

there are designation rule revisions happening. TETAF has submitted written recommendations for the maternal levels of care rule. TETAF has navigated away from the abortion issue due to controversy but is monitoring conversations relating to the care of mothers and babies. Perinatal Advisory Council applications have been extended to the end of this week. Texas TQIP's quarterly meeting will be via Zoom on August 22. Welsh recognized TETAF surveyor Jacky Betts on his 250th survey, by his count. Welsh also recognized Brenda Putz, who is retiring at the end of August, for her years of dedication to TETAF. Putz said she was proud to work with everyone in the room. Welsh said TETAF will hire a survey service line senior director. Welsh stated Rosie Bolenbacher has been TETAF's education coordinator and is also retiring. TETAF will also hire to fill that role, which is a contractor position.

- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Ricky Reeves asked for approval of the May 23, 2022 minutes of the TETAF Board of Directors meeting. Christine Reeves motioned to approve the minutes and Wanda Helgesen seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- 4) **TETAF Treasurer's Report** – Kathy Perkins presented a proposed budget to the TETAF Board of Directors. Perkins is pleased the budget is positive for this next fiscal year with a net revenue of \$15,800 based on a projected 152 surveys, with 135 originally estimated for the upcoming fiscal year. The Texas TQIP funds have been exhausted in the budget. The vice president of operations position will be eliminated, and the role will be filled at a director level. A second survey coordinator position has been eliminated and no other new positions are being proposed. Inflation has impacted the organization, particularly in surveyor travel costs. For proposed revenues, there is a proposal to modify RAC dues, increase survey fees overall by 10%, and interest income will be lower because of decreased cash reserves. The proposed survey fee increase will be primarily consumed by inflation. On the expense side, survey costs will increase, there is proposed cost of living increases for staff, GETAC (Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council) sponsorship expenses have been removed, and professional fees and health insurance have been budgeted higher. TETAF's sponsorships, rent, data management, and meeting budget items are comparable to the current fiscal year. The TETAF Finance Committee looked at the budget at length and discussed proposed increases and potential concerns, such as increased survey fees. Additionally, a contractor will be needed to revise documents related to trauma rule revisions. A second survey coordinator position will need to be filled at some point. The total increase for the RAC Dues Proposal is \$21,300 and the increase for 10 of the RACs is \$100 to \$200. RAC dues have been stagnant since 2018. Population is up in all but one RAC. The proposed advocacy budget for the next fiscal year is \$232,000. A handout was provided with the history of the RAC dues, the census and changes in population, along with per capita information. Welsh explained the methodology of the proposed increase. In 2009, the RAC fees were based on tobacco fees and the RACs were no longer allowed to use tobacco fees to pay TETAF. That year, the subscription fees were \$86,000. Later that year, were reduced to \$77,400. Then in 2017, the RACs were challenged financially and subscription fees were halved at \$37,800. The TETAF Finance Committee recommended that the board consider the targeted \$60,000. Dr. Rhyne

stated that normally a committee recommendation for budget would not be presented in such detail, but the board wanted to give opportunity for comment. There was a question from a stakeholder in the audience regarding the chart in the documents provided. The board unanimously approved the budget. Perkins provided the April and May financial report. Survey income was less than budgeted, but costs were less because of less surveyor travel. Revenue was \$206,000 under budget. Several budgeted surveys are scheduled for later in the year. Total revenue was less than budgeted by \$170,000, total cost of sales was under budget by \$152,000, gross profit was \$19,000 under budget, and net profit is a loss at \$113,000. Net cash flow was negative by \$329,000. Perkins recommended the financials be approved. There was no further comment, and the financial report was unanimously approved by the TETAF Board.

