



RHPC Board Meeting

March 4, 2022
Zoom Meeting



Call to Order

Dr. Keven 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	Jennifer Kiger
Gary Cotton	Tom Munoz
John Fleming	Michael Nixon
Ray Higgins	Kevin Schulz
Joel Holmes	Sean Simmonds
	Lydia Worthen

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Dr. Schulz requested review and approval of the January minutes. John Fleming (Houston Health Department) made a motion to approve the minutes as written, the motion was seconded, and the coalition members carried the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

New Business

- **HPP Amendments**

The HPP Amendments have been sent out and are extended for two (2) years through June 30, 2024. The deadline to return the signed amendments is April 29th. Any facilities that need to send the amendment through their legal department, should contact Lisa Spivey at lisa.spivey@setrac.org to request an extension.

Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities

Long Term Care Update (C102)

Fidel Calvillo reported SETRAC continues to onboard facilities and agencies to increase regional participation in the coalition. A Stakeholders meeting was held on February 9th where Stakeholder Group Objectives were reviewed as follows:

- Covid update provided; continue to discuss the RHPC symposium and request for speakers and submission for the Award of Excellence.
- Presentation by Corey Naranjo on the DNR campaign to assist facilities in educating nursing staff to provide DNR orders during transport.
- City of Houston Public Health and Harris County Public health presented on their COVID nursing home initiatives.
- Exercise planning committee had been finalized schedule to meet March 8.
- Exercise tentative for May 11.
- FSEDs meeting held February 9.

- Covid update provided; RHPC symposium discussed and requesting speakers from this group.
- John Wingate provided an overview and update on the Burn Surge exercise.
- EMResource training will be on going.
- Continue to meet with stakeholders and getting them familiar with SETRAC.
- Boot Camp discussions have been on going. One scheduled for May 4. Two others pending dates. NAB hours have been approved for the boot camps.
- Providing support to leadership for planning initiatives.

The Stakeholders meeting was held on March 9, 2021, at 10:00 am, and the FSED meeting was held on March 9th at 2:00 pm.

Training and Exercise Update (C104)

Carrie Cox reported the Medical Response and Surge Exercise was completed on Saturday the 5th of February. If your agency or Organization participated in this exercise you can download a copy for the After-Action Report from our website <https://www.setrac.org/after-action-reports/>.

The RHPC annual exercise is scheduled for April 12, 2022, this exercise will be based on a Regional Burn Surge Incident affecting our region. Additional information on this exercise will be distributed as it becomes available. Interested agencies and facilities can register for participation by completing the extent of play at <https://forms.setrac.org/213395157701859>.

A HAM Radio class on is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Follow this link to register for this session - <https://forms.setrac.org/211615782884868>. The Medical Preparedness & Response for Bombing Incidents is for emergency response personnel, as well as other stakeholders who might respond to a bombing incident. This course will be held in the SETRAC conference center on July 26th-27th.

EMTF Update (C104)

Mikal Orr reported on the following EMTF activities:

Current Missions:

- AST Border Support in Dilley Texas – 1 Ambulance crew operating on this mission from EMTF-6. SMA is through 1/14/22.
- AST 911 Support in Chambers County – 2 MICU crews arrive on 1/7/22 up to 7-day mission. Covid exposures have resulted in short staffing of Chambers County’s EMS system.

Past Missions:

- MPV 6-01 completed transfer of fifteen patients from a home health facility to three regional hospitals on 1/5/22.

Training/Meetings:

- EMTF Workgroup and Coordinator meetings scheduled for 1/25 & 1/26 in San Antonio – due to Covid restrictions, these meetings may be rescheduled or, potentially, held virtually.
- The 2022 EMTF training, meeting, and exercise calendar is tentatively complete. This calendar will remain fluid, again, due to Covid restrictions and scheduling conflicts. Once approved, the Calendar will be distributed to EMTF partners and leadership.
- As we move through this year, there will be training/mentorship opportunities during planned events and some activations. These opportunities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and approved by SETRAC leadership. Also, such opportunities will be on a volunteer basis and not eligible for reimbursement.

New/Future Business:

- Considerable work/planning needed to re-engage and develop our EMTF program components.

Training/Exercises:

1. Four personnel attended the MIST Initial course during the Preparedness Symposium.
2. Developing a training/meeting schedule for 2022 – MMU, AMBUS, RNST.
3. Strong need to build our RNST membership – any hospital systems interested can email me for additional information.

