



TETAF UPDATE December 16, 2011

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TETAF Election Results

Four positions on the TETAF Board were elected in November; winners will serve two-year terms.

Board

David Rives from SETRAC in Houston was re-elected vice chair, a position he has held since TETAF was formed.

Scott Christopher with Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital was elected secretary; he previously served as at-large board member #3.

Dudley Wait with Schertz EMS was elected to the board as at-large member #1; he previously served as board secretary and has been a board member since the organization was formed.

Kathy Rodgers with CHRISTUS Health Southeast Texas was elected as the at-large member #3.

Division Chair Elections

With re-alignment of the TETAF Divisions in 2011, all had to elect chairs to lead their groups. The following were elected to chair each of the TETAF Divisions:

- Acute Care: Lisa Hutchison, RN, East Texas Medical Center, Tyler
- Education/Injury Prevention: Courtney Edwards, RN, Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, and Robin Garza, RN, Ben Taub General Hospital, Houston
- EMS: Ed Racht, M.D., AMR
- Pediatrics: Lori Vinson, RN, Children's Medical Center Dallas

- RAC: Darrell Pile, CEO of SETRAC, Houston
- Trauma: Lisa Price, RN, DeTar Hospital, Victoria

In addition to leading their respective divisions, these individuals also serve on the TETAF Board of Directors.

Congratulations to all those elected, and thank you for your continued service to TETAF.

TETAF Submits Letter Responding to Questions about Lobby Activities

With input from the TETAF Board and after consultation with legal counsel, TETAF submitted a letter to the Texas Department of State Health Services clarifying that TETAF is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to assist in the further development of the state's emergency, trauma and acute-care systems. While TETAF does advocate for the state's emergency, trauma and acute-care systems, its activities that could be termed "lobbying" are of an insubstantial amount, as defined and required by the Internal Revenue Service.

In addition, TETAF certified that no subscription fees received from RACs have or will ever be used for any activities that potentially could be termed "lobbying." State funding to the RACs is essential, and TETAF uses funds from the RACs only for educational purposes and to support the trauma and stroke survey processes. TETAF asked for TDSHS to confirm that RACs' continued subscription to TETAF does not jeopardize state funding. To date, no response has been received.

DPS Emergency Management Advisory Committee Being Created

The Texas Department of Public Safety is soliciting applicants for as many as 19 positions on its Emergency Management Advisory Committee Executive Committee. The executive committee will organize and charge subcommittees to address issues central to emergency management in the state. Members of the executive committee will be selected from applicants by a committee composed of elected officials representing each DPS region in the state. Among the criteria to be selected for the executive committee are the following:

- Middle to upper management level experience in your discipline, preferably with experience in emergency management activities;
- Ability to travel and attend a minimum of 50 percent of committee meetings in a 12-month period; and
- Ability to devote time outside of committee meetings to committee development.

The advisory committee will provide organizationally independent, strategic, timely, specific and actionable advice to the Texas Department of Emergency Management division chief and senior management. Among the areas about which TDEM may seek advice are: strategy and policy, coordination and leadership, management and implementation, and evaluation and feedback. The committee will meet quarterly or as frequently as the TDEM division chief desired.

To apply for membership on the executive committee, complete the online application at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TDEM_Exec_Comm. Be sure to follow the directions in the application to send your resume or curriculum vitae to Lauren.Allen@dps.texas.gov.

TETAF Co-hosts Course at Scott & White in January

TETAF is joining the Scott & White Trauma Center is presenting a two-day trauma fundamentals course Jan. 24-25 in Temple. The course will provide acute care, critical care and perioperative nurses with foundational, evidence-based information and critical thinking skills necessary to care for the hospitalized trauma patient. Trauma Care After Resuscitation covers a wide range of pathophysiologic and nursing concepts. The broad, core-level program begins at 8 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. each day; attendees should arrive 15-30 minutes prior to the class start time to check-in. The course will be offered in the Conference Center Building 25, Room A 200, which is located at 2401 S. 31 St. in Temple.

Attendees will receive 14 contact hours of continuing education. General registration fee is \$300 and includes all course materials. Meals and beverages will be provided by Scott & White Memorial Hospital and TETAF.

