



**RHPC Board Meeting**  
SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council  
1111 North Loop West  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Houston, Texas 77008  
November 1, 2019



**Call to Order**

Toni Carnie called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

**RHPC Board Roll Call**

Ms. Carnie called roll for the Board members in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes (C101)**

Ms. Carnie requested review and approval of the August minutes. Vicki Tarnow (The Medical Center of South East Texas) made a motion to approve the minutes Mark Sloan (Harris County Office of Emergency Management) seconded the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

**New Business**

• **RHPC Chair Nominations (C101)**

Lori Upton advised the coalition members according to the revised RHPC Charter it is time to vote on a new RHPC Chair for a term of three years. Nominations can come from any member of RHPC and then the RHPC Board members will vote from those nominations.

Ms. Upton opened the floor for Board Chair nominations as follows:

1. Kevin Schultz was nominated via email
2. Toni Carnie was nominated by Vicki Tarnow

Ms. Upton will send out an email soliciting nominations and then an email will be forwarded to the RHPC Board for voting.

**Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities**

• **Radio Update (C101)**

Chris Collier gave an update on the radios and explained the reason why some of the radios are not working. He advised that Motorola is no longer supporting or supplying updates for the Motorola XTS2500 radio; therefore, it will no longer work on the system. The options are to purchase a Motorola 6000 (approx. \$3,000) or 4000 (approx. \$2,000) plus the initial programming fees (a few hundred dollars) and updates as needed (additional fees at that time). The 4000 is the less expensive of the two. SETRAC is also offering a program to use an AT&T phone including the WAVE application (radio capability on the phone). Mr. Collier demonstrated a communication test using the phone. The pricing for the phone and WAVE application is approx. \$70 per month. Pricing for just the WAVE application is approx. \$15 per month. The price difference between the options is the purchase of a radio is a one-time expense and the phone/WAVE application is a monthly expense. The radios are connected to the radio system and the phones need to be connected Wi-Fi to communicate. Facility/agency radios not working are

contingent on the radio system updates. As the radio towers are updated, radios in that area will no longer work; however, SETRAC does not know when these updates will occur as they are not announcing the dates. Mr. Sloan suggested the facilities/agencies go through Mr. Collier to upgrade their radios so he will be able to track them for the systems.

- **Long Term Care Update (C102)**

Hilal Salami reported SETRAC continues to increase numbers of participants in the coalition and facilitating all the HHSC provider meetings with the next meeting scheduled for the end of November. SETRAC continues to work with the all the networking agencies TACHC (healthcare provider clinics), dialysis and home health.

A new track has been added at this year's symposium with sessions for the Special Populations group and NAB CEs will be available as well. Some of the sessions are "Top Ten Audit Issues and Ways to Address Them", "How Hospitals and Home Care Agencies Can Work Together During Disasters to Increase Discharge Capabilities in the Facilities" and an "Emergency Management 101" to assist with connecting with the emergency managers.

There are some CMS rule updates coming down the pipe which will be addressed in the upcoming boot camps to be scheduled in January 2020.

Training is ongoing and will be customized as needed as was done for the MCM Exercise last month. The 2020 EMResource training schedule will be completed soon and will be held at the SETRAC office. A survey will be sent out to the LTC group to gather information on what trainings are needed.

- **Training and Exercise Update (C104)**

John Wingate distributed upcoming training information to the coalition members (*document filed with minutes binder*).

Planning for the RHPC Regional Exercise is underway, and the initial planning meeting has been scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> to be held in the SETRAC conference center. There have been approx. 111 responses received regarding topics for the exercise with weather related issues at the top. Anyone interested in serving on or nominating someone to serve on the planning committee can contact Mr. Wingate at [john.wingate@setrac.org](mailto:john.wingate@setrac.org).

The Medical Countermeasures Exercise was conducted on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with 255 participating RHPC facilities/agencies. Hospital personnel did come to the POD at the SETRAC Warehouse and simulated picking their medication. ASPR sent a truck with the medications for distribution and there were other agencies involved assisting with security and transportation (DPS officers, high-water vehicle, police escorts, etc.). Ms. Upton reminded the coalition member there are templates for POD plans and other on the SETRAC website.

- **EMTF Update (C104)**

MPV 6-04, Acadian Ambulance – Beaumont (2.0 Version) Chassis has been delivered to General Truck Body and production has started. Estimated delivery time is approx. 45 days.

MPV 6-01 (Atascocita), 6-02 (Houston FD) and 6-03 (Fort Bend Co.) have been active with regional responses, to include train wreck and CO leak in our region, along with participation in several hospital evacuation exercises and other stand-by events.

