



**CALL TO ORDER**

Chris Collier called the meeting to order and welcomed the meeting attendees. Anyone calling into the meeting will need to email Grace Farquhar to receive credit for attendance.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

No introductions were made.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS) EMS COMPLIANCE 6/5S UPDATE**

Chuck Rowe reported that the DSHS staff is working remotely. Surveys and inspections are being completed virtually.

The governor's decree of a 90-day extension on certifications remains in effect. The allowance for EMS medical directors to permit qualified personnel who may not be currently certified to provide assistance in Texas is still in effect as well; however, a personnel file must be created for that person(s) with a letter from the medical director included.

**CEO UPDATE**

Update provided in the specific agenda topics.

DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	FOLLOW-UP
<p><b><u>EMS CARE AND TRANSPORT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local Project Grant Funding</b> No update at this time.</li> <li>• <b>EMS County Funding</b> Packets will be sent out to EMS agencies next week.</li> <li>• <b>EMS Run Affidavit</b> Information will be sent out shortly from DSHS for EMS runs</li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>



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<p>during the 2019 calendar year. DSHS may also look at runs from 2018 for funding formulas for next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Air Transport – ETE vs. ETA</b> No update at this time</li> <li>• <b>Use of Lights / Sirens (Williamson County EMS study and methodology)</b> Nathan Jung reported that a recommendation would be made to the GETAC EMS Committee that agencies follow the best practices that were set forth through Williamson County as well as the National Highway Safety Transportation white paper, which tries to limit the use of lights and sirens and operate in a safe and effective manner.</li> </ul> <p><u><b>New Business</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legislative Update</b> The next legislative session will be starting soon. SETRAC will keep the committee updated on any bills that will affect our region or agencies in the region.</li> <li>• <b>GETAC Update</b> The next GETAC EMS Committee meeting will be held in February 2021.</li> </ul> <p>Many SETRAC members applied to be on many of the GETAC committees. DSHS is working to diversity committees so most members are not from the three largest RACs.</p>	<p>No action items or recommendations</p> <p>No action items or recommendations</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Update to be provided at a future meeting.</p> <p>Update to be provided at a future meeting.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>
<p><u><b>EMS Systems Quality Improvement (SQI)</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Old Business</b></u></p>		



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>EMS Whole Blood Program</b>            Eric Bank reported that due to rising interest with many agencies, the original regional model will be used. The group is communicating with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and Dr. McNutt of the SETRAC Trauma Committee has been working to get a trauma surgeon to assist with the discussion.             The next goal is to bring the blood banker groups from the hospitals into the group to present the sort out the details on storage and usage.         </li> <li> <b>EMS Public Education Campaign</b>            Darrell Pile gave a presentation on the current campaign which included newspaper, radio, and social media ads. Funds for the campaign were provided through the SB 500 money that was allocated to RACs by legislature.             Messages containing about four different themes, all surrounding the emergency system of care, have been published. Social media posts (graphics and text) were provided to stakeholders for sharing on their accounts.             For future consideration, a suggestion was made to look to alternate methods to reach the older crowds as they are not on social media. Other suggestions include having ads placed on emergency vehicles and/or delivery vehicles and reviewing the insights from the social media campaign to see the impact on the community, and distributing flyers during flu shot clinics and blood drives.         </li> </ul> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>Comments and suggestions regarding the campaign should be sent to Mr. Pile or Mr. Kowalik.</p>	<p>Update to be provided at next meeting.</p> <p>Update to be provided at next meeting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Trauma Committee Update</b>            Tourniquet data collected shows an increase of 45% in tourniquet usage from 2018 to 2019. A 57% increase was reported for         </li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p>



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<p>patients arriving via EMS with a majority of the tourniquets being applied at the scene of injury.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Pediatric Trauma Protocol</b>            Allen Sims reported that the workgroup for this protocol recently met and is leaning toward combining the adult and pediatric protocols into one single document. This would look more like the adult protocols but have some pediatric components added.             The pediatric protocol was developed prior to the designation of Level II trauma facilities in the region and the Level I pediatric hospital designations.             A draft may be ready for viewing at the next EMS Committee meeting.         </li> <li> <b>Injury Prevention Committee Update</b>            The committee is in the process of developing a work group to help ensure patients transported to the hospital from a nursing home via EMS transport has their advanced directive information on them.             Drowning prevention education is being pushed to the community.             Zip codes with high incidences of firearm related injuries are being reviewed for gun lock education and other preventive measures.             SETRAC is hosting a virtual education around safety tips for falls prevention using Tai Chi for balance on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.         </li> <li> <b>Pediatric Committee Update</b>            The committee is working on securing a speaker for the next meeting. CEUs are provided for EMS and nursing and all EMS are invited to attend. The next meeting will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup>.         </li> </ul>	<p>Anyone wishing to participate in developing the protocol can reach out to Mr. Sims or Dr. Emily Kidd.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Update to be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>



