



**TETAF Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m.  
DoubleTree by Hilton Austin Hotel and Zoom**

**Present:** Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair  
Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP  
Jessica Ehrig, MD, FACOG (Zoom)  
Ernest Gonzalez, M.D., FACS (Zoom)  
Diana Grimm-Mapp, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN  
Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN  
Dan Little, M.D.  
Rhonda Manor-Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN  
Kenneth Mattox, M.D., FACS (Zoom)

Kathy Perkins, RN, MBA  
Edward Racht, M.D.  
Christine Reeves  
Ricky Reeves, EMT-P  
Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT  
Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP  
Dudley Wait, EMT-P  
David Weisoly, D.O. (Zoom)

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

*TETAF Contractors: Kevin Reed, attorney*

- 1) **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh introduced the newest board member, Dr. Jessica Ehrig, who joined via Zoom.
- 3) **Secretary’s Report** – Ricky Reeves shared the board meeting minutes from the June 6, 2023 and August 1, 2023 meetings. Christine Reeves motioned to approve the minutes and Dudley Wait seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the minutes.
- 4) **TETAF Treasurer’s Report** – Kathy Perkins, treasurer, presented the March, April, and May financials. Perkins stated the report was all positive numbers. The survey income was more than \$111K greater than budgeted, and the total revenue was greater than budgeted by \$86.9K. Perkins motioned to approve the financial report and Ricky Reeves seconded the motion. Perkins presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year and stated that it was the most positive and best budget she has worked on. Perkins stated there are 188 projected surveys with an increase in maternal surveys. There is also an increase taken into consideration for the cost to perform the surveys with inflation. This taken into consideration would allow for a projected net increase of \$260K. Perkins motioned to approve the budget and Rhonda Manor-Coombes seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the FY23-24 budget.
- 5) **Advocacy Committee Update** – Wanda Helgesen, Advocacy Committee chair, shared that the committee is taking a break after its hard work during the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session. Legislators are currently in a Special Session, but the items on the Special

Session agenda are not related to TETAF's mission or work. Helgesen shared that the committee believes TETAF should move forward with a special work group focused on trauma for the next legislative session.

- 6) **Education Committee Update** – Scott Christopher, Education Committee chair, shared that the committee has not met since May. Christopher stated that TETAF continues to provide nursing education for the Texas Trauma Coordinator's Forum (TTCF). TETAF will conduct its Hospital Data Management Course virtually in November. Christopher said the committee will discuss EMS continuing education (CE) and TETAF may be able to fill in the gaps where education is not currently provided.
- 7) **Governance Committee Update** – Dudley Wait, Governance Committee chair, stated that the committee met to work on filling the board position vacated by Dr. Joseph Petty. Wait stated there will be significant leader rotation for the upcoming board election, which is the next priority of the committee. The committee will start meeting soon to discuss board nominations.
- 8) **Survey Verification Committee Update** – Terri Rowden stated that the committee met to review and discuss the letter sent to Jorie Klein at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) regarding the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) contingency rule for surveys. TETAF has requested for Klein to look at the RACs that touch by only one county. Additionally, surveyors have expressed a desire to know past deficiencies before going on a survey. TETAF has confirmed that can be requested from the hospital. Surveyors have also asked if DSHS makes a different decision on a deficiency if TETAF could know. The Texas Designation Survey Guidelines have been released, with revisions in progress and another version to be released soon. Dinah Welsh stated that the guidelines are intended to hold all surveying organizations and surveyors to the same standards. Welsh added that DSHS is trying to streamline and organize. Welsh added that TETAF always works to schedule surveyors without a conflict of interest. Dr. Stephen Flaherty addressed the board stating TETAF might offer solutions to rewrite the rule and provide specifics in a letter. Dr. Ed Racht added that a hospital facility has the ability to object. Welsh added that TETAF will have surveyed 75 trauma facilities by the end of the year. Rowden stated TETAF will determine if we will survey more levels. Kathy Perkins stated she would like to see TETAF survey more levels and Wanda Helgesen added it could be helpful for a financial perspective. Welsh stated that with stroke, it is not always feasible for some hospitals to survey from a financial perspective. Helgesen suggested looking at cardiac and Christine Reeves stated TETAF could look for more stroke opportunities. Jessica Phillips shared with the board that the neonatal surveys are as expected while maternal are above budget. Welsh stated there is a real need for education and training program managers and Phillips does a phenomenal job, and TETAF should build this into its education. Perkins stated that early on, trauma ask for help training new trauma coordinators and the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum was established to mentor them. She added that something similar is needed and may help with neonatal and maternal.
- 9) **Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Collaborative Update** – Lori Robb stated that Texas TQIP has not met but plans to meet in September and again in December for the national TQIP meeting. She added that 22 centers have been invoiced

but have not paid and they will be reinviced. Christine Reeves stated that Level III trauma centers need to be involved more.

- 10) **Discussion of Possible TETAF Trauma Anniversary Gala** – Dinah Welsh stated that the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the trauma system in Texas is next year and there has been discussion about having a gala or dinner to mark the occasion. This could be an exciting opportunity for trauma centers to recognize the accomplishments. Wanda Helgesen proposed to associate with the June or August Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meetings. Since this is an interim year for the Texas Legislature, it’s possible to invite legislators to get involved. Helgesen added this is an opportunity to possible fundraise. Christine Reeves stated it needs board approval and support. Dr. Kenneth Mattox stated it is an excellent idea and he would contribute money to support the event. Dr. Craig Rhyne stated he sees this as a celebration of success and pioneering spirit of the Texas Trauma System. It would be a way to highlight the dedicated trauma system innovators. Kathy Perkins added that TETAF could include military hospitals in Texas. Dr. Ed Racht motioned to approve support for the gala and Dudley Wait seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved supporting an event for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Texas Trauma System.
- 11) **Next TETAF Board Meeting** – The next quarterly meeting of the TETAF Board of Directors will be on December 7 at 10:00 a.m. at Estancia del Norte in San Antonio.
- 12) **Open Discussion** – Christine Reeves mentioned a new chair of the TETAF General Assembly will be elected during the TETAF General Assembly meeting on December 7.
- 13) **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Rhyne adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.