Imelda Response: MPV 6-01, MPV 6-03 and 2 regional AST's were activated through CMOC for response to Imelda landfall. Activities included hospital and nursing care facility evacuation as well as 9-1-1 augmentation in Chambers, Hardin and Jefferson Counties.

The Medical Unit Rehab Crew (MUR-C) component of the MMU has been high priority topic amongst the EMTF Medical Directors meeting. It has been decided to add MD to the deployment team. With this decision, EMTF

Coordinator is working with regional EMTF Medical Director to recruit more MD's, to include working with HFD Fellowship Program.

MMU: We continue to work with regional partners to increase membership and participation with MMU readiness/response. We are working with Cypress Creek EMS/NW Community Health EMS regarding an exercise in March 2020 (HS EMT Extrication Day). We will also hold an introduction to MMU/Deployment Basics class in Beaumont on November 19 for new/interested members.

EMTF-6 Coordinator is working with regional TIFMAS partners to identify and develop partnerships for WPU (Wildland Paramedic Unit) and REM (Rapid Extraction Module) – these are teams assigned as Medical Support/Care for Wildland fires.

The EMTF program continues to be active in CCTA (Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack) exercises in both Galveston and Jefferson/Orange/Hardin Counties.

TMORT (Texas Mass Fatality Operations Team) experienced its first multiple member deployment to the El Paso Shootings in August. Team members from Comal, Galveston and Harris Counties responded to support the morgue operations.

There is new membership enrollment from Austin County EMS, Humble Fire/Rescue, Tyler County EMC and Community VFD.

The next EMTF State meetings will be held November 24<sup>th</sup> in Fort Worth, in conjunction with the Texas EMS Conference and GETAC meetings.

## **Sub-Committee Updates**

### **RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)**

Ms. Carnie thanked Angela Smith (Texas Children's Hospital) for her coordinating efforts to ensure the facilities understood the process and submitted their Award of Excellence applications. The 2019 winners are CHI St. Luke's Livingston, The Medical Center Port Arthur and Texas Children's Hospital Main Campus.

### **Symposium Planning (C101)**

Ms. Upton reported this was a record-breaking year with over 600 attendees at the symposium. Planning will begin again in January and anyone interested in serving on the planning committee should send Roxie Ward an email at [roxie.ward@setrac.org](mailto:roxie.ward@setrac.org). Gary Litton did an excellent job coordinating the sponsor/vendors for the exhibit hall. Some vendors coming from out-of-state said this was a better conference for them than it has been at national conferences.

### **Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)**

Ms. Spivey reported the committee is planning a tabletop exercise in February 2020 to be held in the SETRAC conference center. More details are forthcoming regarding registration. Ms. Carnie advised the committee is focused on the pediatric surge and evacuation capabilities for the region.

## **Corridor Updates** (C101)

1. **Downtown Corridor** – Ray Higgins reported the Downtown Corridor meeting was held at the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in the Commons Bldg. on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Amy Lopez (Memorial Hermann) for arranging the meeting with Warren Porter (TMC, Safety & Emergency Preparedness Manager) who also provided a luncheon for the attendees. This was Amy Lopez' last meeting as co-chair and Mr. Higgins recognized her for a job well done. Aaron Freedkin was welcomed as the new co-chair. Mr. Porter gave an overview of the TMC Emergency Management Program. A big take-away was TMC now has a high-water vehicle. The next Downtown Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday (December 6<sup>th</sup>) at 12:30 pm (location is pending, but most likely at SETRAC).

2. **South Corridor** – Christina Hatcher reported the next South Corridor is scheduled for Friday (December 13<sup>th</sup>) at HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake.
3. **East Corridor** – Vicki Tarnow reported the September East Corridor meeting was cancelled due to Tropical Storm Imelda. The next East Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday (December 6<sup>th</sup>) at the Chambers County Health Bldg. from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Ms. Tarnow introduced Roy Turner as the East Corridor co-chair.
4. **North Corridor** – Gary Litton reported the next North Corridor is scheduled for Wednesday (December 11<sup>th</sup>) at Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital. Michael Rankin (CHI St. Luke’s Livingston) is the new North Corridor chair (former co-chair). Mr. Litton gave special thanks to Ken Jobe as long-serving chair for all his support. The new co-chair is Stephen Bennett, he is the ER Director at Woodland Heights Medical Centers.
5. **West Corridor** – Toni Carnie reported the West Corridor met on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Texas Children’s Hospital - The Woodlands Campus. There are now compliance reporting available from the RAC which makes it easy to handover to the Joint Commission/DMV surveyors to show participation levels. Some of the other topics stressed at the meeting were radio checks (broke over the 50% participation mark in October), Austen McMillin gave an overview of the inventory control system (for emergency management supplies) and discussed the ER door code going with a quarterly code change as monthly is too difficult to manage. The next West Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday (December 11<sup>th</sup>) at Memorial Hermann Cypress.

