



RHPC Board Meeting
August 6, 2021
Zoom Meeting



Call to Order

Toni Carnie called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

RHPC Board Roll Call

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

Toni Carnie	Mac McClendon
Gary Cotton	<i>(on behalf of Jennifer Kiger)</i>
John Fleming	Michael Nixon
Ray Higgins	Kevin Schulz
Tom Munoz	Lydia Worthen

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Ms. Carnie requested review and approval of the May minutes. Superior Johnson (Baylor St. Luke's) made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Tom Munoz (Texas City OEM) seconded the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

New Business

• **COVID Response Update**

Lori Upton reported the COVID numbers are rising, and the facilities are being stressed. As of this morning, there were 741 people being held in emergency departments awaiting transfer. She has forwarded an email to the state requesting contract nurses be put back in place and the re-activation of the alternate care sites that were in place during the last two COVID surges. She also requested funding to increase the community paramedicine programs to assist in alleviating some of the overcrowding in the emergency departments. As of today, a response has not been received from anyone at the state level. The email also went to our ASPR representative who has shared it with the federal government and the White House. The White House has supposedly been in contact with the Governor's office. An updated email will be sent to the state again with our region's requests. Requests should be submitted through the STAR process so they can be pushed up to the state. SETRAC is also working to help open a Regional Patient Transfer Center to assist the facilities in transferring patients.

Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities

Long Term Care Update (C102)

Hilal Salami gave the following Special Populations update to the coalition members:

- SETRAC continues to onboard facilities and agencies and increase regional participation in the coalition, to include bedded facilities, home based care & hospice, federal clinics, and other non-hospital organization.
- SETRAC continues to also work with the dialysis group on regional planning and education New Texas approved bills affects group – Generator power or alternate power source (HB04132 and HB04225 and SB0612 dead),

SB1876 passed – Communicating closure and hour reduction with surrounding healthcare partners, OEM, and coalitions. Bill also states that facilities need to submit EOP plans to OEM offices and RACs, facilities, coalitions, and surrounding healthcare partners.

- COVID cases have been reported in couple of LTC facilities, still minor and in single digits but facilities have increased visitor restrictions and other partner access controls.
- TDEM letters have been received by regional HHSC offices (LTC regulatory body) and is being shared with facilities regarding funding availability through city and county jurisdictions for staffing increase assistance at their corresponding facilities. Letter directed facilities to reach out to their local OEM offices for their application and approval process to receive funding in that regard. Where prior to that, facilities that needed staffing assistance during the pandemic went through a request process with HHSC and if approved, had a STAR created for them that was filled by the state.
- Group calls continue monthly and will remain virtual through 2021, the last one was Thursday 7/22. The call included new regional information and updates, training topics, exercises, meeting schedule, and regional goals, etc.
- The digital process for submitting Coalition agreements and requesting engagement visits has been implemented and has streamlined agreement and submission data. A link to the online forms were sent out through the list serves and have been updated on the SETRAC website under the Special Populations page.
- The SETRAC region is being split into 2 Special Populations areas between myself and Kat Samuel for increased outreach and technical assistance down corridor lines with Downtown corridor shared.

Training and Exercise Update (C104)

Adam Lee reported on the following training and exercises:

- Two outstanding After-Action Reports to complete (LyondellBassell and Splashtown)
- Two Amateur Radio classes were completed in July.
- The MYTEP/IPP has been updated.
- SETRAC currently has 58 participants signed up for the Pre-Symposium TTX.
- SETRAC will be hosting MGT 439 Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness in November.
- The next Technology Training is scheduled for August 16th at 2000 and 8/23 at 0900.
- All After Action Reports are currently posted on the SETRAC website. Training is on an as-need bases and can be requested at exercise@setrac.org.

EMTF Update (C104)

Mikal Orr reported EMTF-6 has no assets or teams deployed in the region or state.

Training:

- 1 Team member sent to MEDL course May 17th-19th
- 6 team members sent to ASMT course June 15th – 16th
- Mr. Orr and Chris Collier attended the COVID 2020 AAR June 27th – 28th
- IDRU training/exercise with UTMB Galveston & Acadian EMS July 22nd

Activations:

- EMTF-6 is staffing 2 ambulances and 4 crew for a border support mission in Dilley, Texas. The SMA is for 30 days.
- Splashtown Hazmat Response – MPV 601, 603, 604 15 patients transported to MH TMC
- LyonellBassell Hazmat – MPV 601 & 603 14 patients transported to Methodist Clearlake

Meetings:

- AMBUS operators meeting on July 26th

Inventory Update

Jackson Bartlett reported SETRAC PPE Mission is transitioning to STAR only distribution effective 31 May. Final push packs will be distributed by the end of the month. SETRAC will only maintain a small stock on hand to facilitate emergency requests.

