



**CALL TO ORDER** - John Kowalik called the meeting to order and welcomed the meeting attendees.

**INTRODUCTIONS** - No introductions were made.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS) EMS COMPLIANCE 6/5S UPDATE** - No updates were provided.

**CEO UPDATE** - Darrell Pile provided an update on the regional COVID-19 response.

- Hospitals continue to report data and are voluntarily letting SETRAC know if there are delays for patients to be admitted to a general or ICU bed. This will continue to be tracked to assess if the number of beds available in the region meet the current demands (which at this time they are not.)
- The military opened 35 beds at United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) to admit pre-approved patients from other facilities. All referrals must be requested through the CMOC and will be based on certain criteria and UMMC being able to accept the patient at that time. Also, core group of hospitals have agreed to accept patients from other facilities on a rotating basis when the referring hospital has exhausted all other means of being able to transfer patients.
- Receipt of PPE to distribute to healthcare facilities has been steady.
- Data reported by SETRAC is collected directly from reporting facilities and may differ from TMC due to the way the data is collected/calculated.
- EMS agencies should continue to rely on EMResource for hospital availability status to determine where to take patients. SETRAC is working with the military to assist hospitals that are currently saturated with patients. COVID patients could be transferred to “medical resorts” to recover to help free up hospital space. SETRAC is working with a developer to provide a way for EMS agencies to view in EMResource how many ambulances are waiting at the hospital, how many are en route, average wait time, and how many were received at the facility over the past 2 hours.
- DSHS has contracted with agencies to bring a little over 400 nurses and clinicians to our region to help meet the staffing needs of hospitals so they can open additional beds. Some EMS regulations are being relaxed during the pandemic such as only having one certified clinician per truck and the trucks being able to be driven by anyone the agency’s medical director credentials.
- Newman and Newman, a local marketing agency, has been hired by SETRAC to create a public messaging campaign. The “Make the Call” message will be seen on billboards, ads, and social media to inform the community that it is safe to be in an ambulance and hospital and to call 9-1-1 to seek immediate medical help. Funds from SB500 can be used toward the cost of the campaign. The campaign will be presented at the SETRAC board meeting on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> for approval. Data collected from regional EMS agencies show a decline from March to April in the number of overall EMS calls, patient transfers, and stroke and STEMI alerts. The data also shows an increase from March to April in the number of patients where resuscitation was performed and patients that were dead on scene. One possible reason for these numbers could be due to the lockdown order for Harris County.



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> Agencies who have not submitted their packets were contacted via email.  FY21 packets will be distributed during the first week of August. The state is providing excess funds for FY21 so two payments will be made during the year.</li> <li>• <b>EMS County Funding</b> No update at this time.</li> <li>• <b>EMS Run Affidavit</b> No update at this time.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legislative Update</b> No update at this time.</li> <li>• <b>GETAC Update</b> No update at this time.</li> </ul>	<p>Agencies who have not submitted their FY20 packets will need to do so by July 24<sup>th</sup> so the packets can be processed and checks disbursed.</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>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>
<p><b><u>EMS Systems Quality Improvement (SQI)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EMS Hospital Door Codes</b> No update at this time.</li> <li>• <b>EMS Whole Blood Program</b> No update at this time.</li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Update to be provided at next meeting.</p> <p>Update to be provided at next meeting.</p>





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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stroke / STEMI Volume in COVID Era</b> See "CEO Update".</li> <li>• <b>EMS Public Education Campaign</b> See "CEO Update"</li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action times or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>
<p><b><u>EMS DISASTER</u></b> <b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communication Systems Update</b> No update at this time.</li> <li>• <b>PSAP Centers</b> On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the CDC updated guidelines for PSAP centers. The recommendations are on the SETRAC website.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Update</b> EMTF continues to support the state-run testing sites in our 25 county region.</li> <li>• <b>Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Update</b> EMS/first responder distribution is now taking place. Distribution packs may be a little larger now than in the past. Level 4 gowns are being pushed out.</li> </ul> <p>DSHS can assist agencies with providing paramedics if needed. A credentialing process will need to be in place by the requesting agency's medical director. A Texas license is not required at this time as long as the person has a valid national registry license.</p> <p>SETRAC will be hiring part-time temporary workers to assist with PPE distribution and other operations at the warehouse.</p>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <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>Closed.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>



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<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> Resources are currently taxed for making extraordinary long transports due to a lack of bed availability, especially in the south Texas region.</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>Some EMS agencies have approached Mr. Sims about ways that EMS can help determine if a suspect COVID patient should be taken to the hospital. Mr. Sims and Dr. Bryan Kharbanda discussed this with the committee. One of the problems with COVID is that the patient's presentation can change quite drastically. It was suggested that agencies look at the safety of walking patients due to a risk of blood clots.</p>	<p>.</p> <p>There are so many unknowns with COVID that agencies are encouraged to consider additional patient conditions in their protocols.</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 in September.</p>	<p>Agencies needing assistance are encouraged to reach out for help as solutions may be available.</p>	<p>Closed.</p>