**Partner Updates** (C101)

**Public Health**

**DSHS Region 6/5 South**

James Arango reported they just completed the MCM Exercise and are looking forward to hearing feedback. Four counties, 11 health departments and over 40 hospitals participated, and CMOC was activated. After discussions with the different exercise controllers, it looks like there were some good lessons learned. Mr. Arango advised the coalition members they will be assembling everything and should have the after action report ready by December. He stated they will be reviewing their plans and exercises in 2020.

**Harris County Public Health**

Liz Brewer introduced Angelina Fonterot as their new Medical Reserve Coordinator.

**City of Houston Public Health**

John Fleming

**OEM**

**Texas City OEM**

Tom Munoz reported their CCTA Tabletop Exercise on November 14<sup>th</sup> with partners from DHS attending. They are also working on the reunification plan with the county.

**Chambers County OEM**

Roy Turner reported Chambers County has a mobile disaster recovery center that has been running for the last couple of weeks due to Tropical Storm Imelda, flooding and dealing with intake from 38 to 40 participants a day for registering.

**Harris County OEM**

Mark Sloan reported the DRC numbers have decreased and they will probably be closing those DRCs within two weeks. He reminded the coalition members be reviewing their winter weather plans, especially the hard freeze and ice storm issues. He advised that he sits on a committee that is looking into licensing and credentialing of emergency managers from a city and county similar to what happened in fire and law enforcement credentialing years ago. However, there are parts of the state that are encouraging emergency managers in other areas to pay attention to it as they then would be able

to move into city and county positions. The goal of this committee is a legislative recommendation is that only city and county emergency management professionals (those appointed by their elected official) are to go through this credentialing and licensing process.

### **EMS**

Mr. Collier reported the next EMS Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday (November 15<sup>th</sup>) at SETRAC.

### **ICAM**

Mr. Collier reported SETRAC has been selected as a BETA site for a FEMA led Identity Credentialing and Access Management (ICAM) program that focuses on providing an official credential to authorized responders from around the region. With this program SETRAC will be working with partners around the region addressing the issue of physical and logical access control and how the program will be initiated. There is more information to come.

### **FBI**

Joel Holmes, FBI Special Agent, reported the FBI hosted a Live Tech Summit on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Texas Medical Center (Information Center) where the emerging challenges at risk in advances of the biotech industry were discussed.

### **Open Discussion/Other**

#### **2020 RHPC Meeting Schedule**

The coalition members reviewed the 2020 meeting schedule. Mr. Sloan made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. A recommendation was made to move the January meeting to January 10<sup>th</sup> due to January 3<sup>rd</sup> being too close to the New Year holiday. Mr. Sloan amended his motion to approve the schedule as presented with the January meeting being rescheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>. The amended motion was seconded, and the coalition members carried the motion.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business or discussion, Ms. Carnie adjourned the meeting at 2:44 pm. The next RHPC meeting is scheduled for Friday (January 10, 2020) at the SETRAC office.

### **Attendees**

Aaron Freedkin, Frank Brestoch, Vicki Tarnow, Ken Jamilosa, Nicole Powley, Dennis Maldonado, Mark Sloan, Gary Cotton, Jim Bunch, Dena Daniel, Roy Turner, Tonie Carnie, Randy Babbitt, Gloria Kologinczak, Rene Leal, Kevin Hunt, Hilal Salami, Rhae Cisneros, Roxie Ward, Ray Higgins, Angelina Fonterot, Aaron Velasquez, Joel Holmes, Gary Litton, Kevin Schulz, Lori Upton, Lisa Spivey, Chris Collier, Phyllis Bertash, Lesa Cordova, Christie Cranek, Tracy Ezell, Christina Hatcher, Melissa Hirn, Curt Joiner, Patrick McCabe, Mike Mastrangelo, Sean McCrackin, Dennis Morrison, David Olinger, Devina Patel, Cynthia Quinones, Marcelino Ramirez, Danny Shine Thomas Wilbur, Annette Trevino, James Arango, Liz Brewer