Demobilization of Durable Medical Equipment such as ventilators, IV Pumps, humidifiers, and other covid response equipment distributed by SETRAC and DSHS is ongoing. Any facility that has these items will be contacted to schedule date for demobilization. Facilities can also reach out to SETRAC Logistics if they have questions or have the covid response equipment ready for pick up.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

All application documents for the RHPC Award of Excellence are posted on the SETRAC website. The deadline to submit is August 31st and then the committee will begin reviewing the submissions.

Symposium Planning (C101)

The symposium is scheduled for October 20th – 22nd, 2021, and there are still rooms available at the Hilton. Venues for the pool reception and beach party are confirmed.

Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

The Clinical Advisory Committee continues to look for a Chair. The work plan given to the committee by the state is to focus on the burn annex, which has been completed, and infectious disease, which has also been completed apart from adjusting the regional plan as well as what has been done during the pandemic to bring it all together in to one infectious disease plan. Anyone interested in working with the committee can contact Ms. Upton at lori.upton@setrac.org.

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Ray Higgins reported the Downtown Corridor met on June 4th and discussed COVID response issues and the severe weather event. The next meeting is scheduled for October 1st depending on how this current COVID surge plays out will determine if the corridor meeting will be in-person or virtual.

South Corridor – Mike Nixon reported the July 9th South Corridor meeting was cancelled due to a severe weather event. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th.

East Corridor – Lydia Worthen announced the East Corridor met on July 23rd and discussed COVID response, meeting location sites, and increasing participation by conducting trainings at the meetings.

North Corridor – Gary Litton reported the North Corridor met on June 9th in Livingston and a presentation on the Onalaska tornado event in April 2020 presented by their hospital and EMS partners. The next meeting is scheduled for August 11th at CHI Lufkin.

West Corridor – Ms. Carnie reported the West Corridor met on July 30th. Radio checks are going well at above the 50% mark. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24th, and it is depending on this current COVID surge whether it will be an in-person or zoom meeting.

Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

Harris County Public Health Department (HCPH) – Mac McClendon reported HCPH is ramping up as the need for testing has increased to the point more staffing is required to meet the needs of the communities.

Department of State Health Service (DSHS) – Bobbiejean Garcia introduced their second HAI Epidemiology personnel in the region, Amy Tresal.

Houston Public Health Department (HPHD) –John Fleming reported HPHD is also experiencing an increase in testing numbers, even higher than before.

EMS

SETRAC– Chris Collier reported the EMS Committee is looking at saturation challenges due to overuse of the 911 system – in regard to such incidents as COVID and the Winter Storm. This is a two-fold issue: Internal disaster should

not be the workaround when hospitals are saturated because it causes a cascading event of overwhelming other hospitals, leading to additional internal disaster declarations.

Chris provided an overview of the response to Hurricane Harbor and LB incidents.

With the increasing patient loads, increasing wall times and waits – instead of blaming each other, if coalition members are having process disagreements, please to reach out to SETRAC when their having issues, the intent is not to solve your problems, but to put you in touch with the right contact or assist in coming up with a solution.

Ms. Spivey encouraged the facilities to have the appropriate staff take EMResource/EMTrack training to help minimize some of these issues. Email requests to exercise@setrac.org for day and/or evening trainings.

Fort Bend EMS – Mike Nixon reported they are working with their hospital partners trying to help them do what is best for their emergency rooms. They have a meeting with their big system next week to look at some strategies (i.e. alternate destinations, transporting patients to Free-Standing EDs, etc.).

OEM

Texas City OEM – Tom Munoz reported they conducted exercises involving the health and mental health piece. They are monitoring the COVID surge closely and have increased their TSAs. A document will be airing next week to encourage people to get vaccinated. On August 10th they are conducting a “back to school” vaccination day.

Harris County OEM – Mark Sloan reported as well as monitoring the current COVID surge, they are monitoring hurricane season as there is still that risk and threat. There are a few storms moving off the coast of Africa. The National Hurricane Service and Hurricane Center are still expecting a very active hurricane season. As the region continues to monitor the COVID situation, we cannot drop our guard to our preparedness for the continuing hurricane season which peaks on September 10th.