5) **TETAF Committee Reports** (Advocacy Committee) – Wanda Helgesen, chair, stated the committee prepared the proposed legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session and a handout of the proposed priorities was handed out. Helgesen stated it is important to understand where TETAF should take the lead as opposed to supporting other organizations, such as the Texas Hospital Association. Ashley Morgan, TETAF’s contract lobbyist, thanked the Advocacy Committee for their work on the priorities and looking at funding needs for the RACs based on the RAC Criteria Document. Helgesen reminded stakeholders in the audience that it is not too soon to visit legislators. A question was asked by a stakeholder in the audience regarding transparency on the ask regarding RAC funding. Helgesen stated the committee may develop more than one strategy and will want input from everyone before moving forward. Helgesen stated they need to make sure an explanation for the ask is developed. Dr. Rhyne emphasized the need to be consistent and consolidated with the ask among all 22 RACs. Dr. David Weisoly emphasized, in the Zoom chat, the need for a statewide perinatal database. Welsh asked if we were at a point to approve the legislative priorities and also if we wanted to keep the health care workforce shortage in the priorities as something TETAF should take the lead. Kathy Perkins stated the EMS side is being addressed with a big project under Senate Bill 8 and it may be a tough ask for TETAF to address the EMS workforce shortage. Christine Reeves stated that one option that was discussed was leaving it on the priorities but being a supporter of other organizations leading the effort. Mrs. Reeves gave a recommendation by the committee for the board to approve the priorities. Morgan added that other organizations, such as the Texas Medical Association and THA, have specific asks regarding the health care workforce shortage and she is not sure that is something TETAF should make a priority, but can certainly support. Mrs. Reeves recommended a modification to change the word “ensure” to “support” under the health care workforce item. The board unanimously approved the priorities.

(Education) – Scott Christopher, chair, said the committee has met once since the TETAF Board has met. Christopher stated that in the committee’s charge, maternal, neonatal, and stroke were not reflected in the committee’s charge and this should be updated in the TETAF Bylaws. The Hospital Data Management Course will be offered again in November and the June course had 50 people. The monthly Texas Perinatal Forum has been a homerun for the perinatal group, but more is needed for trauma and stroke. The

committee is looking to increase opportunities. Christopher added there may be something that could be done to educate legislators on the service lines. Also, the Senate Bill 8 EMS recruitment may be an opportunity for TETAF to provide further education and look at offering courses to provide patient care in Spanish. Christopher recognized the efforts by Brenda Putz and Rosie Bolenbacher to education and said they will be missed. Dr. Rhyne said he keeps hearing because they don't have enough nurses, the discussion of filling that void with paramedics and said the idea of hiring paramedics to do in-hospital work is not a solution and that needs to be educated to and shared with legislators. Dr. Kenneth Mattox said there has been a question about supervision and the number of people being supervised is large and makes it difficult for supervisors to truly evaluate the teams. Ricky Reeves stated he believes the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) may have already set the limit.

(Governance) – Dudley Wait had to leave the meeting early. Dinah Welsh provided an update and said the committee will meet on August 31. They will review recommendations on cleaning up the TETAF Bylaws and work on nominations for the TETAF Board of Directors.

(Survey Verification) – Dr. Dan Little, chair, said the committee met last week and reviewed the recent NICU surveyor training, which he thought was excellent. The committee also reviewed the surveyor selection process and the proposed revisions to the designation rules. Dr. Little said the committee made recommended revisions to the charge to include maternal, neonatal, and acute care. The committee is also reviewing the Conflict of Interest statement and surveyor evaluations.

- 6) **TETAF Survey Service Line Report** – Brenda Putz shared an update on the number of surveys conducted. Putz pointed out that while we are one staff member down in the survey team, Jennifer Anderson, has stepped into to assist. Putz stated that Jessica Phillips worked on written recommendations for the designation rule revisions for maternal and neonatal. Putz said we would be looking for a new education coordinator to replace Rosie Bolenbacher who is retiring. A review has been conducted of the survey tools to properly reflect rule revisions. TETAF will be meeting with the Texas Department of State Health Services and will be prepared to make any additional changes. TETAF is considering expanding to its stroke survey services with the Primary Level Stroke (Level III) and a request has been submitted to DSHS. The issue with the contiguous RACs will create issues with surveyors and TETAF will seek additional surveyors for all service lines.
- 7) **TETAF Communications Update/An Overview of Mighty Networks** – Erin Moore, communications director, gave a brief update of TETAF's presence in the Mighty Networks platform.
- 8) **Scheduled TETAF Meetings** – The next quarterly meeting of the TETAF Board of Directors will be on December 8 with a location in San Antonio to be announced. There has been difficulty finding a location due to a large symposium happening at the San Antonio Riverwalk. The location will be announced soon. The TETAF General Assembly will meet after the board meeting on the same date.
- 9) **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Rhyne adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.