



**TETAF Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, May 23, 2022, 5:00 p.m.  
Zoom and TETAF Office**

**Present: TETAF Office**

Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN  
Joseph Petty, M.D., FACOG  
Christine Reeves

**Zoom**

Jeff Beeson, D.O.  
Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP  
Diana Grimm-Mapp, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN  
Dan Little, M.D.  
Rhonda Manor-Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN  
Kenneth Mattox, M.D.  
Ricky Reeves, EMT-P  
Craig Rhyne, M.D.  
Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT  
Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP  
Dudley Wait, EMT-P  
David Weisoly, D.O.

**Absent:** Kathy Perkins, RN, MBA  
Edward Racht, M.D.

*TETAF Staff: Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz, Jessica Phillips, Erin Moore, Aaron Rogers, and Jennifer Anderson*

*TETAF Contractors: Kevin Reed, attorney; Brian Yarbrough and Ashley Morgan, contract lobbyists; Doris Heinen, accountant*

*Texas TQIP: Laura Garlow, Texas TQIP coordinator*

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair. Dr. Rhyne stated that the board discussed during executive session the need for returning to meeting in-person for the meetings to be more effective. Dinah Welsh, president and CEO, explained the meeting is hybrid with a few board members in-person at the TETAF office. Welsh conducted roll call of the board.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh shared all TETAF committee members have been named with the exception of the Governance Committee and nearly all committee have met at least once. Welsh stated that the Advocacy Committee has been actively working and requested an interim study on data and the Senate Health and Human Services

Committee has a charge focused on public health data and will meet on Monday, June 27 to discuss data needs and pandemic response. Welsh stated that Brenda Putz, vice president of operations, will provide a full update on the survey service lines and that survey operations are experiencing more of a normal, pre-pandemic routine. Welsh stated that TETAF looks forward to a more vigorous process with committees and some committees did meet regularly during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, while others are returning back to regular meetings.

- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Ricky Reeves, secretary of the TETAF Board of Directors, motioned to approve the February 8, 2022 meeting minutes and Scott Christopher seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dinah Welsh stated that Kathy Perkins is travelling and was unable to provide the report, so Kate Schaefer, vice-chair for the TETAF Finance Committee, would provide the report in Perkins' absence. Schaefer stated that Perkins discovered in the TETAF Bylaws that a vice-chair was needed for the Finance Committee and Perkins appointed Schaefer. The Finance Committee is up to five members with two members being non-board members. Survey income was less than budgeted and was related to fewer surveys. The gross profit year-to-date is \$57,000 under budget as of March 2022, which has improved. Schaefer said the Finance Committee is hopeful there will be an increase in the net cash flow. An in-depth review of surveys in comparison to the financials showed there was a connection between postponed surveys due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schaefer motioned to approve the report and Rhonda Manor-Coombes seconded the motion. The finance report was unanimously approved by the board. Schaefer also explained that Kathy Perkins was appointed to be on the advisory committee for Senate Bill (SB) 8 and will represent the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Every RAC has indicated interest in participating in SB 8 funding. The bill allows for \$21 million to increase the number of EMTs and paramedics, provide workforce development initiatives at the RACs, provide education programs, and will have a special focus in rural and underserved areas. The bulk of the funding will be in RAC contracts as of September 1. Dr. Craig Rhyne, chair, added that there has been discussion within hospitals regarding the potential of hiring EMTs to fill vacant positions that occurred during the Great Resignation and he does not believe that is a viable solution because the EMT staffing shortage is just as critical as the nursing shortage. Dr. Kenneth Mattox added that the TMA has expressed concern that paramedics and EMTs in some areas are supervised by one medical director.
- 5) **Advocacy Committee Report** – Wanda Helgesen, chair of the TETAF Advocacy Committee, shared that the committee has worked with the lobby team to identify advocacy needs. Helgesen said TETAF will be prepared to provide testimony during the June 27 Senate Health and Human Services committee meeting. Dr. David Weisoly, Dinah Welsh, and Eric Epley, executive director of the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) and former TETAF Board of Directors member, presented during a Texas Hospital Association (THA) meeting that included hospital medical directors. The TETAF team was asked to return during the next meeting in October and present more detailed information on the perinatal data topic. Welsh introduced the lobby team to provide additional details. Ashley Morgan thanked the TETAF Advocacy

Committee for its regular meetings and to TETAF for developing a RAC Toolkit to assist RAC members in contacting legislators. Welsh added that the best people to talk about the issues are the RACs and our stakeholders because of the personal experience stories that have much more value to share. The Advocacy Committee is discussing legislative priorities and will present those to the TETAF board during the August meeting.