Sugar Land OEM – Gabe Lavine advised of a training opportunity for EMS agencies coming out August 16th to August 21st. This winter/early January they will be conducting a full-scale exercise with the hospitals.

Mayor’s Office of Homeland Security Public Safety – Austen McMillin announced Mark Rayne is the acting EOC for the City of Houston until the new EOC starts soon.

VA OEM – Danny Shine (Area Emergency Manager) stated he is the NDMS/FTC Coordinator for the region, and he is also the person to contact for partner/hospital MOAs. He can be reached by email at danny.shine@va.gov and/or by phone at 713-794-8492. There are currently 51 MOAs standing and they are working on the NDMS tabletop exercise AAR.

The Veterans’ Patient Transfer Center phone number is 713-794-7109 with hours from 0800 to 1630, and after business hours the calls are switched to their Medical Administrative Assistant at 713-791-1414, x-23808 or x-23809.

Open Discussion/Other

RHPC Board EMS Vacancy

Ms. Spivey announced the RHPC Board EMS position is open. To nominate someone within an EMS agency, please contact Ms. Upton at lori.upton@setrac.org.

Philips Trilogy 300 Ventilator

Ms. Spivey stated SETRAC received notice that the Philips Trilogy 300 ventilator is on recall. Facilities should begin looking at what they have on-hand while SETRAC works on getting more information on the recall.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, Ms. Carnie adjourned the meeting at 2:24 pm. The next RHPC Board meeting will be at the 2021 Annual Preparedness Coalition Symposium at the San Luis Convention Center in Galveston on October 20th-22nd. The last RHPC meeting of the year will be held on November 1st with the location or Zoom meeting to be announced.

Attendees

Kevin Schulz, Toni Carnie, A. Aleman, Charles Akers, Leobardo Alfaro, Bryce Allen, Jason Baumgarten, Simone Boulet, Kiska Boyd, Bethany Brown, Lydia Broussard, Jim Bunch, Erin Cain, Amanda Carruth, Jonathan Castaneda, Janett Teran Chavez, Christa Clifton, Jen Cole, Kenneth Coleman, Angela Cone, Lesa Cordova, Gary Cotton, Christie Cranek, Cynthia Crespo-Bonaparte, Matthew Diaz, Richard Dunn, Richard Engdorf, David Engel, Darrell Fales, John Fleming, Loretta Flynn, Fanny Frederick, Aaron Freedkin, Loretta Flynn, Bobbiejean Garcia, Chelsea Gardens, Kim Garrett, Rosemarie George, Kristine Gerlich, LaShonda Giddins, John Gomolka, Jessica Graham, Brent Hahn, Mary Ann Hajovsky, Tammy Hall, Kyle Hamilton, Lashanda Hampton, Jonathan House, Jason Kendall, Douglas Kingsbury, Kenneth Jamilosa, Trameka Jewett, Superior Johnson, Melissa Kleinsmith, LaShonda Giddins, John Gomolka, Paul Johnson, Monique Jones, Dylan Lancaster, Gabriel Lavine, Sandra Leyva, Evelyn Locklin, Amy Lopez, Johnny Luman, Bonnie Macius, Mike Mastrangelo, Arnie McBee, Norma McCall, Mac McClendon, Austen McMillin, Libby Mehrens, Tom Munoz, Ira Nemeth, Michael Nixon, Michael Oliver, Jesse Pedroza, Tanya Phillips, Michael Olivier, Alfonso Ortiz, Kord Quintero, Jody Randall, Allison Reimers, Anthony Robinson, Elaine Roberts, Michelle Rodriguez, Tina Rose, Elizabeth Rothrock, April Sanders, Tammy Sanderson, Tony Scharp, Chris Sermarini, Mark Sloan, Andrew Smith, Vicki Tarnow, Khalliah Thomas, Ashlee Thurman, David Tijerina, Tyler Tipton, Annie Trostel, Joshua Vaught, Aaron Velasquez, Heather Walters, Tim Welch, Thomas Wilbur, Justin Williams, Dawn Wood, Hashim Zaidi, Lori Upton, Lisa Spivey, Mikal Orr, Chris Collier, Hilal Salami, Fidel Calvillo, Grace Farquhar, Adam Lee, Jackson Bartlett