



## Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

3400 Enfield Road  
Austin, Texas 78703

# TETAF UPDATE

## April 7, 2010

TETAF activities continue to increase with spring promising to be a period of significance for EMS, trauma and acute care in Texas. While activities increase, TETAF staff is working to ensure that activities TETAF is involved with provide real value to the dedicated partners of TETAF ultimately improving care to all patients.

### **TETAF 2010 Subscription Fees**

TETAF is proud to announce that 21 of the 22 RACs have submitted 2010 subscription fees to TETAF. The support for TETAF and its services is greatly appreciated. It is significant that so many in the Texas Trauma System will coordinate to speak with one voice through TETAF. TETAF will continue to look to the RACs to determine how TETAF can best provide service to EMS, trauma and acute care in Texas.

The TETAF RAC Division is examining the subscription fee structure for 2011 with meetings to be held over the next several months.

### **Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Registry Workgroup**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Registry Summit will be held April 20-21, 2010, at the Austin Marriott South. This one and a half day program will feature prominent state and national leaders in registry development. Register for the program today at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TETAFRegistrySummit2010> or access the brochure at [www.tetaf.org](http://www.tetaf.org)

At the conclusion of this program attendees will understand the dynamic role that data has on changes in EMS/Trauma care, the need for quality data that is validated and accurate; the need for clear data definitions and quality control points to ensure valid data; understand how data is driving EMS/Trauma/Stroke/Cardiac/Disaster epidemiology and research that is changing the way we respond to and provide care to our patients; the need for system integration and performance measures that define patient and system outcomes.

#### **Target Audience**

- .. Trauma Center Providers
- .. Trauma Medical Directors
- .. EMS Medical and Administrative Directors
- .. Injury Prevention Specialists
- .. Trauma Registrars, Registry Managers
- .. State Program Managers
- .. Public Health & State Officials

With support from Parkland Health & Hospital System, Department of Nursing Education, the TETAF Registry Summit will provide 11.75 contact hours for the nurse.



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Additionally the TETAF Registry Workgroup has approached the Texas Department of State Health Services about TETAF becoming the state registry coordinating agency. TETAF has requested a follow-up meeting with DSHS to further explore these possibilities.

### **EMS and Trauma Leadership Summit**

The Texas EMS & Trauma Leadership Summit will be held on Friday, May 7 in Austin. Convened by the Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Foundation, the summit will bring together medical, designated trauma facility and emergency medical services leaders as well as state political leaders to discuss the status of the Texas Trauma System and chart a course for strengthening this essential, but inadequately funded system.

Invitations to the summit have been sent to EMS & trauma leaders across the state. Questions regarding the event may be directed to [dwelsh@tetaf.org](mailto:dwelsh@tetaf.org) or 512/524-2892.

### **TETAF Meets with DSHS Staff**

TETAF staff held their monthly meeting with DSHS staff March 24. DSHS official approval of TETAF as a “DSHS Approved Surveyor for Stroke Support Facilities” has not been granted but still anticipated soon. State budget cuts and a hiring freeze have presented additional challenges to DSHS in launching the stroke survey process. The DSHS staffing challenges increase the resolve of TETAF to determine a solution so that stroke surveying can begin. TETAF plans to provide a stroke surveyor course this summer and is still targeting to actually begin surveying facilities desiring to become Stroke Support Facilities soon thereafter.

TETAF reviewed the trauma survey process with DSHS staff addressing quality issues and DSHS expectations of the trauma surveyors from DSHS. DSHS staff also shared at the meeting that they are reviewing applications for distribution of trauma monies and are auditing several applications to ensure the integrity of the dollars distributed.

DSHS also announced the American College of Surgeons consultation meetings regarding the appropriateness of the number of level I and II trauma centers in Texas. The ACS will hold meetings the week of GETAC beginning May 18<sup>th</sup> in Austin.

Monthly meetings with TETAF/DSHS staff are scheduled.

### **Joint Hearing of Senate Health & Human Services and Senate State Affairs**

A joint hearing of the Senate Health & Human Services and Senate State Affairs Committees was held March 31, 2010, at the Capitol in Austin. The purpose of the hearing was to take testimony on the impact of federal health care reform in Texas. Tom Suehs, executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, told lawmakers that the cost of implementing federal health care legislation in Texas would run \$27 billion over a 10-year period beginning in 2014. The Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account 5111 was specifically mentioned by Commissioner Suehs who told lawmakers that HHSC is once again examining ways to use the trauma funds for a federal match on Medicaid dollars. Commissioner Suehs also commented that the trauma account may not be needed in the future as the number of uncompensated patients will



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reduce significantly. TETAF will continue to work with legislators to educate them on the total cost impact of trauma to providers in Texas.

### TETAF Activities

The **Trauma Center Survey process** continues with 42 Level 4 surveys and 13 Level 3 surveys already scheduled in 2010.

At the February GETAC meetings, GETAC tasked TETAF with initiating a **Driver Responsibility Program Workgroup** to counter arguments to do away with the program that largely funds the Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account. The workgroup will compile information on the success of DRP and begin sharing with legislators and media. TETAF participated in an initial call with the DFW Hospital Council, the Texas Hospital Association, NCTTRAC and other key leaders to coordinate efforts. TETAF is looking to schedule the DRP Workgroup later this month. A notice will be sent out to all interested parties.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> Dinah Welsh - TETAF CEO, Jorie Klein - TETAF President and several other TETAF stakeholders participated in a program initiated by the **Legacy Center** on the need to increase the number of trauma facilities in the North Texas area. NCTTRAC compiled and distributed information regarding the trauma system working to dispel misconceptions about the state of the current system. The Legacy Center is looking at similar legislation that they initiated last session through SB 2476 that would have created the North Texas Trauma and Burn Authority. TETAF is optimistic that the Legacy Center will join with TETAF and other stakeholders in collaborating to advocate for legislators to appropriate all trauma funds and protect these funding streams going forward to build an even stronger Texas Trauma System.

Most of the eight divisions of TETAF have begun holding monthly conference call meetings and developing their **S.M.A.R.T. Goals** for 2010. Division chairs will be reporting on the work of their committees. The EMS Division is proud to announce the election of Scott Mitchell to chair the division. TETAF sincerely appreciates the work of interim chair Brian Petrilla over the last year. Additionally, the RAC Division elected Russell VanBibber to chair that division. We are thrilled to have Scott and Russell join the TETAF Board!

TETAF participated in a meeting hosted by the Children's Hospital Association of Texas March 30. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss opportunities for **pediatric facilities to be designated potentially as a level III or level IV trauma facility**. Information is being collected and will be shared with CHAT as well as DSHS to determine a plan of action for those facilities wishing to be designated at these levels.

The TETAF Board is exploring dates to hold a **strategic planning meeting**. The purpose of the meeting will be to vision the goals for TETAF for the next three years.



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**REMINDER:**

Correspondence is still occasionally addressed to the old post office box. This address will be discontinued and forwarded at the end of April 2010. Please direct all mail correspondence to the new TETAF address:

**TETAF**  
**3400 Enfield Road**  
**Austin, TX 78703**  
**512/524-2892**

Please let us know how TETAF can be a more valuable organization to you and your systems. Also please keep TETAF in mind as you develop your RAC agendas as TETAF would love to present on TETAF activities and to better know your RAC operations and the dedicated individuals supporting your RACs.

Respectfully submitted,

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