



RHPC Board Meeting

January 8, 2021

Go To Meeting



Call to Order

Dr. Kevin Schulz called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

RHPC Board Roll Call

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

Toni Carnie	Joel Holmes
Gary Cotton	Michael Nixon
Ray Higgins	Kevin Schulz
	Vicki Tarnow

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Dr. Schulz requested review and approval of the November minutes. Vicki Tarnow (Medical Center of Southeast Texas-Port Arthur) made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Ray Higgins (Harris Health) seconded the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion.

New Business

- **COVID Response Update**

Lori Upton gave an overview of the COVID bed reporting process (*report filed with minutes binder*). Lisa Spivey went over the on-call duty officer process due to an influx of calls especially on the weekends and evenings. Facilities needing to transfer patients must go through their process first and, if assistance is still needed, then SETRAC is a last resort. Everyone is full and finding a bed is extremely difficult with a long wait time and there is no guarantee a bed will be found. The SETRAC on-call duty officer number is 281-822-4444, Option 2.

- **Hazardous Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)**

Ms. Spivey advised the HVA template has been sent out and will be forwarded again later today or on Monday. The HVA is due to SETRAC by February 10th.

Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities

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

Hilal Salami reported SETRAC has connected with over 1,800 Long Term Facilities (Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, Intermediate Care, Adult Daycare, Dialysis Centers, Home Health, Hospice and Personal Care Agencies) through prior engagement and the PPE distribution program. Currently working on bringing them all to the fold as active members of the coalition.

SETRAC has been conducting periodic calls with the special populations group throughout the crisis, including the new facilities that joined in through the PPE Program. Meetings started as once a week, then every other week and are now once a month. PPE distribution for both groups is now once a month. Individual cases can be considered depending on facility or agency status. Since October 29th, SETRAC has been pushing the message

for Long Term Care Facilities to complete the Vaccine Provider Program Registration with the state, through the calls and list serve emails.

SETRAC has released pre-filled COVID-19 AAR Template in August and discussed the template in one of the conference calls and in the follow up email. SETRAC will discuss a vaccination component addition to the AAR once that is formulated by the facilities and will dedicate a call to discuss it.

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

Adam Lee reported SETRAC recently conducted an Off the Grid Communication Exercise with over 250 participants. EMResource, EMTrack and WebEOC training continues and the courses will be posted on the SETRAC website under “Education”.

Mr. Lee reminded the coalition members there was discussion regarding not having a regional exercise this year due to COVID response. This topic has been discussed at all the corridor meetings and the members agree it is the right move to not have an exercise this year. The 2021 training and exercise schedule is on an as needed basis and can be scheduled by emailing exercise@setrac.org.

John Wingate reported the development of a partial, virtual decon training that is currently being put into trail use.

- **EMTF Update (C104)**

Mikal Orr reported EMTF-6 continues to support requests for resources and personnel in response to COVID-19 surges around the state. As of 12/17/20, all EMTF-6 resources (40 total personnel) have demobilized from the El Paso surge mission.

Currently EMTF-6 has one Critical Care ambulance deployed in Laredo assisting with the transport and transfer of COVID-19 patients. This mission began 12/6 and was just recently extended to 1/21/21. Additionally, one ambulance and crew are deployed in Del Rio to assist with transport and transfer of COVID-19 patients. This mission began on 1/3/21. At the request of Baptist Beaumont Hospital, EMTF assisted with the establishment of an alternative care site at the hospital to provide for ER overflow, which reduces strain on hospital resources and provides available beds and resources to care for COVID positive patients. EMTF continues to receive and process reimbursement packages from agencies for deployments throughout 2020. The unprecedented number of packages being submitted to SETRAC and the state has resulted in some delays, but the packages are being processed as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

- **Inventory Update**

Jackson Bartlett announced there will be a 100% eyes-on inventory conducted this year. He will be scheduling a date and time with each of the facilities to conduct an inventory of both durable equipment and consumables of their preparedness stock. The overall objective is to have all inventories conducted prior to year-end, as well as all inventory reflected accurately in the WiseTrack system.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

Toni Carnie reported she has reviewed the award application and is getting to send over to the SETRAC IT Department for uploading to the website within the next couple of months. She encouraged 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-22nd (Wednesday-Friday) at the San Luis Convention Center. The planning committee will begin meeting in February 2021 to discuss the details and work on getting some of the same speakers that were planned for 2020, 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. The last meeting to finalize this regional burn surge plan is expected to be Thursday, February 18, 2021.

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>.

Regional Plan Summary

Five regional plans have been under review in 2020 and continue into Spring 2021 for finalization:

1. 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/March 2021 for input to the Regional CMIS plan changes.
2. The Regional Burn Surge Plan was created May 2020 – January 2021 and will be updated after the January 28th Tabletop Exercise (Finalize release expected 2.18.2021).
3. Red team review and plan edit meetings have been held for the Regional Emergency Public Information Plan (EPIP) 2018-2021 (Finalize release expected 2.10.2021).
4. HGAC has contractor support for updates to the Regional Interoperable Communication Plan (RIC-P) 2019-2021 (Finalize release expected 3.31.2021).
5. The Texas Medical Center (TMC) pandemic guide was re-written as an all-hazards guidance in February of 2019; however, the TMC EMC was recently replaced and follow-up is anticipated in 2021 for a projected update status.

