards announced that TETAF will continue providing continuing education hours in 2016.
- Pediatrics – Ms. Lori Vinson was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Sam Vance reported that the EMS for Children program continues to work with the Pediatric Division on the Pediatric Readiness Program. He announced that the EMSC program is currently seeking nominations for EMS Crew of the year.
- Injury Prevention – Ms. Robin Garza provided a report. She stated that the division continues to focus on the “Just Drive” prevention campaign. She stated that the division is beginning to take a lead role in rolling out the “Stop the Bleed” campaign in Texas. Ms. Garza reported that there was discussion at the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum earlier in the day regarding injury prevention gaps and opportunities between the two organizations. Utilizing the TETAF website in a greater capacity for injury prevention opportunities and programs was acknowledged in this discussion.
- RAC – Ms. Shae Watson was unable to attend the meeting. The Board was informed that the cardiac and stroke data collection initiative continues to develop.
- Trauma – Ms. Lisa Price was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Putz reported that the division is working to develop a Trauma Program Manager manual and a Trauma Registrar’s manual.

## 6. TETAF Update – Dinah Welsh

- Legislative Update  
Ms. Welsh discussed the Interim Study in the House on trauma & emergency healthcare. TETAF has learned that study activities will begin after the primary election process. Ms. Welsh assured the Board that TETAF personnel are preparing data for this study. Ms. Welsh anticipates that the hearings for this study will occur in the May/June time period. Ms. Welsh noted that the good news is that we have time to prepare solid and informative presentations for these hearings. The Board was informed that Representative Four Price is the Chairman for the Article II subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. A listing of House Appropriations Committee members was displayed with key members highlighted. These members will need to be contacted soon. Ms. Welsh announced that TETAF will be working with the various RACs to meet with these legislators. TETAF will work on preparing formal documents to educate the stakeholders and the legislators. Scott Christopher reported that he and other representatives from the Deep East Texas RAC met with Representative Trent Ashby. He stated the meeting was a very positive experience. Re.p Ashby requested a 3-page summary of RAC description/current funding/needs that he can distribute to the various members of the appropriations committee. Ms. Welsh commented that TETAF will help DETRAC in whatever manner needed. Ms. Welsh reminded those in attendance that RAC visits to their legislators to provide education on RAC/EMS/Trauma systems is not considered lobbying.

Ms. Welsh reported that there was recently a hearing regarding the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP). Ms. Welsh stated that she feels that Senator Nichols, who is the Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, understands the challenges and the rewards of the DRP. Ms. Welsh announced that TETAF is making the argument that Texans have more access to care since the

implementation of the DRP program. She commented that legislators may begin asking “are there too many trauma facilities in Texas?”

The Board was informed by Ms. Welsh that there are several other legislative interim studies that TETAF will be following. There are emergency preparedness/disaster related studies in addition to the trauma system and the DRP. Ms. Welsh stressed the value and importance of RAC stakeholders visiting with the Legislators in their regions.

Ms. Wanda Helgesen inquired if there was any update on the Trauma/EMS/RAC appropriations from the last legislative session. Ms. Welsh replied that there will not likely be an increase for EMS and RACs, but that is still dependent on what the budget looks like moving forward. The Board was reminded that the current gas and oil prices being low is not helping to formulate a strong state budget. Ms. Helgesen stated that the question needs to be raised as to why EMS and RACs were not included in the earlier appropriations. Ms. Welsh replied that Representative Sylvester Turner’s focus on the distribution was for hospitals. Ms. Helgesen expressed her concern that there may not be funding for the RACs in a very short period of time. Jorie Klein commented that many areas of the nation are envious of the Texas RAC models. She stressed that we all need to be able to quickly explain to anyone how the RAC supports the Trauma and EMS infrastructure.

- Texas TQIP Update

Ms. Welsh announced that the TQIP Collaborative group will meet Thursday in Austin. Appreciation of the efforts of the late Dr. Matt Davis to initiate the collaborative development were recognized. Ms. Welsh reported that there are many questions regarding the future direction of the TQIP project circulating. Ms. Welsh noted that those facilities that already participate in TQIP data submission should attend and bring their Fall TQIP report to share with the group. The Board was reminded that the TQIP Initiative is to identify and share best practices in Trauma care. The Texas TQIP initiative will benchmark against other states and other hospitals.

- TETAF Board Restructuring Update

Ms. Welsh reported that the restructuring meeting scheduled 2 weeks ago was cancelled and TETAF is planning to reschedule the meeting as soon as possible. She announced that TETAF would like to move forward with the restructuring activities over the next couple of months. Ms. Welsh stated that she thinks Dr. Eastridge wants the workgroup to create recommendations for the Board to review.

