



Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

3400 Enfield Road
Austin, Texas 78703

TETAF UPDATE

June 2, 2010

TETAF Holds 1st Texas EMS & Trauma Leadership Summit

On May 7th TETAF hosted its first ever Leadership Summit. The summit brought together over 100 leaders in EMS & trauma to discuss the future of these systems. With leadership from **Ken Mattox, MD, Ronald M. Stewart, MD, Eric Epley, NREMT-P, Jorie Klein, RN, Dudley Wait, NREMT-P**, a strong overview of the systems were given with a healthy discussion by all those in attendance. TETAF is working with the many interested associations to develop a communications plan to protect and potentially increase funding to these critical systems and is also working with these same groups and legislative leaders to formulate policy proposals regarding current funding and more specifically the Driver Responsibility Program. The DRP is under attack by certain groups and this funding stream must be adapted and fortified to protect the Texas Trauma System.

TETAF Participates in American College of Surgeons Consultation

TETAF was asked to participate in the ACS consultation visit that was legislatively mandated to assess the Texas Trauma System. Due to the structure and feedback desired at the consultation TETAF's May face to face meeting was cancelled so that all stakeholders could adequately participate in the ACS process. The ACS recognized the entire Texas system as a system of strength but identified areas that could be improved. While ACS gave a brief oral presentation of their findings on May 21, 2010, a full written report is expected in August. It is believed that the report will provide a strong foundation for policy changes needed to move the trauma system forward. TETAF was pleased to be recognized by the ACS surveyors as a critical new piece to the Texas Trauma System.

TETAF Moving Forward with Plans to Begin Stroke Surveys

With TETAF being granted DSHS approval to provide Support Stroke, Level III designation surveys plans are actively under way to schedule the first stroke surveyor course in September/October 2010. Once surveyors are credentialed actual surveys to interested and eligible facilities could commence in late 2010/early 2011. DSHS is taking applications for two coordinators to assist in the workload increase that will undoubtedly occur with the surveying of these new support facilities. It is anticipated that these coordinators will join DSHS late this summer.

Registry Update

The State of Texas is moving forward with their request for proposal for the Trauma System Data Improvement Project. The request for offer was published May 10, 2010 and can be located at http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/bid_show.cfm?bidid=88724. TETAF will continue to explore with DSHS the possibilities to utilize the **National Trauma Data Bank** to garner registry information for Texas until the new statewide data collection system is rolled out, which is expected to occur in 2012.



Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

3400 Enfield Road
Austin, Texas 78703

TETAF Meets with DSHS Staff

TETAF staff held their monthly meeting with DSHS staff May 27. TETAF discussed with DSHS the **Stroke Surveyor Credentialing Course**, which is being planned for September/October 2010. A **Trauma Surveyor meeting** with DSHS is also being planned for September or October 2010. The meeting will include DSHS and TETAF credentialed trauma surveyors to review and improve upon the current process.

In April TETAF submitted documentation to DSHS that is believed to **support a pediatric facility's ability to be designated as a Level III trauma facility**. DSHS visited Driscoll Children's Hospital yesterday and DSHS indicated that they would make a determination on the issue after the visit.

TETAF also discussed with DSHS the formation of a **TETAF trauma rule revision workgroup**. The TETAF intent of the workgroup is to streamline the trauma rule revisions needed once the rules are officially opened next year. DSHS was pleased with the idea and would like to participate in any future meetings.

Monthly meetings with TETAF/DSHS staff are scheduled.

Upcoming Hearings

The **Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee** will meet June 8, 2010 in Amarillo. TETAF was requested to provide testimony on the committee charge #3. The charge states:

Recommend improvements to homeland security, including the state's infrastructure and housing recovery operations. Make recommendations for incorporating best practices and addressing any gaps in existing procedures, and disaster preparation and response, including volunteer involvement, evacuation and sheltering and trauma care, and communications interoperability.

Doug Havron, TETAF Disaster Planning Division Chair and Administrative Director for Hospital Preparedness for SETRAC, will provide expert testimony at the hearing.

The Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee is also planning a hearing in early August to review the Driver Responsibility Program and has requested that TETAF also participate in this hearing. Details on this hearing will be forthcoming. The **House Appropriations Health and Human Services Subcommittee** will be meeting June 14 & 15 to discuss possible health and human services budget cuts. TETAF will be attending and reporting on this hearing.

TETAF Activities

The **Trauma Center Survey process** continues with **57 Level IV surveys** and **18 Level III surveys** already scheduled for 2010. This continues to be a strong area of service provided to the Texas Trauma System by TETAF. TETAF greatly appreciates the work of its dedicated surveyors.



Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

3400 Enfield Road
Austin, Texas 78703

Later this month TETAF will be releasing its communications and policy strategy regarding trauma and EMS funding in Texas. In the meantime, an overview of the DRP and funding will be shared with all interested parties. TETAF has also been involved with and a Department of Public Safety DRP Workgroup. A summary of recent discussions is attached.

Most of the eight divisions of TETAF have begun holding monthly conference call meetings and developing their **S.M.A.R.T. Goals**. Division chairs will be reporting on the work of their committees. The Pediatrics Division of TETAF will be seeking a new chairman. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please contact Dinah Welsh or Brenda Putz.

The TETAF Board is exploring dates to hold a **strategic planning meeting** in August or September. It is intended from this meeting that the TETAF Board will formulate a clear strategic plan that will also include financial objectives for the foundation. To this end, **Subscription Fees for 2011** will begin their development. **No fee increase is anticipated** for 2011 as TETAF continues to seek and has begun to realize new outside funding. .

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Welsh
dwelsh@tetaf.org

Brenda Putz
bputz@tetaf.org