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April 2016

Table of Contents

[TETAF Board of Director Changes](#)

[Dr. Ronald Stewart, Eric Epley Testify in Austin](#)

[EMS Data Management Course Coming to Central Texas](#)

[TETAF Brings Trauma Conference to Panhandle RAC](#)

[NICU Update](#)

[Texas EMS Educators Summit & 2016 Coordinator Course to be Held in Corpus Christi](#)

[HHSC Proposes New Rules Promulgation Process](#)

[DSHS Seeks Stakeholder Input on Physician Shortages & Graduate Medical Education](#)

[ICYMI: Health & Human Services Transformation Update](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

TETAF Board of Director Changes

Founding TETAF Chair Jorie Klein has resigned. "Words cannot begin to express our sincere appreciation for her vision and commitment to our organization from its creation through its sustained growth," said Dinah Welsh, TETAF CEO.

In accordance with TETAF's bylaws, Brian Eastridge, M.D. will serve as Acting Chair until the next election of officers. Raj Gandhi, M.D. has been nominated and ratified by the TETAF Board to serve as the Acting Vice Chair, effective immediately.

In addition, with the untimely passing of RAC Division Chair Shae Watson, Hilary Watt, Executive Director for the Coastal Bend RAC, was ratified by the Board to fill this vacated position.

The Board's intention is to hold elections immediately following the approval and implementation of organizational changes, which may include organizational structure, board composition and business practices.

Dr. Ronald Stewart, Eric Epley Testify in Austin

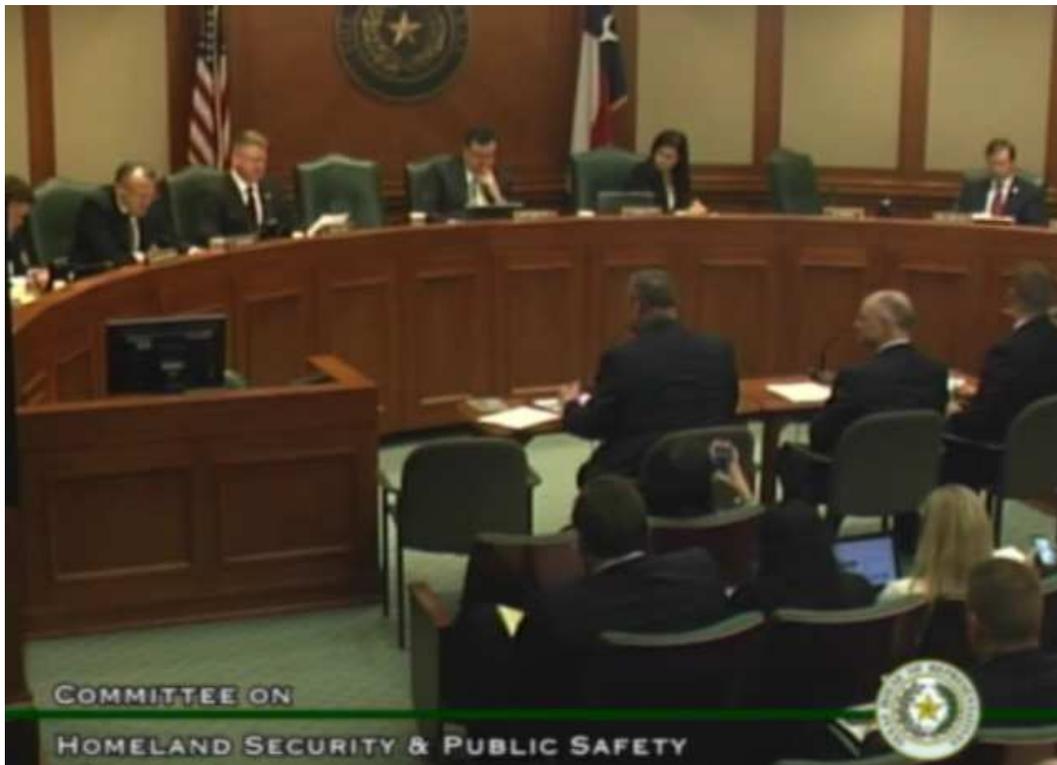
In March, the Texas House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety reached out to TETAF to solicit testimony on the Driver Responsibility Program, as well as an interim charge on disaster preparedness. TETAF is grateful to Dr. Ronald Stewart of San Antonio & Eric Epley of the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) for accepting our invitation and traveling to Austin on March 29.

Dr. Ronald Stewart of University Health System San Antonio and the American College of Surgeons

Committee on Trauma shared a historical look at the DRP and the accomplishments that have been achieved since implementation of this funding stream. He stressed the need to maintain steady funding for trauma care in Texas and answered questions posed by the committee. Dr. Stewart's testimony was well-received and he was assured by the Chairman that continuing to fund the state trauma system will be of utmost importance to the committee.

Eric Epley, Executive Director of STRAC, provided important testimony on the role of Regional Advisory Councils in preparing for, and responding to natural disasters. His testimony will be used to advise the committee as they prepare an interim report on the state's natural disaster preparedness planning efforts.

An archive broadcast of the hearing is available [here](#).



EMS Data Management Course Coming to Central Texas

For the second year, TETAF is presenting the EMS Data Management Course, designed for team members responsible for abstracting and submitting data to the Texas EMS Trauma Registry. With a focus on the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) and the data dictionary, the planning committee is bringing much needed education on this topic to central Texas.

This course is designed for EMTs, paramedics, nurses and physicians responsible for or with an interest in abstracting and submitting data to the Texas EMS Trauma Registry.

This year's course will take place in Belton. More information will be available soon on the TETAF

website.



