



TETAF UPDATE

June 1, 2011

Texas Legislature

The Eighty-second Texas Legislature's Regular Session adjourned Sine Die (Latin for without a day) May 30, 2011, and begun its 17 hour interim until the start of the First Called Special Session on May 31, 2011. The Regular Session, which from the beginning was characterized as a session focused on the \$27 billion state budget deficit, came to a crash landing as legislators continued to wrestle with how to spend and more namely how to cut state funding. The final sticking point was regarding public school funding with Senator Wendy Davis (D-Fort Worth) filibustering SB 1181, public school funding legislation, to its death in the Regular Session. Governor Rick Perry called the First Called Special Session late on May 30, 2011, and originally limited the special session to public school funding and healthcare cost containment. On May 31, 2011, Gov. Perry opened the call to include Congressional redistricting and the potential remains that the Governor will add additional issues to the call. The Special Session can last up to 30 days.

TETAF will follow and participate in the Special Session with several bills already filed relating to health care and appropriations the likelihood that these bills could include language regarding trauma and emergency health care is high. While TETAF followed close to 250 bills filed in the Regular Session these bills do not carry over to the next session and new legislation has been and will be introduced.

House Bill 1 from the Regular Session did pass that is the 2012-2013 budget. The budget results in \$172 billion for all funds but the ability to certify the budget is contingent on legislation passing in the Special Session. As anticipated state cuts to trauma and emergency health care funds were handed down as well as Medicaid cuts that will impact these systems. With the conclusion of the Regular Session TETAF is working to compile a Legislative Activity Report to summarize all bills that passed, including the state budget, with implications and effective dates of all the new laws. The report will be made available to subscribers and members in June 2011.

GETAC Webcasted by TETAF

On May 13, 2011, TETAF launched the first ever live webcast of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Meeting. The webcast was a huge success with more than 100 online participants! TETAF plans to webcast the August 19, 2011, meeting of GETAC and

will be reviewing the feasibility of webcasting additional meetings such as the individual GETAC committees and potential educational opportunities. TETAF is thrilled to offer this opportunity for more stakeholders to participate in the GETAC meeting from their offices and homes. Your feedback on the webcast is appreciated as TETAF continues to further develop this tool.

www.tetaf.org

In June TETAF should begin the transition to direct communications with subscribers and members regarding TETAF activities, directing individuals to www.tetaf.org to access up to date information. Each division of TETAF will now have access to expanded informational pages that will soon include the ability to house real-time discussion boards that can be archived for future reference. TETAF feels that this will allow for better communication with all interested parties as well as the sharing of information. Your feedback is appreciated and welcomed.

TETAF Trauma Surveys

TETAF continues to provide Level III and IV surveys for trauma designation. TETAF staff has increased the number of surveys being monitored to ensure consistency and quality. TETAF staff continue to meet with Texas Department of State Health Services staff monthly to improve the trauma survey process and Texas Trauma System.

TETAF Trauma Surveyors

A Trauma Surveyor's Course has been scheduled for October 14-15, 2011, in Plano for potential new trauma surveyors. Applications will be made available this month for interested parties. TETAF plans to increase the number of both the physician and the nurse credentialed surveyors for trauma survey services to add to the current pool of surveyors.

Stroke Support Facility Surveys

The first Stroke Support Facility survey will be conducted this summer. Several additional applications from Texas facilities have been received by DSHS and are expected to be scheduled for survey later this year. Questions regarding the stroke survey process can be directed to DSHS, Brenda Putz with TETAF and or the TETAF Acute Care Division.

TETAF Fundraiser – A Night with the Bats!

Mark your calendars now! The first ever TETAF Fundraiser will be held Wednesday, August 17, 2011, in Austin. A cruise on Lady Bird Lake to view the famous Congress Avenue Bats with TETAF Board members and supporters is being planned with boarding beginning at 7:30 p.m. and the boat set to cruise at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the cruise are limited and will be \$40 each. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Information regarding sponsorships and single ticket purchase information will be available in the coming week. Please make plans now to join this fun evening to help support TETAF!

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Welsh
dwelsh@tetaf.org

Brenda Putz
bputz@tetaf.org