Regional Plans Training

The next quarterly training is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th at 10am. For more information about this 1-hour quarterly regional plans webinar, please see attached flyer. Register to attend: <https://houstonuasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/>

Continuity Training

The FEMA L548 & L550 classes are being conducted, on a limited basis, by national teachings virtually until the 1301 and 1302 courses become available under the new course series in a few months. They were modified within the new program which is anticipated to roll nation-wide @ February of 2021. There is also a new National Certified Continuity Instructor Cadre, as well as other changes to the Continuity Excellence Series Certificate Program (see attached flyer for information). I have completed all the requirements to be an instructor under the new requirements and am awaiting certification confirmation from the Continuity Program leadership so that I can bring these courses to the region this summer or fall.

The course listings are:

- IS-1300: Introduction to Continuity of Operations (published online as an independent study in 10/2019 and is a requirement to attend other in-person continuity trainings)
- E/L/K 1301 Continuity Planning
- E/L/k 1302 Continuity Program Management

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Ray Higgins reported the Downtown Corridor met via “Go To” meeting on Friday, December 4th. Key reports and discussions centered around introduction of new SETRAC staff, inventory review, projected rise in COVID numbers, common issues regarding state required reporting, 2021 meeting schedule approved, and Aaron Freedkin presented on POD planning. The next Downtown Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 5th.

South Corridor – Lisa Spivey reported the South Corridor members met on Friday, November 13th with discussions regarding inventory and COVID updates. The next South Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 12th.

East Corridor – Vicki Tarnow reported the East Corridor met on Friday, December 11th with discussions regarding radio checks and COVID updates. The next East Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 15th.

North Corridor – Gary Litton reported the North Corridor met on Wednesday, December 9th, with discussions centering around COVID updates specifically the rising numbers and infection control procedures some of the hospitals are using. The next North Corridor meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th.

West Corridor – Toni Carnie reported the West Corridor continues to do well with their radio checks with over 50% compliance over the last several months. The next West Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 29th, via WebEx.

Partner Updates (C101)

DSHS Region 6/5 South – Bobbiejean Garcia reported they are conducting a vaccination clinic drill in the region.

OEM - No OEM updates reported.

SETRAC/EMS - Chris Collier reported hospitals may see EMS providers using alternative methods when transporting patients to the emergency room, in particular the hand-off process. To reduce ambulance wait time in the emergency rooms, some agencies are sending personnel to sit with the patient to allow the ambulance to go back into service.

FBI - Joel Holmes reported continued monitoring has indicated there are no known threats related to the vaccine. He advised the coalition members that everyone involved with the tragic events that occurred at the United States Capital on January 6th will be prosecuted. He asked the coalition member to contact him (directly or anonymously) if they have any information related to identifying anyone involved in the events. The FBI is also offering a \$50,000 reward for any information related to the suspicious devices (IEDs) planted at the ENT and RNT in Washington DC.

Open Discussion/Other

COVID Funding

Ms. Upton gave an update on the COVID funding advising the RHPC leadership decided to use the funding as a regional purchase for the MaxAir and all equipment. The supplies are beginning to come into the SETRAC warehouse and are being inventoried to ensure they are ready for rollout to the region if necessary.

Dialysis

There was discussion regarding the plan to facilitate dialysis treatment in the region due to staffing issues, particularly in-patient treatment. Ms. Upton reported SETRAC reached out to HHSC and the larger dialysis centers to see about waivers for the facilities to help with dialysis patients and the response was the facilities need to contract additional staff through an agency to assist with these patients.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, Ms. Carnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Holmes seconded the motion, and Dr. Schulz adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm. The next RHPC Board meeting is scheduled for Friday (March 5th) from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Attendees

Kevin Schulz, Toni Carnie, Christine Adair, Eugene Barlow, Mark Burgess, Jeanie Calvillo, Jonathan Castaneda, Kent Cavender, Guy Bertho Cayo, Christa Clifton, Michelle Collins, Angela Cone, Gary Cotton, Amanda Carruth, Dena Daniel, Kellie DeMary, Richard Engdorf, Pat Everhart, Darrell Fales, Loretta Flynn, Fanny Frederick, Aaron Freedkin, Bobbiejean Garcia, Jessica Graham, Marella Gray, Howard Hamilton, Christina Hatcher, Richard Herrera, Ray Higgins, Joel Holmes, Kevin Hunt, Kenneth Jamilosa, Katherine Jimenez, Stephen Johnson, Monique Jones, Tracy Kohler, Gloria Kologinczak, Jeremy Lamb, Michael Lambert, Evelyn Locklin, Amy Lopez, Johnny Luman, Bonnie Macius, Henry Maniego, Melanie Martin, Mike Mastrangelo, Norma Mccall, Austen McMillin, James Mitchell, Ron Nichols, Michael Nixon, Michael Olivier, Christy Paschall, Jesse Pedroza, Jody Randall, Allison Reimers, Laura Riedel, Michelle Rodriguez, April Sanders, Marie Schobel, Vicki Tarnow, Janett Teran, Allison Thomas, Ashlee Thurman, Tyler Tipton, Annette Trevino, Aaron Velasquez, Christine Wade, Tim Welch, Candace Wren, Lori Upton, Lisa Spivey, Adam Lee, Gary Litton, Chris Collier, Mikal Orr, Fidel Calvillo, John Wingate, Hilal Salami, Jackson Bartlett, Roxie Ward, Donald Morrison,