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<p>A symposium is being planned for both EMS and hospitals regarding pediatric emergency care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Perinatal Committee Update</b>            The committee is now able to submit data electronically to SETRAC. Multiple quality and performance improvement projects to care for mothers and babies are being worked on based on the data provided.             Criteria is being developed to provide quarterly achievement awards for QI projects to maintain motivation.         </li> <li> <b>Stroke Committee Update</b>            Stroke volumes in April decreased, possibly due to COVID-19. This is reflected in both EMS and hospital data. The committee has trended the percentage of arrivals via EMS, which has remained steady.             Hospitals are presenting best practices employed at their facilities each month.         </li> <li> <b>Cardiac Committee Update</b>            The number of STEMIs in the region drastically decreased in March and April, possibly due to COVID, but began increasing in May and June. This is reflected in data collected from both hospitals and EMS agencies.             The committee is currently working on standardized education for non-PCI facilities in regards to administration of lytics and timely transfers as well as virtual education on hands only CPR and a cardiac consortium.             The Heart Safe Community initiative is going through a few tweaks to ensure there is no liability issues.         </li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>• Mobile Integrated Health Workgroup Update</b> Corey Naranjo reported there is an initiative through SAMHSA Health and Human Services, and University of Houston on a free medication disposal program.</p> <p>The next MIH workgroup meeting is to be announced.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• DNR’s Nursing Homes</b> A group of EMS, nursing home, and ER representatives will meet to discuss why advanced directives are not being included with patients when transported from nursing homes to hospitals and how to resolve the issue. Anyone interested in participating can contact Mr. Pile.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Texas Cares Initiative</b> SETRAC continues to meet with representatives from Texas Cares regarding the care and management of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The group is looking at how to facilitate EMS agencies and hospitals that are interested in participating and sharing 14 to 15 data elements for each person. Data elements include the use of bystander CPR, use of AED machines, and death at the scene. Anyone interested in participating can reach out to Mr. Collier or Mr. Pile.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• DSHS Adult Flu Initiative</b> EMS agencies may qualify to administer flu vaccines. Agencies are encouraged to not only consider how to administer the flu shot to employees, but how to serve the community as well.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• EMS for Children – Gold Level Readiness La Porte EMS</b> EMS for Children is an initiative that works with agencies to give recommendations and give assessments for agencies to be able to say they can properly provide care for children. La Porte EMS recently received Gold Level Readiness.</p> </li> </ul>	<p>Anyone interested in participating can contact Mr. Naranjo as well as any Harris County agencies interested in setting up a free flu shot event.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action times or recommendations.</p> <p>No action times or recommendations.</p> <p>No action times or recommendations.</p> <p>No action times or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Update to be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Update to be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Closed.</p> <p>LaPorte EMS will be invited to the next meeting to present on how they achieved the recognition.</p>



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<p><b><u>EMS DISASTER</u></b> <b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <p>No items to report.</p> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Update</b> Mikal Orr is the new EMTF-6 Coordinator, replacing Jon Clingaman who recently took another position with TDEM.</p> <p>EMTF partners are currently in El Paso assisting with the COVID-19 response as well as a smaller group in the Panhandle region.</p> <p>The reimbursement process continues to be reviewed to ensure that partners and people on deployments are reimbursed in a timely manner.</p> <p>An AAR type of survey is being developed for deployed personnel and the agencies sponsoring them to see what assistance can be provided during the deployment process.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Update</b> PPE distribution continues to our regional healthcare partners. This has decreased to once-a-month allocations but can be ramped back up to weekly allocations if needed.</p> <p>COVID hospitalizations are starting to increase and is being monitored. Agencies are asked to reassess their current situation and prepare for an upward trend.</p> <p>Plans are being put in place for patient load balancing in case it is needed. Patients are being received from the El Paso region at this time.</p> </li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>Agencies that are getting low on PPE, are encouraged to contact SETRAC as emergency orders can be resupplied.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>



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<p>EMS will be among the priority to receive vaccines once distributed as well as caregivers and vulnerable patient populations. There will be hospitals identified as the source to provide the vaccines.</p> <p>The committee discussed areas of opportunity to review before the next possible COVID surge, such as communication to employees that share with patients that hospitals are safe to go to, putting together resources for agencies to provide patients, create a survey to determine what equipment may be needed, and use of non-invasive ventilation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>COVID Update</b> See "Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Update".</li> </ul>	<p>See "Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Update".</p>	<p>Standing report.</p>
<p><b><u>AIR MEDICAL</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b> No items to report.</p> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b> No items to report.</p>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>
<p><b><u>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</u></b></p> <p>No items for discussion.</p>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Closed.</p>
<p><b><u>ADJOURN</u></b></p> <p>There being no additional items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place January 15, 2021.</p>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Closed.</p>