



RHPC Board Meeting
November 6, 2020
Go To Meeting



Call to Order

Dr. Kevin Schulz called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

The coalition members stopped for a moment of silence to pay their respects to Gary Richards (former Emergency Management Coordinator for HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress) who passed away earlier in the week.

RHPC Board Roll Call

Dr. Schulz called roll for the Board members in attendance.

Toni Carnie	Jennifer Kiger
John Fleming	Tom Munoz
Ray Higgins	Mike Nixon
Joel Holmes	Kevin Schulz
	Vicki Tarnow

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Dr. Schulz requested review and approval of the March and August minutes. Mike Nixon made a motion to approve the March minutes as written, Evelyn Locklin seconded the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion. The March minutes were approved as written. Ray Higgins made a motion to approve the August minutes, Toni Carnie seconded the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion. The August minutes were approved as written.

New Business

• **COVID Response Update**

Lori Upton reported SETRAC continues to push out PPE. There are quite a few entities that seem to be getting their supply chains back in order or they have enough PPE for their current census. Everyone will continue to stay on the automatic push until three pickups have been missed. Those facilities/agencies that communicate they would like to skip pickups will stay on the list.

Ms. Upton advised the coalition members there are 847 contract nurses and respiratory therapists currently supporting the region's hospitals. If there are additional requests for ancillary staff through the contract, SETRAC will need to wait for facilities to finish with the nurses they are using before they can reassign those numbers to another facility. So far, there has been twenty-four additional requests received, and SETRAC has been able to fill most of those requests.

El Paso has been seeing a huge increase, as well as the Amarillo, and they are asking for ICU availability daily. Ms. Upton made a suggestion to DSHS that they reach out to our partners and activate the state contract with them to help offload some of the ICU patients to a treatment or a state contract and she is awaiting their response. SETRAC still has EMTF assets in the El Paso area as well.

Some of the facilities gave updates on their status and most are seeing a decrease in numbers, but they are seeing a handful of patients in the emergency room with most not being admitted. The EMS agencies' call volume seems to be returning to normal. They are seeing some COVID patients but nothing like the summer numbers. Dr. Schulz stated everyone is getting tired and he reminded the coalition members to be watching for fatigue among their staff members which could cause some to become a little lax with some of their protocol details.

Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities

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

Ms. Upton reported SETRAC continues to add additional Long Term Care facilities as well as rehab facilities to the coalition. There are approximately 300 plus facilities/agencies to date.

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

Adam Lee asked the coalition members whether they would like to schedule a full-scale exercise this year or not due to the ongoing COVID response. The coalition members agreed and recommended using the COVID live event as the full-scale exercise. Mr. Lee noted the recommendation and stated anyone feeling strongly about having a full-scale exercise should contact John Wingate or Adam Lee at exercise@setrac.org.

Mr. Lee reported decon planning is a requested training topic right now. Anyone with specific training needs should reach out to him or Mr. Wingate and they will assist with scheduling. The November training schedule was distributed to the coalition members for review and reference (*document filed in minutes binder*).

- **EMTF Update (C104)**

Ms. Upton introduced Mikal Orr as SETRAC's new EMTF-6 Coordinator replacing Jon Clingaman who took a position with TEDM as one of their DCs in the northern area. She stated Mr. Orr has been working with SETRAC at the warehouse assisting with the PPE distribution for the past six to seven months.

Mr. Orr reported EMTF has an Ambulance Strike Team in El Paso along with partner ambulances, plus the Strike Team Leader and the Ambus crew. The EMTF personnel seem to be meeting the needs in El Paso.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

Toni Carnie reminded the coalition members to keep track of all the great things they are doing to ensure they get credit for them as part of their participation and RHPC award application.

Symposium Planning (C101)

Ms. Upton announced the 2021 symposium is scheduled for October 20th, 21st and 22nd (Wednesday-Friday) at the San Luis Convention Center. The planning committee will begin meeting in January 2021 to discuss the details and work on getting some of the same speakers that were planned for this year, as well as the evening activities (Pleasure Pier, pool party, etc.).

Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

Tina Rose reported the Clinical Advisory Committee has been meeting the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM online since May to compile information for a regional burn surge plan. This committee also completed a Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercise (POETE) Gap Analysis on Burn Surge for the region in October. The Regional Burn Surge Plan scope will include current regional capacity for the 3 burn centers and recommendations for non-burn center ICU bed capacity to be utilized for burn surge. The plan will be in final draft form by December 2020 in preparation for testing it during a January 28, 2021 Tabletop Exercise (TTX). To participate in this committee, please email Tina.Rose@HoustonTx.gov to be added to the monthly meeting.