4. Also focusing on the development of our Wildland Support Teams.

Inventory Update

Kyle Ericksen reported the following inventory update:

Logistics/Inventory Update:

- Continuing to conduct annual HPP inventory at all facilities throughout the region.
 - Coordinate the inventory inspection through respective coordinator.
 - No inventory will be removed.
 - This is just an annual requirement to lay eyes on inventory and update the list of any items that have reached end of life or are no longer usable.
- All state issued Durable Medical Equipment deployed during the COVID Response will be picked up and returned to DSHS over the coming weeks/months.
 - This can be completed in conjunction with the inventory inspection or on a separate date (whichever works better for the facility).
 - Coordinate the DME pickup via coordinator and/or myself.
- All questions regarding inventory inspection or DME can be routed to me at kyle.ericksen@setrac.org or via phone at 832-849-7314.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

Toni Carnie reported the Award of Excellence application should be posted on the SETRAC website by Monday (3/7) for everyone to begin completing and submitting their information.

Symposium Planning (C101)

Ms. Upton advised the symposium registration opened on March 1st. The Platinum and Gold sponsors are confirmed, and efforts are underway to secure meals and booth sponsors. She reminded the coalition members to mark their calendars for November 2nd-4th. Anyone with recommendations/suggestions for speakers should forward that information to Lisa Spivey at lisa.spivey@setrac.org.

Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

Ms. Upton reported there is no update at this time; however, the committee is looking for additional leadership to assist in reviewing the Infectious Disease Plan along with the Ebola Response Plan to combine it into one plan.

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Ray Higgins reported the Downtown Corridor met via Zoom on Friday, February 4th. Discussion centered about the demobilization of state nurses, DSHS reporting requirements, and WebEOC/EMResource training. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 1st, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the SETRAC conference center with a conference call option.

South Corridor – Mike Nixon reported the South Corridor met in November and discussed the upcoming 2022 symposium and HPP agreements. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 11th, via Zoom and there will be discussion about returning to in-person meetings.

East Corridor – Lydia Worthen reported the East Corridor met on January 14th via Zoom with discussion around EMResource training. They are working on a unified community outreach event with the regions' EMS providers and fire partners. Once the strategy is in place for the event, they will be reaching out to everyone else to participate. There is a Southeast Texas Disaster Expo scheduled for April 27th and SETRAC will have a few assets on display. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 18th, in-person with location to be announced shortly.

North Corridor – Gary Litton reported the North Corridor met on February 9th in-person at the Lufkin Civic Center and an in-depth review of the Regional Burn Surge Plan was conducted in preparation of the Burn Surge Exercise scheduled for February 12th. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13th at Tyler County Hospital.

West Corridor – Ms. Carnie reported the West Corridor met on January 28th with discussion surrounding EMResource training and HPP agreements. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25th, to be held in-person at the SETRAC conference room from 9:00 to 11:00 am, but this information is to be confirmed and the meeting invite will be updated to reflect either an in-person or via Zoom meeting.

Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) – Jennifer Kiger reported HCPH continues to monitor the COVID cases, and she noted the numbers across the county and region are declining. They continue to work with their congregate settings and schools that have the lowest vaccination rate for their ages. They are reviewing the changes in the CDC Masking Guidance and hope to have the latest information for the community next week. The HCPH staff continue to attend trainings and exercises.

DSHS 6/5 South - James Meaux announced there are a couple of positions open in their department. They are working on Chempack updates and developing a Chempack sharing process.

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center – Danny Shine reported on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) status and NDMS hospitals readiness. The new NDMS agreement is to be shared with the hospitals soon. The next NDMS drill is scheduled for March 10th.

Houston Health Department (HHD) –John Fleming reiterated Ms. Kiger’s update and reported on the COVID status in the Houston area. He announced there will be a new Bio-Safety Director replacement coming soon.

OEM

City of Houston (COH) – Tom Munoz reported the Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) Week is being held in Houston next week. There is a medical plan in place along with safe houses should anything happen. The COH will be monitoring the rodeo events closely. They have posted and are in the process of hiring a Mass Care Planner. Mr. Munoz announced the upcoming Special Populations Boot Camp for the COH is scheduled for May 11th. The COH, Harris County, and SETRAC are partnering together to host a Family Assistance and Communications Workshop. The COH Evacuation Exercise is scheduled for May 4th.

Harris County OEM (HCOEM) – Mark Sloan reported the COVID numbers continue to decline, and Harris County is on Day 747 of COVID activation at Level 2. This level should decrease within the next seven to ten days should the numbers continue to decline. HCOEM is at Level 3 monitoring rodeo events closely. Hurricane season is 89 days away (June 1st) and it is never too early to prepare. Mr. Sloan stressed the importance of “Operation Upshield” (developed for cyber protection) which is especially significant during the current events in Ukraine and Russia. Facilities should be alert and contact their local OEM and the FBI in the event of any cyber-attack/event. Due to President Putin’s nuclear threat, HCOEM has received numerous questions about bomb shelters. Mr. Sloan advised the coalition members bomb shelters do not exist in Harris County or the Houston area; therefore, he recommends directing any of these questions to your city or county OEM.

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County – Richard Herrera reported their CEO is retiring this month, and they will continue to support their partners with the same structure as currently setup.

