



TETAF Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Zoom Meeting
4:00 p.m.

Present: Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP
Diana Grimm-Mapp, RN, BSN, CEN,
TCRN
Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN
Kenneth Mattox, M.D.
Kathy Perkins, RN, MBA
Edward Racht, M.D.
Craig Rhyne, M.D.
Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT
Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP
David Weisoly, D.O.

Absent: Jeff Beeson, D.O.
Nilda Garcia, M.D.

Angela Gentry, RN, MSN, TCRN
Lisa Hutchins, RN-NIC
Christine Reeves
Ricky Reeves, EMT-P
Dudley Wait, EMT-P

TETAF Staff: Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz, Carla Rider, and Erin Moore

TETAF Contractors: Doris Heinen, accountant; Kevin Reed, attorney, and Ashley Morgan, contract lobbyist

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair. Board members introduced themselves. Dinah Welsh, TETAF president and CEO introduced Kevin Reed, attorney for TETAF, and Ashley Morgan, contract lobbyist for TETAF.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh shared that the 2020 TETAF Annual Report has been published and thanked Erin Moore, TETAF communications director, and the TETAF team for the work on the report. She thanked the entire TETAF team for the amount of work and the accomplishments during 2020.
- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Ricky Reeves, secretary of the TETAF Board of Directors, was unable to attend the meeting due to power issues during the winter storm. The December 2020 minutes will be approved during the next TETAF Board of Directors meeting.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Kathy Perkins, treasurer, stated that the first part of the year has been challenging, still due to the pandemic. Perkins complimented the TETAF survey team for their efforts managing rescheduled surveys. The budget is not on the positive side yet, but Perkins state it should improve as surveys are rescheduled. Cash, working

capital, revenue, and gross margin are down. Almost all is directly related to surveys being behind because of the pandemic. 71 surveys had been completed and 103 were budgeted. The year-to-date operating expenses are also under budget because there is less travel. TETAF is not too far behind in net capital. Dr. Kenneth Mattox asked how virtual surveys could affect TETAF's income. Perkins stated that pricing has not changed, and virtual surveys have helped because they cost less. She stated if it becomes permanent, TETAF would need to consider virtual pricing. Dr. Mattox suggested increasing the cost of consultation services due to the one-on-one value they bring. Dr. Rhyme agreed that new programs, especially, can benefit and existing programs that have experienced a change in leadership can also benefit. Dr. Ed Racht said he spoke with the medical director for EMS in Oregon who shared that the cost of virtual surveys with technology and time of surveyors can potentially be greater than in-person surveys due to the cost of secure infrastructure. Welsh shared that TETAF has discussed more marketing for consultative surveys. She added that it is still too early to have a good assessment on whether fees should be adjusted. Perkins motioned to accept the budget report. Wanda Helgesen seconded the motion. The report was unanimously approved.

- 5) **Advocacy Committee Report** – Wanda Helgesen, chair of the TETAF Advocacy Committee, shared that the committee has met with the TETAF lobby team. TETAF is compiling responses from a recent survey of the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Helgesen stated that due to the across-the-board five percent reduction in state agency budgets, TETAF's goal this legislative session is to maintain funding gains from the previous legislative session. Additionally, the committee is looking for opportunities to support data collection to improve patient care. Dinah Welsh introduced Ashley Morgan from Erben & Yarbrough, TETAF's contract lobby firm. Morgan stated that because of the work the RACs have done during the pandemic and current winter storm, the conversations with legislators are timely with RACs being in the spotlight. Bills have been filed and committees have been assigned in the Senate and House. Meetings are on hold due to the winter storm. Morgan stated that the lobby team will continue to emphasize in conversations how the RACs have been involved in the pandemic and the current winter storm. Morgan added that if there are COVID-19 related funds, they will look into if any are available for the RACs. Scott Christopher added that some RACs assist home health and nursing homes with oxygen supply and suction during power outages. Dr. Rhyme added that the board members are subject matter experts in their fields and are a resource to the lobby team.
- 6) **TETAF Survey Service Line Report** – Brenda Putz, TETAF vice president of operations, stated in reference to the TETAF budget reports that the reports run behind what the TETAF survey team is currently doing. Since December, the surveyors have completed an additional 31 surveys. Additionally, the survey team scheduled another 61 surveys. Putz stated there are a few more surveys to get on the calendar, but most have been scheduled. Fewer hospitals are rescheduling due to the pandemic. Putz stated that Carla Rider, TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services perinatal program director, has conducted some consultation surveys that were well-received. Trauma has been offering consultation surveys. Kathy Perkins added that with the surveys that are scheduled it would put TETAF right on budget. Putz added that since September 1, 2020, TETAF has completed

a total of 102 surveys total, with the 61 scheduled, and another 18 pending for scheduling. Putz also shared that the Texas Department of State Health Services has initiated a plan to ensure that 21 days from the day the report is submitted by the hospital, the hospital should have a decision. Virtual surveys are being conducted as needed, but surveyors prefer on-site surveys because of the interaction and information exchanged during an in-person survey. On-site surveys are optimal and will be performed as often as possible. Scott Christopher asked if stroke surveys still fluctuate. Putz stated they do and there are about 20 hospitals, most are rural.

- 7) **Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program Collaborative (Texas TQIP) Report** – Garrett Hall, Texas TQIP coordinator, shared that 100% of the ACS Level I and Level II verified centers in Texas are now participating in Texas TQIP. Texas TQIP will host four virtual meetings in 2021. New workgroups have been launched within Texas TQIP that specifically focus on AKI, DOA/DIED, Isolated Hip Fractures, and Unplanned Return to the OR. Texas TQIP has moved to electronic forms. The Texas TQIP secure member portal has been revised.
- 8) **Scheduled TETAF Meetings** - Dinah Welsh is conducting weekly Legislative Workgroup meetings every Friday during the legislative session via Zoom. Welsh thanked Erin Moore for creating weekly updates after the Legislative Workgroup meetings. TETAF will continue to hold its quarterly meetings in conjunction with the Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meetings. The next TETAF Board of Directors meeting will be June 22, 2021 and will likely be held via Zoom. Welsh and Dr. Rhyne have discussed an in-person strategic meeting of the TETAF board during late summer if it is safe enough at that time to conduct an in-person meeting.
- 9) **Open Discussion** – Dr. Mattox stated he would like to have in-person meetings at least once a year. Dr. Rhyne agreed and Dinah Welsh also agreed that when it is safe enough, at least one in-person meeting should be held.
- 10) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.