On Thursday, **January 28th, 2021** SETRAC will host a Regional Burn Surge Tabletop Exercise (TTX). This event will be available for in-person attendance as well as online participation. Pre-registration is required, and your attendance preference must be identified on your registration. Due to social distancing guidelines attending in-person will not be guaranteed by your choice alone and SETRAC will notify those personnel who will be able to attend in-person vs on-line prior to the event. To participate in this event, you will need to click on the link below and complete the registration form. Registration **MUST** be complete by no later than **January 25th at 4:00 PM**. TTX Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/125515916485>.

RCPI/SHSP updates

The 4th quarter regional plans summary is attached (in minutes binder) for reference.

Regional Plans Training

For more information about this 1-hour regional webinar training see attached flyer (in minutes binder).

- Seventy-eight (78) attended the October 20th regional training webinar with the following distribution:

Discipline	#	Discipline	#	Discipline	#
Emergency Management	19	Public Health	8	(State) DSHS	2
Hospitals/Healthcare	1	Law Enforcement	1	(State) TDEM	3
VOADs	42	Fire Services	1	(Fed) DHS	1

Register to attend: <https://houstouasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/>

Regional Plan Review/Updates

- The Regional Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) Plan was updated and will be reviewed by RHSCC in November.
- Five regional plans have been under review in 2020 and continue into 2021:
 - Initiated review process with plan owner to update the Coordination of Multiple Incident Sites (CMIS) Regional Plan (10/2020-1/2021) & will be establishing a red team in February 2021 for regional input to the Regional CMIS plan changes.
 - The Regional Burn Surge Plan is being created through December 2020 and will be exercised/tested and updated in January 2021.
 - ed team review and plan edit meetings have been held for the Regional Emergency Public Information Plan (EPIP) 2018-2021 (Finalize 2.10.2021).
 - HGAC has contractor support for updates to the RIC-P to occur 2019-2021 (Finalize 3.31.2021).
 - The Texas Medical Center (TMC) pandemic guide was re-written as an all-hazards guidance in February of 2019; however the TMC plan owner is still working on the plan with internal stakeholders and no date has been shared on its projected update status.

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Ray Higgins reported the Downtown Corridor met via “Go To” meeting on Friday, October 2nd. The meeting was dedicated to Hurricane Laura where the corridor members shared their strengths and weaknesses. Fidel Calvillo gave a brief update on the upcoming COVID vaccine. The next Downtown Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 4th.

South Corridor – Mike Nixon reported the South Corridor will be meeting next Friday, November 13th. Discussion at the last meeting was centered around COVID response.

East Corridor – Vicki Tarnow reported the East Corridor met on Friday, September 18th. The corridor members discussed the Hurricane Delta response.

North Corridor – Gary Litton reported the North Corridor met on Wednesday, August 12th. There was discussion regarding COVID response and details privy to the North Corridor area. The next North Corridor meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th, where plans are to discuss takeaways from Hurricane Laura.

West Corridor – Toni Carnie reported the West Corridor met on Friday, September 25th. She also reported the West Corridor members’ radio check participation was 52% in September and jumped to 65% in October which is the highest it

has ever been. She encouraged the corridor members to continue the momentum and stated she is super proud of the team. The next West Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 18th.

Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

City of Houston Public Health – John Fleming reported they are holding steady with COVID testing. They are still having issues with quality and timeliness of some reporting; however, the reporting is improving. They are also having difficulty moving towards antigen testing with the push mainly coming from the federal government, but also from the state. It is not being well coordinated locally or even with providers that receive the kits which has primarily been through the federal resource (HHS). Mr. Fleming stated there is potential for lack of reporting and making sure the new providers complete reports. They continue to work on case investigations, contact tracing, and now planning for immunizations.

Harris County Public Health – Jennifer Kiger added to Mr. Fleming's update that Harris County Public Health has a group working with the City of Houston and other health departments to work with the schools regarding antigen testing. Due to in-person school the numbers are increasing which is one of their main priorities and antigen testing is part of that. They are providing nine different trainings, in-person and online. They are monitoring the school dashboards and the schools are supposed to be reporting their cases to them as well.

