



Chairman	David Persse, MD
Vice Chair-Hospital Services	Tom Flanagan
Vice Chair-PreHospital Services	James Campbell
Secretary	Walter Morrow, RN, CFRN, EMT-P
Treasurer	Lon Squyres
Officer-at-Large	Brent Kaziny, MD, MA
Chief Executive Officer	Lori Upton

**SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council (Trauma Service Area Q)**  
*Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller and Wharton Counties*

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**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Dr. David Persse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The meeting was held in-person at the SETRAC Conference Center. Walter Morrow called roll and a quorum was established.

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Dr. Persse welcomed the board members and the stakeholders in attendance. No special guests were in attendance for this meeting.

**3. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Flanagan had no items to report.

**4. OFFICER REPORTS**

**A. Chairman**

Dr. Persse reported that while the pandemic is not entirely over, COVID hospitalizations, wastewater samples, and positivity rates are down. Although not a new variant, COVID numbers are increasing in Europe and Australia had a severe flu season. Pediatric hospitals in our region have ICUs filled with flu patients. This flu season can have a large impact on our hospitals and EMS systems which makes SETRAC's ability to facilitate coordination even more important.

Dr. Persse recommended to everyone to be familiar with the regional RETA plan as well as their own agency / emergency department plans as the number of Ebola cases are rising in Uganda and can be transmitted by others who may be traveling to and from Uganda.

**B. Vice Chair Hospital Services**

Mr. Flanagan led a discussion on the use of Pulsara among hospital and EMS systems. Many hospitals and EMS systems are currently using the platform for communication regarding incoming cardiac patients. An ad hoc subcommittee will be formed among the hospital representatives of the board to discuss the use of Pulsara and determine if there is a consensus for recommending the use of the platform in the SETRAC region.

In January 2023, the state will require patients brought to an acute care facility via a 911 provider to have a specific wristband applied for patient tracking. The numbered wristband must stay on the patient until the patient is discharged from the facility. At this time, the wristbands are written into the trauma rules and reference its use for stroke patients as well. Facilities with a trauma registry will need to upgrade their registry to record the patient tracking number from the wristband. Mr. Flanagan will convene a call with Dr. Persse, Dr. Marc Boom, and Ms. Erin Asprek to persuade the state to delay the timing of implementing the wristband initiative. Mr. Flanagan encouraged board members to have their executives and colleagues reach out to their Texas Hospital Association (THA) representatives to encourage more

time for hospitals and agencies to prepare for the implementation of the initiative. A subcommittee will be formed to continue the discussion of this initiative.

Mr. Flanagan made a request to the board to approve:

- the creation of a medical directors committee, made of medical directors selected by each of the SETRAC Emergency Healthcare System committees, to serve as an advisory role to committee chairs, be the point person for any quality improvement referrals to that committee, and serve on the RHPC Clinical Advisory Committee.
- a revision to the bylaws to change the at-large position representing facilities to a position that would represent a jurisdiction.

**C. Vice Chair Pre-Hospital Services**

James Campbell reported that major items for EMS are the afore mentioned Pulsara and Texas wristband initiatives and EMS education, recruitment and retention.

**D. Secretary**

Mr. Morrow had no items to report.

**E. Officer-at-Large Report**

Dr. Brent Kaziny announced that a 1-year, \$3 million grant from ASPR has been received to create a Pediatric Disaster Care Center of Excellence. The Gulf Seven Pediatric Disaster Network (G7) will be a joint project with Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, and other facilities along the Gulf Coast. SETRAC is one of the funded partners in the grant.

**F. Treasurer Report**

Lon Squyres provided an overview of the printed financial reports that were given to the board. The report shows the County Pass Thru 2022 funding has 9.7% of funds remaining as of August 31<sup>st</sup>; however, the grant has been fully spent as of this meeting. The general fund had a negative net revenue for year due to an unplanned, one-time expense of \$250,000. Otherwise, the general fund is still doing well overall.

Mr. Squyres commended Michelle Maynor, Tiffany Walker, and Ms. Upton for their assistance with the financials since the departure of the SETRAC comptroller, Donald Morrison.

**5. EXECUTIVE REPORT**

A written report was provided by Lori Upton to the board. Highlights include:

- Linh Tran, CPA, has been contracted on a short-term basis to assist the finance department with reviewing the finances for the past two years. Ms. Tran has helped extricate Maestro Services from SETRAC. A tax attorney assisted with the filing of federal tax returns for Maestro Services and it was determined that Maestro Services currently owes approximately \$15,000 in back taxes, fines, and penalties. The organization has the income to cover the debt and will not affect SETRAC. All books, taxes, and accounts are now in order.
- It is anticipated that the trauma rules for the state will be opened for formal public comment in March 2023.
- A page has been created on the SETRAC website for the EMS Education Fund. A form of eligibility will be created. Over 75 inquiries have been received. A committee will be created to review the contracts and applications and a part-time worker may be hired to assist with the applications and communicate with the EMS agencies.

- The allocation for this year's EMS / County Funds grant has once again decreased. The funds are weighted heavily toward rural counties according to the state legislature. The only way to change the allocation is through the legislature. The state has also found 100,000 of the reported runs for the region have bounced back and they are working with the affected agency to rectify the issue.
- SETRAC reached out to a tax firm to get a credit back on payroll taxes due to a state order regarding COVID and it was determined that SETRAC is eligible for all five quarters due to the normal course of business being drastically altered.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Prior Meeting Minutes

There being no further discussion or objections, the board approved the minutes as presented.

### B. Reports (Officer, Finance, and Executive)

There being no further discussion or objections, the board approved the reports as presented.

### C. Resolutions and/or Other Action Items

#### a. *Creation of the Medical Directors Committee*

There being no further discussion or objections, the board approved the creation of the Medical Directors Committee.

#### b. *Revision to Article 3 in SETRAC Bylaws concerning At-Large position for "Facilities" (Sections 3.2.4 and 3.5.4)*

There being no further discussion or objections, the board approved the revision to the At-Large position to represent a jurisdiction instead of facilities.

## 7. GENERAL / OPEN DISCUSSION

No items were presented for discussion.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Persse adjourned the general board meeting at 7:20 pm. The board held an executive session following the conclusion of the meeting.

SETRAC Board - Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

*W. Morrow*