- Stop the Bleed

The Board was informed that the Hartford Consensus is focused on active shooter response. The Stop the Bleed campaign is centered on controlling hemorrhage. The goal of the campaign is for everyone to have this training. It was announced that a training power point presentation has been pushed out to many websites. There will be a 40-student class offered this Wednesday in conjunction with the GETAC meetings. Information for this class offering is available on the TETAF website. Ms. Welsh announced that TETAF will be coordinating the scheduling for more Stop the Bleed trainings. The program goal is to ultimately have all healthcare providers and school personnel trained and prepared in this hemorrhage control technique. Mr. Terry Valentino reported that his region is working on getting individuals in their RAC trained. He commented that several of the people taking the training feel that the training presentation is too long and the pictures too gory. He asked if the presentation can be altered. He was informed that if the training is making the claim that the course curriculum is from the Stop the Bleed group then they cannot likely alter the presentation too much. The comment was made that the presentation may be considered long for a healthcare provider, but maybe appropriate for lay person? Ms. Klein

commented that Texas needs to commit to a formal and consistent present structure. She reported that there will be a provider questionnaire asking about their previous and current practices using tourniquets and hemostatic agents.

- Pre-Survey Questionnaire Update

Brenda Putz announced that the questionnaire for Level IV trauma centers is anticipated to rollout very soon, with Level III soon to follow.

- NICU Survey Process Update

The Board was informed that there are many candidates for the Project Manager position that look promising. TETAF is moving forward with the selection process. Ms. Welsh commented that a lesson learned from Stroke group is to be aware of other organization's interest in also surveying. It was reported that the American Pediatric group will also be a surveying body for NICU. Dr. Craig Rhyne says the NICU Medical Directors in his area are confused about the RACs. He recommends that TETAF and the RACs reach out to other NICU directors to educate them on the RACs and their governance structure. Brenda Putz commented that the NICU stakeholders say they are concerned about getting 'lost' in the RACs. The Board was informed that the Level I NICU facilities will be surveyed with paper affidavit process this year. Ms. Putz announced that Level II, III, IV NICU centers will have to have an on-site survey.

## **7. Treasurer's Report – Jim Parisi**

Jim Parisi provided the board with a review of the proposed TETAF budget. He reviewed and reported the following:

- RAC subscription fees will not be increased.
- There is a trauma center survey fee increase for Level III and IV's and stroke support facilities of 10%. It was noted that these fees have not been increased in over 5 years and costs associated with performing the surveys continue to grow. Surveyor honorariums are not being increased at this time.
- TETAF will pursue affiliate memberships per its bylaws. Ms. Welsh explained the possibility to build affiliate member levels. She stated that this would create an increased opportunity for dialog with stakeholders interested in EMS/Trauma/RACs and offer an improved avenue for communications for their organizations. The Board was informed that this membership level would not have voting rights. There was brief discussion on creating various levels for EMS agency and hospital affiliate membership opportunities.
- Courtney DeBower's position specifically identified in the budget.
- TQIP resources have been added.
- NICU survey process has been added.
- There is funding for website rebuilding.
- The proposed budget has an income of \$954,820.
- Mr. Parisi reviewed the various expense categories. The proposed expenses are \$949,356.
- The proposed net income is \$6,741

A motion to approve the budget was presented by Dr. Craig Rhyne. A second to the motion was provided by Scott Christopher. There were no questions or further discussion required. The motion passed without any opposition.

- Ms. Welsh announced that TETAF personnel will go back and retrospectively close out the initial 3 months of the year against this approved budget. Mr. Parisi reviewed the income/expenses

these 3 months. It was noted that the actual net income is below budget expectations by approximately \$20,000. There were no further questions or comments.

#### **8. Secretary's Report - Scott Christopher**

##### Approval of November 21, 2015 and January 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Christopher announced that these two sets of minutes have been made available to the Board members for review. There were no recommended changes to either set of minutes. Kathy Rodgers made a motion that each set of minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Robin Garza. There was no opposition to the motion.

#### **9. Open Discussion**

- Ms. Welsh commented that with the restructuring project and the legislative interim studies, there is a tremendous amount of work that must be accomplished by TETAF personnel and the Board members in a very short amount of time.
- Jorie Klein commented that the DRP is already facing a significant opposition prior to the legislative session even starting. She pointed out that the arguments for the DRP have historically not had physician and EMS costs for trauma system care. She cautioned the Board and audience to begin considering alternative funding sources for Trauma/EMS systems if the DRP is repealed this next session. Ms. Klein commented that the Trauma community likes the DRP because it holds violators responsible for their actions. Everyone agreed that we all need to be able to speak about the DRP and how it helps Trauma/EMS systems in the State of Texas.
- Jorie Klein made a challenge for all of the individuals in the room to teach 5 Stop the Bleed classes before the May GETAC meeting dates.

#### **10. February Action Items**

There were no additional items/topics requiring any form of additional action.

#### **11. Next Meetings– Dinah Welsh**

- General Meeting Conference Call: March 2, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.

#### **12. Adjournment**

With no further discussion or business, the meeting was adjourned by Ms. Klein at 6:49 p.m.

***Recorded by:  
Scott Christopher, Secretary***