TETAF Brings Trauma Conference to Panhandle RAC



Targeting the educational needs of the region and current practice guidelines, this conference will provide information on the rising epidemic of human trafficking including strategies of recognition and prevention of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), raising the awareness of the increasing practice of EMS drug diversion and the current Texas regulations addressing this practice and a trauma center's lessons learned from the Ft. Hood active shooter disaster response. Additionally, with the challenges of the 2017 legislative session on the horizon, participants will receive a legislative update on trauma and

emergency healthcare legislation and initiatives as well as ways of increasing community awareness of the critical service provided by emergency responders in your community.

This conference will be of interest and benefit to physicians, nurses and EMS professionals who respond to and treat trauma patients.

Registration is now open [online](#).

NICU Update

Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) meeting dates for the remainder of 2016 have been announced. All meetings will take place at the Health & Human Services Brown-Heatly Building in Austin.

Meeting #3 - May 2, 2016

Meeting #4 - Sept. 20, 2016

Meeting #5 - Oct. 25, 2016

Meeting #6 - Nov. 28, 2016

All meetings are webcast and an archive of past meetings is available [here](#).

Texas EMS Educators Summit & 2016 Coordinator Course to be Held in Corpus Christi

The second annual Texas EMS Educators Summit will take place in Corpus Christi on April 15 & 16.

Included this year in the summit is the DSHS Coordinator Course, the Test Item Writing Workshop and Build Better Scenarios for Great Simulations Workshop. More information is available [here](#).

It's not too late to sign up for the 2016 Coordinator Course, occurring immediately prior to the summit. This course will focus on the requirements needed to license an education program and course, where to find information in the EMS rules, and the importance of record keeping. It will emphasize the responsibilities that an educator has when they become a Course Coordinator. Applicants must attend the entire course to be eligible for the certification exam. The certification exam will be given by DSHS immediately following the course.

Applicants applying for this course must be eligible for certification as a Course Coordinator as described in [EMS Rule §157.43](#). It is the applicant's responsibility to review the certification requirements before enrolling in this course.

HHSC Proposes New Rules Promulgation Process

Effective September 1, 2016 the Health and Human Services System will implement a standard rules promulgation process for all HHS agencies and programs. The new process is intended to keep external stakeholders informed and engaged in the rulemaking process by providing up to date information and frequent opportunities for stakeholder feedback on proposed rules. HHSC is seeking feedback on how to keep external stakeholders informed and engaged in the agency rulemaking process.

Activities being considered include:

- Establish an informal period during which draft rules are made available to stakeholders for review and comment prior to Executive Council meetings and posting of proposed rules in the Texas Register. This informal review period should allow sufficient time for staff to respond to stakeholders. The informal review period can consist of face to face or electronic communications between agency staff and stakeholders. Programs may also choose to solicit feedback from stakeholders prior to drafting rules.
- Modify the existing rules web page on the HHSC website to allow stakeholders to view draft rules and submit comments electronically. The web page may also contain a continuously updated list of rules that are in the drafting stage, so that stakeholders will be aware of draft rules to be posted for review at a later date.
- Use agency advisory committees for feedback on rules, during public meetings or through electronic communications. This is not a proposed requirement to take all rules to an advisory committee (unless there is a statutory requirement to do so), but relevant advisory committees could be identified at the initiation of new rules projects as a valuable sounding board for rules development.
- Allow public testimony on rules at meetings of the new HHS Executive Council, as established under Government Code Section 531.0051.

To comment on this proposal, please send an email with the subject line "HHS Rules Process" to HHS_Transformation@hhsc.state.tx.us by Friday, April 15. More information is available online [here](#).

DSHS Seeks Stakeholder Input on Physician Shortages & Graduate Medical Education

Last year, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 18, requiring the Department of State Health

Services to conduct research to identify all medical specialties and subspecialties that are at critical shortage levels in Texas, as well as the overall supply of physicians and other issues that are relevant to the status of the graduate medical education system and the ability of that system to meet the state's current and future healthcare needs.

DSSH has created a brief survey and is inviting interested stakeholders to share their knowledge and experiences. The results of this survey will be used to guide and direct initial analyses and reports.

The survey is available until April 18 and may be completed online [here](#).

ICYMI: Health & Human Services Transformation Update

The draft transition plan for the Health & Human Services System, containing initial recommendations, was recently posted on the HHS Transformation website and delivered to the Transformation Legislative Oversight Committee.

The transition plan was developed with input from stakeholders through eight regional stakeholder meetings and an online stakeholder survey, from staff through an online stakeholder survey and from more than 200 staff who participated in workgroups formed to evaluate the various functions of the HHS organization and develop recommendations for revised organizational structures.

The core functions within the transformed HHS structure are:

- Medical and Social Services
- Regulatory Services

- Facility Operations
- Department of Family and Protective Services
- Department of State Health Services

Administrative supports for these core functions include:

- Information Technology
- System Support Services
- Internal Audit
- Communications, Press Relations, Stakeholder & Government Relations and Ombudsman Functions
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Procurement and Contracting Services

Phase one of the transformation process is focused on the broad structure of the HHS system, while future efforts will include a more in-depth focus on program operations within the transformed structure.

Timeline

- May 1 — Target date for Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Chris Traylor to approve transition plan.
- May 13 — Approved transition plan to be posted in the Texas Register, highlighting adjustments made to the plan and rationale for decisions on adjustments.
- June 1 — Target date for notification of staff regarding programs and staff to be moved to HHSC Sept.1.

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.

Upcoming Meetings

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)

More information and registration details are available [here](#).

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)

[Register now](#) for the Panhandle RAC Trauma Conference. The conference is underwritten by the Panhandle Regional Advisory Council and offers discounted registration fees for RAC A & B members.

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.*



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