EMS

Montgomery County Hospital District (MCHD) – Sean Simmonds reported they are working closely with SETRAC on MCI guidelines, drills, and plans for better communication during events. The MCI Multiregional Drill is coming up involving SETRAC resources, Ambuses, and additional partners. They are also working on a network of safety officers (fire, police, etc.) to include in the exercise.

Fort Bend County EMS – Mike Nixon reported Fort Bend County EMS is working on training and drills. They participated in the CCTA drills in February and continue to stay busy working through staff shortages.

SETRAC - Chris Collier gave a brief update on the recent residential boarding home incidents. Harris and Fort Bend Counties to step-up enforcement of residential boarding/group homes not up to standard. When it becomes necessary to close these homes, SETRAC is then in a position of having to transfer and find placement for the residence. SETRAC is working with the HCFMO and Harris County SO task force to educate and provide resources to Hospitals and EMS providers on how to verify a boarding/group home currently meeting standards and holds proper permits. More information to follow as these programs are developed.

City of Houston Fire Department – Dr. Schulz thanked the participating agencies for their support during the LBJ ER fire evacuation.

Other Partners

FBI – Joel Holmes gave an overview of the Russia/Ukraine cyber risks to the United States and reiterated the importance of having cyber plans in place. They are hosting a Radiological Fundamentals Webinar with their Department of Energy (DOE) partners on April 5th. Information will go out to their partners shortly regarding the high-level radiological tabletop scheduled for August 2022. These trainings will roll-up into a 2023 full-functional exercise “Operational Prominent Hunt” with the Department of Defense (DOD), FEMA, and Health and Human Services (HHS).

Open Discussion/Other

HPP Budget

Ms. Upton reported SETRAC will be submitting a draft budget to DSHS which will again be flat funded.

COVID Data

Ms. Upton announced SETRAC is working on an upgrade to the COVID data posted on the website. This will help users sort data easier and by county.

Super Crack

Ms. Upton received a call from the Austin RAC advising they are seeing escalations in the drug, super crack. The Austin hospitals are receiving these patients and they are ineffective with Narcan. Austin is concerned about the South by Southwest event, and Ms. Upton advised our hospitals to be aware especially with the rodeo in town.

Sheltering Challenges/Medical Messaging Task Force

Ms. Upton updated the coalition members on the focus group’s meeting with the parents of medically fragile children with rare disease. The parents gave the focus group great feedback on messaging stating the last place they want to be is in the hospital or at a shelter.

RHPC Chair/Co-Chair Nominations

Ms. Spivey announced the current RHPC Chair/Co-Chair terms are expiring soon. SETRAC will gather nominations the first part of May and send the nominations out the last two weeks in May, with the elections being held in June. The elected Chairs/Co-Chairs will be announced directly following the elections and will begin their new term on the ASPR start date of July 1, 2022.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, Dr. Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Sloan (Harris County OEM) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm. The next RHPC Board meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2022, in the SETRAC conference center (1111 North Loop West, Suite 160, Houston, Texas 77008).

Attendees

Kevin Schulz, Bryce Allen, Kristopher Barnes, Michael Briscoe, Kiska Boyd, Lasandra Brown, James Campbell, Toni Carnie, Christa Clifton, Cynthia Crespo-Bonaparte, Angela Cone, Gary Cotton, John Fleming, Loretta Flynn, Fanny Frederick, Jared Granberry, David Garrett, Kristine Gerlich, John Gomolka, Christy Gonzales, Christine Hatcher, Alton Henderson, Richard Herrera, Ray Higgins, Joel Holmes, Jonathan House, Kevin Hunt, Rosaline Igbokwe, Robert Jackson, Kenneth Jamilosa, Monique Jones, Jennifer Kiger, Douglas Kingsbury, Dylan Lancaster, Adam Lee, Evelyn Locklin, Amy Lopez, Gabriella Lopez, Kiley Mann, Mike Mastrangelo, Nancy Mathew, N. McCall, Austen McMillin, James Meaux, Andrea Medina, Tom Munoz, Sarina Nickel, Michael Nixon, Michael Olivier, Alfonso Ortiz, Ebony Pardue, John Pasquier, Tanya Phillips, Kord Quintero, Tony Scharp, Danny Shine, Sean Simmonds, Andrew Smith, Vicki Tarnow, Tyler Tipton, Aaron Velasquez, Andrea Warren, Christina Watkins, Sharon Whitley, Andre Whitney, Michael Wilcox, Dawn Wood, Justin Woodruff, Lydia Worthen, Lori Upton, Lisa Spivey, Chris Collier, Gary Litton, Carrie Cox, Fidel Calvillo, Mikal Orr, Kat Samuel, Kyle Ericksen, Jason Nolin, Clayton Ehrlich, Roxie Ward