



**TETAF Board of Directors Organizing Meeting**  
**Monday, March 6, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Austin Hotel and Zoom**

**Present:** Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP  
Ernest Gonzalez, M.D., FACS (Zoom)  
Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN  
Dan Little, M.D.  
Rhonda Manor-Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN  
Kenneth Mattox, M.D.  
Joseph Petty, M.D., FACOG (Zoom)  
Edward Racht, M.D.  
Christine Reeves  
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. (Zoom)

**Absent:** Diana Grimm-Mapp, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN  
Kathy Perkins, RN, MBA

*TETAF Staff: Dinah Welsh, Terri Rowden, Jessica Phillips, Erin Moore, and Jennifer Anderson*  
*TETAF Contractors: Kevin Reed, attorney*

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair. Introductions were conducted in the room and on Zoom.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh thanked TETAF staff and the TETAF committees for their work, especially the TETAF Finance and Advocacy Committees which have put in extra time.
- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Ricky Reeves motioned to approve the December 8, 2022 and February 2, 2023 board meeting minutes. Danny Updike seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Kate Schaefer, vice chair of the TETAF Finance Committee, provided the report in Kathy Perkins' (chair) absence. For October through December, survey income was \$9,000 greater than budgeted and total revenue was \$14,000 greater than budgeted. Total operating expenses were under budget by \$30,000. The net profit loss is \$43,000, which was budgeted at \$114,900. The net cash flow was

positive at \$22,700. Kate Schaefer motioned to approve the budget and Ricky Reeves seconded the motion. The financial report was unanimously approved by the board.

- 5) **TETAF Advocacy Committee Update** – Wanda Helgesen, chair of the TETAF Advocacy Committee, shared that the advocacy team has shared the TETAF RAC (Regional Advisory Council) Funding Ask to potentially obtain more funding for the RACs. During the past few weeks, the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees have met to hear a plethora of testimony regarding funding needs across the state. The RAC rider has two Senate and one House sponsor. This is in addition to the Statewide Perinatal Database rider. Dinah Welsh explained the dollar amounts for the TETAF RAC Funding Ask. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has included a \$6.6 million exceptional item to its Legislative Appropriations Request for the RACs for the biennium. The TETAF Advocacy team has had good conversations regarding the two riders. Rep. Donna Howard has agreed to sponsor both riders. Welsh thanked TETAF's lobby team. Dr. Craig Rhyne thanked Wanda Helgesen for coming to Austin twice to testify.
- 6) **TETAF Education Committee Update** – Scott Christopher, chair, shared that the committee has not had its first quarter meeting for 2023, yet. He will reach out to committee members to schedule a meeting soon. TETAF continues to provide the Texas Quality Care Forum on a monthly status. The TETAF Hospital Data Management Course is scheduled for June 1-2, 2023. TETAF provided education for the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum. Rose Bolenbaucher retired and TETAF filled the position with Courtney Edwards.
- 7) **TETAF Survey Verification Committee Update** – Dr. Dan Little shared that the committee has set goals to improve the survey process, including working on survey documents. Terri Rowden shared an update on trauma surveys that TETAF will come out ahead and the same for stroke. Rowden shared that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) did not have TETAF listed as a surveying organization for stroke on its updated webpage, but that has been resolved. It is not believed that affected any surveys being scheduled. There have been discussions regarding the proposed trauma rules and the survey guidelines that will affect other service lines that makes scheduling surveys complex. Jessica Phillips shared the public comment period for the neonatal rules closed and it is anticipated they will be adopted in January 2024. Maternal surveys have increased with the new cycle and the new rules were adopted in January. Wanda Helgesen asked if there will be a quick turnaround from approval to implementation with the neonatal rules like there was with the maternal rules. Phillips stated it is likely. Welsh stated that all surveying entities are having challenges scheduling surveyors due to new rules regarding contiguous RACs. TETAF will work to get more surveyors trained and will ensure they do not have conflicts according to the new rules. TETAF could use additional qualified surveyors. Trauma surveyors come from Level I and II facilities and maternal and neonatal come from Level III and IV facilities, and some Level II. Dr. Kenneth Mattox recommended appointing a task force to review rules for surveys and being a surveyor to develop a document the board could review to make what TETAF has done well, even better. Welsh stated there is a process to train new surveyors and can certainly share that information with the board so they are aware of TETAF's

process in selecting surveyors and selecting where surveyors survey. Dr. Little added the Survey Verification Committee will discuss this further.

- 8) **Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Collaborative Report** – Laura Garlow, TX TQIP coordinator, shared that the national TQIP meeting in December was well-attended. There are 48 participating Level I and II and pediatric centers. Texas TQIP represents 10% of the national data. The focus for the fall report is looking at the AKIs, iso-hip fractures, and elderly injuries. Texas TQIP has asked the pediatric centers to assign a lead for their group. Texas TQIP hopes to have meetings in April and June. The Texas TQIP participating centers have agreed to pay \$1,000 per center and so far about 30% have paid.
- 9) **Next TETAF Board Meetings** – Dr. Craig Rhyne shared that the upcoming TETAF board meetings will be held in conjunction with the Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meetings on June 6 and August 15, both at 5:00 p.m. The December 7 meeting at 10:00 a.m. will be in San Antonio.
- 10) **Open Discussion** – Dinah Welsh shared the only item from the executive session was an update to employment policy on vacations.
- 11) **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Rhyne adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.