



**TETAF Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Austin Hotel and Zoom**

**Present:** Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair  
Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP  
Ernest Gonzalez, M.D., FACS (Zoom)  
Diana Grimm-Mapp, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN (Zoom)  
Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN  
Dan Little, M.D.  
Rhonda Manor-Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN  
Kathy Perkins, RN, MBA  
Christine Reeves  
Ricky Reeves, EMT-P  
Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT  
Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP  
Dudley Wait, EMT-P

**Absent:** Kenneth Mattox, M.D., FACS  
Edward Racht, M.D.  
David Weisoly, D.O.

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

*TETAF Contractors: Kevin Reed, attorney, Brian Yarbrough, Janiece Williams, and Ashley Morgan, Erben & Yarbrough*

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair. Introductions were conducted in the room and on Zoom.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh, TETAF president and CEO, introduced and thanked TETAF staff for their work, recognizing Aaron Roger's efforts to coordinate numerous survey requests. Welsh also introduced Courtney Edwards, who is TETAF's new education coordinator. TETAF has been focused on the legislative session, which concluded last month. The TETAF survey team is very active with requests and attending surveys.
- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Ricky Reeves, secretary, motioned to approve the March 6, 2023 minutes and Wanda Helgesen seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Kathy Perkins, treasurer, shared that TETAF is in a better financial position than it has been. The survey income from January through February was more than \$66K greater than budgeted, due to more surveys completed than budgeted. The

total revenue was \$5K greater than budgeted. Total operating expenses were under budget by \$25K. The net profit for January and February was \$60K, with the net profit budgeted at \$43K. The net cash flow was positive by \$201K year-to-date through February 2023. During the TETAF Board of Directors executive session meeting, Kathy Perkins motioned to approve the January and February 2023 financials, Scott Christopher seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the financial report. Also, during the executive session meeting, the board discussed the CEO Evaluation Policy. It is in the Bylaws, but a process has not been formed. The board members will complete an evaluation and send back by a deadline. Christine Reeves motioned to approve the CEO Evaluation Policy process and Danny Updike seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the CEO Evaluation Policy.

- 5) **TETAF Advocacy Committee Update** – Wanda Helgesen, chair of the TETAF Advocacy Committee, shared that the TETAF lobby team of Erben & Yarbrough were instrumental in the accomplishments from the TETAF Legislative Priorities. Janiece Williams, from Erben & Yarbrough, shared that the biggest win was the \$6.6 million in funding for the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Williams added that Dr. Craig Rhyne, Wanda Helgesen, and Dinah Welsh meeting with leadership at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) was instrumental in DSHS including the \$6.6 million in its exceptional item request to its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). This meeting held early helped to ensure the discussion continued and allowed opportunity for the lobby team to reach out to legislators. Helgesen stated she would like to work with Welsh and Erin Moore to develop one-pagers with specifics for each service line and send to the RACs with their logos to share with legislative officials. Helgesen also asked if the TETAF Finance Committee could consider funding for Dinah Welsh to travel to different regions for the next legislative session. Helgesen would like a work group of stakeholders created to be prepared to offer information when the Texas Health and Human Services provides a report on the trauma system. A survey could be developed and possibly a white paper to provide information HHSC. Helgesen also asked the board to provide input on how to move forward in pursuing a statewide perinatal database. Welsh added that we went into the session thinking there would be a 20% cut to Account 5111, which is a primary funding source for the trauma and emergency health care system. Welsh stated that Senator Joan Huffman stated early on that was never the intent. The TETAF lobby team worked on this before the legislative session started and Sen. Huffman agreed that General Revenue funds would be appropriated to bring Account 5111 up to level, with \$96 million in 2024 and \$98 million in 2025. Welsh stated that Sen. Huffman also agreed to look at the collections during the interim. Christine Reeves shared that this was the first year she received responses back from entities not in her district when she and the members of her RAC reached out to legislators.
- 6) **TETAF Education Committee Update** – Scott Christopher, chair, shared that the Education Committee met last month with a quorum. The latest TETAF Hospital Data Management Course (HDMC) was held last week. The monthly forums now include all service lines and are well-attended. TETAF also provided an online Stop the Bleed Train the Trainer course that was very successful. TETAF is seeking to be an EMS education provider again. An application must be submitted. Mr. Christopher motioned for the

board to approve TETAF as an EMS education provider and Wanda Helgesen seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

- 7) **TETAF Governance Committee Update** – Dudley Wait, chair of the Governance Committee, shared that Dr. Joseph Petty has resigned from the board for personal reasons. The TETAF Bylaws allow the board to fill the open seat with someone to serve for the remainder of the term. The Governance Committee will hold a meeting in the next couple of weeks to develop a slate of nominees. Wait shared that the committee will begin meeting more regularly.
- 8) **TETAF Survey Verification Committee Update** – Dr. Dan Little thanked Aaron Rogers for his hard work with a busy survey period. The committee approved modifications to the survey review form and has completed a deep dive on the evaluation process that surveyors receive. The majority of hospitals have been surveying TETAF very favorably. The committee will also review the evaluation process for surveyors. The goal in the next six months is to outline the common issues. Jessica Phillips shared that with the new maternal rules, there is a challenge with the contiguous Regional Advisory Council (RAC) rule that prohibits surveyors from surveying in not only their RACs, but also a RAC that touches theirs. TETAF is not held to this until January 2024. This is anticipated to be in the neonatal rule coming out soon, which will be implemented January 1, 2024. TETAF is recruiting additional surveyors to offset any challenges with this rule. The survey guidelines should be released from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) soon. It is anticipated there will be further parameters with surveyors. Terri Rowden shared that the trauma rules are stalled and it is anticipated they will be implemented September 2024. It is expected that the contiguous RAC rule will also be in the trauma rule. TETAF is close on trauma numbers to what has been budgeted. Stroke has changed with the new rule and TETAF will submit an application for Level III and Level IV stroke surveying entity. Neonatal is close to budgeted and maternal is over budget, partially because programs are adjusting to new rules in terms of having application in within 90 days. Wanda Helgesen asked if there is a way to ask about the contiguous rule. Dr. Rhyne said the dialogue has been established with DSHS and the barriers of these requirements and the discussions need to continue.
- 9) **Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Collaborative Report** – Laura Garlow, Texas TQIP coordinator, that Texas TQIP has not met since the March TETAF Board of Directors meeting but hopes to meet in July. The Spring 2023 Benchmarks look good. There is an opportunity for Texas to have its own pediatric TQIP and pediatric centers would need to take interest. Wanda Helgesen asked if it is possible to take the total state report that does not identify individual facilities and provide disability to give a statewide look for everyone to learn. Garlow said the report is already deidentified.
- 10) **Next TETAF Board Meetings** – Dr. Craig Rhyne shared that the August 15 board meeting will be at the same location and time. The December 7 meeting is at 10:00 a.m. CST at Estancia del Norte Hotel in San Antonio, the same location as the December 2022 meeting. The TETAF General Assembly will meet at that location at 1:00 p.m. CST.
- 11) **Open Discussion** – Wanda Helgesen shared the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary for trauma in Texas and recommended TETAF host a fundraising dinner/gala in 2024. Welsh added that she

welcomes that conversation and would like to determine what TETAF's role would be for an event like this.

- 12) **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Rhyne adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.