Ms. Kiger reported they are seeing an increase in demand and testing at their sites, and they have added a new site (Katy Park). All sites have about a two-to-three-day turnaround. The website registration tool has been changed adding wait times at each of the testing sites to help people with site selection. The dashboard is updated in conjunction with the City of Houston Information, and on Monday they will be rolling out a combined positivity rate dashboard to show the entire county. They are also trying to get more providers to sign up for the vaccine. A lot of the eastern side of the county has a low sign-up rate for providers.

DSHS 6/5 South – Justin Woodruff reported they have the same things as the City of Houston and Harris County in progress regarding testing, results management and passing through the different policies and/or different guidelines. He reiterated Ms. Kiger's comments on registering as a vaccine provider as there is really no commitment. He reminded the coalition members flu season is coming up and they are focusing on adult flu immunization. Ms. Upton advised the link to the DSHS Vaccinator Program is posted on the SETRAC website under the COVID-19 webpage.

OEM

Texas City OEM

Tom Munoz reported he is a part of the Galveston County Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) and they are following social distancing guidelines. He has noticed quite a few industrial sites have a Pandemic Response Team and have included COVID planning in their exercises which is good news and indicates they are taking COVID seriously. Test sites were setup in September and October where they were seeing approximately 300 people tested a day and towards the end there were about twenty-one people a day. They continue to monitor testing and are pushing out the public notices to remind everyone to wear their PPE, pay attention to their environment, and most importantly that the COVID scenario is still alive and well. For the next quarter, they are seeing more tabletop exercises taking place both internally and externally within the industry and their partners.

EMS

Fort Bend County EMS

Mr. Nixon reported their call volume is pretty much back to normal transporting, no PPE issues, and staff is tired but doing well.

SETRAC/EMS

Chris Collier reported SETRAC has been talking with EMS providers and working to build a system that receives data pushed directly from their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems (most EMS providers have these systems) to allow for status change. Phase One will be in EMResource and will give a visual of the hospitals' status; how many are currently enroute to that hospital, how many are at that hospital, and it will also show how many ambulances have been to that hospital within the last hour or two. This will assist the EMS providers in making a better-informed decision regarding hospital selection.

FBI

Joel Holmes reported the FBI is currently working on ways to respond to election-related incidents. He encouraged the coalition members to reach out to them or local law enforcement if they hear chatter of any kind related to attacking or causing damage to their facilities or personnel. Over the last several months, they have worked a few assessments related to individuals advertising cures for COVID which a lot were fraudulent. Ms. Upton asked if he could share any information on the cyber threats that have been targeting the healthcare sector. He advised he will forward what he can to her for distribution.

Open Discussion/Other

- **Proposed 2021 RHPC Meeting Schedule**

Dr. Schulz reviewed the proposed schedule, and the dates were approved.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Nixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Evelyn Locklin seconded the motion, and Dr. Schulz adjourned the meeting at 2:17 pm. The next RHPC meeting is scheduled for Friday (January 8th) from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Attendees

Kevin Schulz, Toni Carnie, Ray Higgins, Vicki Tarnow, Mike Nixon, Tom Munoz, Jennifer Kiger, John Fleming, Joel Holmes, Amber Johnson, Elizabeth Rothrock, Melissa Hirn, Dena Daniel, Jonathan House, Justin Woodruff, Mary Ann Hajovsky, Jody Randall, Tracy Kohler, Kristine Barton, Michael Oliver, Dawn Wood, Kay Sword, Michelle Rodriguez, Howard Hamilton, Monique Jones, Fanny Frederick, David Olinger, Evelyn Locklin, Alfonso Palacios, James Mitchell, Andrew Smith, Christa Clifton, Cynthia Crespo-Bonaparte, Sean McCrackin, Abby Armato, Eunice Davis, Sandra Tti, Mike Mastrangelo, Johnny Luman, Joshua Vaught, James Arango, Tyler Tipton, Richard Herrera, Amy Lopez, David Garney, Patrick McCabe, Kyle Hamilton, Stephen Bennett, Shannon Seymour, Ricardo Villanueva, Darlene Farek, Frances Lerna, Marcelino Ramirez, Cyndi McCauley, Chandra Garrett, Allison Reimers, Kacey Sammons, Paul Cross, Marella Gray, Jeff Thibodeaux, Austen McMillin, Guy Beretho Cayo, Eugene Barlow, Ken Jamilosa, Marilyn Booker, Ashlee Thurman, Jared Buck, Tammy Sanderson, Michael Lambert, Lori Upton, Lisa Spivey, Adam Lee, Gary Litton, Jason Nolin, Chris Collier, Mikal Orr, Fidel Calvillo, Roxie Ward