- 6) **Education Committee Report** – Scott Christopher, co-chair of the Education Committee, stated that the committee met virtually on April 13. There are nine members on the committee, which includes the other co-chair, Dr. Kenneth Mattox. There is representation from the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), EMS, hospitals, trauma, perinatal, acute care, urban and rural hospitals, and geographic representation from across the state. Christopher stated that the committee works to fill educational gaps where the state and other entities cannot meet educational needs and provide any other opportunities. Brenda Putz, TETAF vice president of operations, and Rosie Bolenbaucher, TETAF’s primary nurse planner, provided a status update to the committee on educational offerings. In the last three years, TETAF has educated 618 individuals through its offerings. TETAF will have a Hospital Data Management Course (HDMC) in June and is discussing a course for nurse clinical guidelines. The committee plans to meet 3-4 times during the year.
- 7) **Governance Committee Report** – Dudley Wait, chair of the Governance Committee, stated that the list of committee members is almost finalized. Wait stated he anticipates the committee will meet one, possibly two, times before the August TETAF Board of Directors meeting and the group will work on items in the TETAF Bylaws tasked to the committee.
- 8) **Survey Verification Committee Report** – Brenda Putz, vice president of operations, provided the update in the temporary absence of Dr. Dan Little who joined the meeting after this report. Putz stated the committee has met and there is great diversification on the committee. The committee has reviewed the mission, the roles and responsibilities, and also considered potential goals. The TETAF staff will give an overview of the survey process and surveyor training for the committee’s next meeting that will be prior to the next TETAF Board of Directors meeting in August. The committee will also be asked to provide feedback on new designation rules. Meetings will be held quarterly.
- 9) **TETAF Survey Service Line Report** – Brenda Putz shared that the staff has done a great job in getting surveys scheduled in a timely manner. There has been an increase in the trauma survey requests and there has been a slow decline in the number of maternal and neonatal requests. Putz shared there has been marketing efforts to remind hospitals to schedule their surveys and to reach out to hospitals who did not use TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services. The staff is working to update the tools to reflect the new stroke rule that goes into effect on September 1, 2022. Putz stated that Jessica Phillips, perinatal program director, is working to update the maternal tools that go into effect January 1, 2023 with the new maternal designation rule. The neonatal designation rule will go into effect on June 1, 2023 and those tools are being updated. All surveyors will be provided training and updates to reflect changes in the rules. Training continues for additional trauma surveyors. TETAF is participating in monthly meetings with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), along with the

Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum, Perinatal Advisory Council, and RAC PCR meetings. Putz also provided an update on the TETAF Hospital Data Management Course that will be offered virtually on June 27-28.

- 10) **TETAF Communications Update** – Erin Moore, communications director, shared an update on a new platform TETAF is using called Mighty Networks. The goal is to help hospital customers connect with one another and learn from each other.
- 11) **Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program Collaborative (Texas TQIP) Report** – Laura Garlow, Texas TQIP coordinator, provided the update. There are 522 TQIP participating centers across the globe. TQIP has noticed a downward trend in severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), the elderly blunt multisystem cohort, and the isolated hip fracture cohort. Texas TQIP is also looking at the Benchmark Report for opportunities to improve and plans to work with hospitals, plus have hospitals doing well to present at a future meeting on what methods have worked. Texas represents 8.5% of all TQIP patients and Texas administered 16% of all whole blood. Texas TQIP makes up 9% of all patients. Texas TQIP is working to schedule a quarterly meeting in June. The goals are to continue to work on a sustainable funding source, restart collaborative meetings, focus on OFIs with high outlier centers, and review current EBP with the collaborative. Dr. Kenneth Mattox stated that the *Resources of Optimal Care of the Injured Patient* should be maintained and be used appropriately. Dr. Craig Rhyne added that he is amazed that the data across the state looks as good as it does because of transfers and diversions due to COVID.
- 12) **Scheduled TETAF Meetings** – Dinah Welsh said the August 16 meeting will coincide with the Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meetings. The meeting will be in person and the December 8, 2022 meeting will be in person in San Antonio, along with the General Assembly meeting. Zoom technology will be provided as needed, but in-person attendance is encouraged. Welsh also encouraged everyone to vote in the primary runoffs.
- 13) **Open Discussion** – Dinah Welsh recognized that Dr. Dan Little had joined the meeting. Dr. Little stated he is pleased with the diversity in the Survey Verification Committee.
- 14) **Adjournment** – Dr. Kenneth Mattox motioned to adjourn and Dudley Wait seconded the motion. Dr. Craig Rhyne adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.