



TETAF Board of Directors Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 5:00 p.m. CST
Zoom

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

Dan Little, M.D.
Kenneth Mattox, M.D., FACS

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

TETAF Contractors: Kevin Reed, attorney; Ashley Morgan, Erben & Yarbrough

- 1) **Welcome** – The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Wanda Helgesen, chair. Introductions were conducted around the room.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh said it's been a very busy season for TETAF with trauma rules and the Advocacy Committee working on TETAF Legislative Priorities with hopes of approval. The Survey Verification Committee will meet next week. Welsh thanked our members of TETAF Committees who have brought great ideas and energy to meetings. There is a committed group working on a celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Texas Trauma System. It will be August 20 and the board meeting scheduled for that date will be rescheduled. TETAF has added a part-time employee to help with survey scheduling operations.
- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Scott Christopher, secretary, motioned to approve minutes from March. Rhonda Manor-Coombes seconded Christopher's motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Kate Schaefer, treasurer, shared that the Finance Committee continues to meet monthly. Schaefer shared the financial report from year-to-date (YTD) through April. Operating expenses were under budget by \$78K because a position

had not been filled. Net profit was \$561K and greater than budgeted. TETAF continues to see a cost savings. The committee has been talking about the unknown of what may happen with surveys in Texas. Next year will be a down budget year for TETAF and the committee is discussing what may happen with the proposed trauma designation rules. The largest jump in surveys was neonatal and maternal. If anyone has any special budget requests for the next fiscal year, please submit those. Bill Bonny has been selected as vice chair of the Finance Committee. Chair Wanda Helgesen said the cyclical nature of surveys can be a financial issue and the complexity of the trauma surveys could layer and the budget may need to last awhile. The committee is working on a three-year plan that includes consideration of survey cycles. Dinah Welsh shared that it is intended there will not be an increase in dues for the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Schaefer motioned to approve the financials and Bill Bonny seconded.

- 5) **Advocacy Committee Update** – Chair Wanda Helgesen introduced Ashley Morgan from Erben & Yarbrough. The republican runoffs just finished. There will be at least 32 new members in the House next year. Rep. Shawn Thierry (D) who was really engaged on maternal health is no longer a representative and a new friend will need to be made in that district. Rep. Stephanie Klick is also no longer a representative and was the chair of the Human Services Committee in the House. There is discussion of a potential new Speaker in the House. The Legislative Appropriations Requests (LAR) are being discussed as well as interim charges. Morgan said bills will be filed in November. Chair Helgesen thanked the Advocacy Committee for being engaged and having good discussions. Helgesen read through the proposed TETAF Legislative Priorities. Dinah Welsh shared discussions that have taken place in TETAF Advocacy Committee meetings regarding pointing out the specific amount of \$6.6M and removing it but keeping the focus on the needs for RACs. Helgesen shared that we have been told that the \$6.6M will be included, but there are never guarantees. The committee will wait once the Texas Department of State Health Services has released its LAR with the RAC funding. Scott Christopher shared that he feels the last two priorities may dilute one another because both involve data. Helgesen stated the committee was torn because perinatal has nothing and trauma does need advancement. Christopher agreed all data systems should exist and the committee should develop a strong presentation to distinguish between the two. Helgesen shared that the lobby team will have those important conversations. Eric Epley shared that the RAC Data Collaborative has tried to scale to work for all RACs. Epley stated we need to make sure its funded and developed appropriately. Helgesen stated the committee is working on the concept and will address that next. Morgan shared that dollar amounts will be needed to provide understanding of what may cost. The more people who speak up about needing the data will help. The challenge is competing in Article II which includes needs for people with disabilities and other health issues. More follow-ups will be needed with the Texas Department of State Health Services so a state agency can speak for this. Epley stated the committee should also include conversations with Dr. David Leakey. Helgesen stated as a board, we must think about our intent as an organization, and it was clear that TETAF had to step forward with the statewide perinatal database. Christine Reeves, TETAF Advocacy Committee member, shared she believes there should be two separate

databases because it is two separate service lines. Helgesen asked Morgan if it makes sense to keep them separate because dollars may be there to support perinatal. Morgan said it does make sense to keep separate for the potential of getting funding. She added when they talk about it, they will keep them separate and it's better versus having one big number with them coupled together. Helgesen motioned for the board to endorse the priorities so the committee can move forward. Epley stated Emergency Medical Task Force should be capitalized and add Texas in front, plus take out, "and their." RACs, EMS, hospitals, and Texas EMTF was suggested for the order. Bill Bonny motioned with the recommended changes he motioned to endorse, and Rhonda Manor-Coombes seconded.

- 6) **Education Committee Update** – Cherish Brodbeck, chair, stated that the committee had a robust meeting at the end of May. The committee will meet again in July. Brodbeck said they are working on an August topic for the monthly Texas Quality Care Forum.
- 7) **Governance Committee Update** – Danny Updike, chair, stated that the committee held its first meeting last week and Ernest Gonzalez is vice chair. The committee briefly discussed issues with the TETAF Bylaws. Updike asked everyone to begin thinking about nominations for the TETAF Board.
- 8) **Survey Verification Committee Update** – Terri Rowden shared that the committee will look at its structure and goals in a meeting next week. Rowden stated in the newly proposed trauma designation rules, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) could take over approximately 100 trauma surveys. The cost of the survey is not the concern, according to what some Level IV trauma facilities are sharing with TETAF, but rather the cost of additional aspects to be designated. For Levels I, II, and III, there are just two surgeons and a nurse could be added for an additional cost. Rowden shared TETAF will have to increase the number of surgeon surveyors. Rowden shared that most states have nurses. Danny Updike asked if DSHS surveys if they will have surgeons and Rowden stated it would be the DSHS team conducting surveys, which could be a concern with current workloads. TETAF is not interested in adding costs to surveys.
- 9) **Texas TQIP Collaborative Update** – Dr. Carlos Palacio, Texas TQIP Collaborative chair, shared that there was a great session last meeting, and an executive committee was elected. There is still one open position with three candidates for tomorrow's meeting. There are 25 facilities that have paid dues, and an educational session will be held during tomorrow's meeting. The collaborative is working on data discussions.
- 10) **Discussion of TETAF Trauma Anniversary Gala, August 20, 2024** – Dinah Welsh shared that invites have been sent to the 35th anniversary celebration of the Texas Trauma System. Chair Wanda Helgesen stated that the theme is "Boots & Bling" and wants everyone to dress how they are comfortable. TETAF is actively searching for sponsorships and requests board members to assist in finding and securing sponsorships. Christine Reeves, a member of the Trauma Celebration Workgroup, recommended doing something special to honor Kathy Perkins for her efforts. The proceeds will go toward the newly formed TETAF Rural Trauma System Development Fund and the details for this fund are being developed. Due to the event being held on August 20, the board meeting scheduled for that date will be rescheduled for a week or two prior and will be held via Zoom.

- 11) **Open Discussion** – Dinah Welsh thanked everyone because there is excitement with what we are doing but a lot of uncertainty and she appreciates everyone who serves on the board and committees.
- 12) **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Chair Wanda Helgesen adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.