



TETAF Board of Directors Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 2:00 p.m. CDT
GoTo Meeting

Present: Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN, Chair
Bill Bonny
Cherish Brodbeck, MSN, RNC-OB, LP, CMTE
Kate Drone, MJ, BSN, LSSBB, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS
Ernest Gonzalez, M.D., FACS
Dan Little, M.D.
Rhonda Manor-Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN
Kenneth Mattox, M.D., FACS
Carlos Palacio, M.D., FACS
Jon-Michael Parker, RN, BSN
Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT
Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP
David Weisoly, D.O.

Absent: Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP
Jessica Ehrig, MD, FACOG
Eric Epley, CEM
Traceee Rose, MSN, RN, CCNS-BC, CCRN-K

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

- 1) **Welcome** – The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Wanda Helgesen, chair. Chair Helgesen congratulated everyone for a successful 35th Texas Trauma System Celebration and thanked everyone for coming.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh thanked everyone on the planning committee for their work on the 35th Trauma Anniversary Celebration and their work. She thanked Erin Moore for her efforts as well as Wanda Helgesen, Kathy Perkins, Dr. Craig Rhyne, and Christine Reeves. Welsh thanked Dr. Kenneth Mattox for serving as the Master of Ceremonies. The event raised funds, and a total will be provided soon. It was a good opportunity to honor the founders of the Texas Trauma System. Welsh added that Jennifer Anderson has also been working on the audit.
- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Dinah Welsh, motioned to approve the minutes. Rhonda Manor-Coombes seconded the motion.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Kate Schaefer, treasurer, thanked the Finance Committee for working so hard on the fiscal year budget. TETAF is projecting a budget loss. Schaefer said Doris Heinen, TETAF accountant, worked hard to pull together history to better understand financial history and the survey cycles. Schaefer added that there are years we have perinatal surveys while trauma stays steady. Schaefer also explained the breakdown of past fiscal year budgets for comparison. In FY 22, there was a loss

projected and TETAF did less surveys than budgeted, but it did result in less expenditures. TETAF will have done more surveys for this current fiscal year than budgeted. There was also some cost savings with a position not filled. Schaefer also shared where TETAF stands with its accounts for transparency. Schaefer said in previous years when we have cash on hand, it's important to not spend through that cash because a down year will be ahead. Survey income this year is \$2.4M and will be reduced to \$1.76M in the next fiscal year based on the number of projected surveys. Office facilities are minimal for the Austin area, but the rent had its first increase in many years this past year. There will be a projected loss of \$237,189 for 2024-2025 fiscal year. The low number of surveys is what is driving this loss and has been experienced in the past. The Finance Committee had discussion to cut some costs and did reduce them significantly. There was discussion to reduce survey fees to Level IV trauma facilities, but unfortunately it could not be done without a significant loss. The committee determined because survey costs have gone up, leaving the fee flat is a bit of an olive branch to those hospitals. Schaefer said they kept salaries at an acceptable COLA rate. Schaefer said there was a lot of hard work put into this budget. Dr. Kenneth Mattox asked if we do consultations and Dinah Welsh shared that TETAF does, but they are few. Chair Wanda Helgesen asked TETAF staff to temporarily leave the meeting while budget discussions continued. Bill Bonny moved to approve the 2024-2025 budget as presented and Dr. Ernest Gonzalez seconded. Dr. Mattox chose to abstain from the vote, but all other members voted in favor. Chair Wanda Helgesen asked for a motion regarding the reaffirmation of president and CEO, Dinah Welsh, to have financial account signatory authority. Dr. David Weisoly motioned to approve and Dr. Dan Little seconded the motion. The final audit report will be shared in December for approval but there are no major findings with the new auditor. Chair Wanda Helgesen asked if the auditor would present the report.

- 5) **Survey Verification Committee Update** – Dinah Welsh said the proposed trauma comment letter is in Mighty Networks and it will be shared tomorrow, along with a summary document. Dr. Dan Little stated he has been on active duty but has worked to catch up on TETAF's comments to the proposed trauma rules. Terri Rowden reviewed TETAF's abbreviated bullet points with the board. Rowden shared that an outside survey can improve the quality of care. Welsh added that in the formal written comments there is greater details on TETAF's concerns, including the point regarding trauma medical directors and their role in the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Welsh shared that it was encouraged by TETAF's counsel to add a statement regarding the quality that would be lost by the expertise of TETAF and its surveyors, along with the foundation built by TETAF and the Texas Trauma System. Chair Wanda Helgesen recommended removing the bullet, "TETAF will continue to seek resources to support rural Level IV..." and recommends "TETAF will also continue to strive to provide surveys of value" and not state "minimize costs." TETAF should stand on believing our fees are fair and we will provide educational opportunities. "Determine ways to alleviate pressures..." is used in the formal written comments and will be used in the bullet points. Welsh stated that any comments would need to be submitted by 9 a.m. tomorrow so an email can be sent tomorrow morning to stakeholders.

- 6) **Open Discussion** – Dinah Welsh shared that she, Wanda, and Eric need to have a discussion regarding December 12 meeting location. Dr. David Weisoly pointed out there is a conflict with the Perinatal Advisory Council meeting.
- 7) **Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Board, Chair Wanda Helgesen adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.