

**TETAF Board of Directors Special Called Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m. CST**

**Zoom**

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| **Present:** | Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN, Chair | **Absent:** | Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP |
|  | Cherish Brodbeck, MSN, RNC-OB, LP, CMTE |  | Eric Epley, CEM |
|  | Kate Drone, MJ, BSN, LSSBB, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS |  | Jessica Ehrig, MD, FACOG |
|  | Ernest Gonzalez, M.D., FACS |  | Rhonda Manor-Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN |
|  | Dan Little, M.D. |  |  |
|  | Kenneth Mattox, M.D., FACS |  |  |
|  | Carlos Palacio, M.D., FACS |  |  |
|  | Jon-Michael Parker, RN, BSN |  |  |
|  | Traceee Rose, MSN, RN, CCNS-BC, CCRN-K |  |  |
|  | Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT |  |  |
|  | Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP |  |  |
|  | David Weisoly, D.O. |  |  |

*TETAF Staff: Dinah Welsh, Terri Rowden, and Erin Moore*

*TETAF Contractors: Kevin Reed, attorney*

1. **Welcome** – The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Wanda Helgesen, chair.
2. **Appointment to the Board to Fill Kathy Perkins’ Unexpired Term** – Danny Updike shared that the Governance Committee met, and nine names were submitted. The committee narrowed the list down to two, Bill Bonny and Wendell Wiley. Updike explained the considerations of a lack of EMS representation and geography with no one on the board from Regional Advisory Council (RAC) E. Dinah Welsh shared that Wendell Wiley has been involved with TETAF on the Governance Committee and Bill Bonny is the new chair for RAC E. Chair Wanda Helgesen asked for discussion from the board. Dr. Carlos Palacio wanted to clarify if we do not have representation from either of the nominee’s RACs. Welsh confirmed. A Zoom poll was used to vote and it was nine votes for Bill Bonny and three for Wendell Wiley.
3. **Approval of TETAF Comments on Proposed Trauma and RAC Rules** – Dinah Welsh updated the board on the meetings held to review, discuss, and gather feedback from stakeholders and the Survey Verification Committee to develop the written comments. Welsh added that TETAF may submit to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) either Friday or Monday. Dr. Little, chair of the Survey Verification Committee, shared that these rules are about 20 years in the making. Dr. Little shared details of the three stakeholder meetings, plus two committee meetings. Terri Rowden and Dr. Little explained each of TETAF’s draft comments for the board. Dr. Kenneth Mattox shared that he agrees on the first comment, as does Jon-Michael Parker and Kate Schaefer. Chair Wanda Helgesen shared that the second comment to change the definition of rural will happen based on discussion she heard. Dr. Mattox agreed on the third comment and asked if there is anything that Jorie Klein from DSHS is passionate about to strengthen TETAF’s position and Chair Helgesen shared she is not aware of anything. Dr. Mattox has mixed feelings on the rule for Level III trauma facilities and TQIP and agrees with TETAF’s wording. Chair Helgesen asked if it would be appropriate to add the wording “lead Level III.” Rowden shared there is an annual fee to have TQIP pages updated and provided other fees associated with being part of TQIP. Dr. Little asked to get further information and table this comment for now. Dr. Ernest Gonzalez shared that he is a past trauma medical director (TMD) and trauma surgeon. He commented on the rule regarding TMD criteria and agreed with TETAF’s comment but added caution for Level IVs. He added that you still need someone to care for a particular population. Dr. Carlos Palacio asked for clarification on alternative pathway regarding the rule concerning board-certification or board-specialty. Rowden suggested more clarification regarding Dr. Palacio’s clarification for American graduates. Dr. Mattox shared that on the rule regarding Level IIIs and the NTDB inclusion adding that the new rules are meant to beef up the trauma network, but TETAF is in a position of representing the practicality of Texas with large rural areas, even in urban counties. Dr. Mattox added it would increase TETAF’s cost in Level III and Level IV in rural area. Helgesen shared that we believe with expanding the team, but more justifiable if we stay with an ACS standard. Dr. Mattox added that an option to consider is for all Level IVs to be virtual unless an on-site survey is needed. Chair Helgesen asked Welsh to share the timeline again with the board. Welsh stated anyone who wishes to share oral comment to sign up by the deadline of 5 p.m. today and TETAF hopes to share these draft comments today with stakeholders, not in a letter format. Welsh added that she is working with Wanda and will work with the RAC executive directors to ensure TETAF’s written comments are representative.
4. **Open Discussion** – Danny Updike shared he has heard many positive comments about TETAF’s meetings and the notes TETAF shared. Kate Schaefer and Kate Drone agreed.
5. **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Wanda Helgesen adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.