Register online at www.tcarprograms.com; contact TCAR at 855/438-8227 for questions related to registration. More information is available from TETAF's Brenda Putz at bputz@tetaf.org.

Field EMS Bill Filed in Congress

In response to recommendations in the Institute of Medicine's 2006 report, *EMS at the Crossroads*, Reps. Tim Waltz (D-Minn.) and Sue Myrick (R-N.C.) filed H.R. 3144, the Field EMS Quality, Innovation and Cost-Effectiveness Improvement Act. Among its provisions are the following:

- Recognizes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the lead agency for EMS and trauma and requires the establishment of an Office of EMS and Trauma;
- Establishes three grant programs (field EMS agency, state and education grants) to foster improvements in quality, innovation and preparedness, and strengthen accountability;
- Improves quality by requiring national guidelines for physician oversight of field EMS and enhanced data reporting and analysis, among others;
- Evaluates innovative delivery models; and
- Authorizes a Field EMS Practice Center to enhance research in the Field EMS area.

An Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund is created to accept voluntary contributions from taxpayers when filing their income tax returns; this money would underwrite the grant programs. HHS could use its discretionary funds to initiate the Office of EMS and Trauma.

Introduced Oct. 7, the bill was referred to the Energy and Commerce and the Ways and Means committees to review their areas of jurisdiction. A more detailed analysis is provided in this white paper (link) authored by Bill White.

TETAF Contracts with Grant Writer

As of Dec. 1, TETAF has contracted with Dan Culica, M.D., Ph.D., to serve as a grant writer and developer. Dr. Culica has an impressive medical research background as well as clinical experience as a surgeon. He has been a leader in quality and organizational improvement. He has published the results of numerous research projects, including trauma care organization and emergency department access.

In his role with TETAF, Dr. Culica will help identify potential sources of both private and government funds from grants and demonstration projects at both the state and national levels. He will work with the TETAF Board to develop projects and proposals, and oversee their implementation, assuring compliance with grant requirements and deliverables.

Archives of GETAC Committees and GETAC Meetings Available

Beginning with the Nov. 19-21 meetings of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) committee and council meetings, TETAF offered real-time video streaming for those unable to attend. Committee and council meetings from December also were broadcast and videotaped. All of the meetings are archived and available for viewing through the TETAF website – www.tetaf.org. While the online viewing provides an opportunity for more stakeholders to observe the GETAC meetings, it still is important for EMS, trauma and acute-care providers to participate in person in the GETAC process.

Mark Your Calendar

TETAF has scheduled meetings for 2012; be sure to put these dates on your calendar and plan to participate:

- Jan. 4, 10 a.m. CT – Conference Call
- Feb. 7 – Face-to-face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC
- March 7, 10 a.m. CT – Conference Call
- May 8 – Face-to-face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC
- June 6, 10 a.m. CT – Conference Call
- June/July 2012 – TETAF Strategic Planning Meeting
- Aug. 14 – Face-to-face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC
- Oct. 3, 10 a.m. – Conference Call
- Nov. 17 – Face to face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC

*Additional meetings may be set, subject to the call.

Register Now

As TETAF moves into 2012, plans are being made to add content to the organization's website that will be available to members only. If you are not already a registered user, [sign up](#) now!

Thank You to TETAF's 2011 Sponsors

During 2011, sponsors helped underwrite many of TETAF's activities. As the year ends, TETAF wants to recognize the companies and individuals who helped support its activities this year. Thank you for your contributions and belief in the work of TETAF to further develop the EMS, trauma and acute health care systems in Texas.

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Alice and Dan Stultz, M.D.
Dinah and Rod Welsh

Happy Holidays

At this time of year, the demand for EMS, trauma and acute-care services often increases, and dedicated professionals who save and mend lives often sacrifice time with their families to serve others. TETAF salutes all of you! This also is a time to reflect on the many blessings of life, and having a strong trauma system on which all Texans can rely is a gift. TETAF will continue to work to improve and strengthen the state's EMS, trauma and acute health care systems in 2012. Best wishes for a joyful holiday season, and a safe and happy new year!

Respectfully submitted,

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