



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 January 23, 2023

#### 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 as well as special guest, Dinah Welsh, TETAF President and CEO.

#### 3. OFFICER REPORTS

##### A. Chairman

Dr. Persse reported that Lori Upton was offered and accepted the SETRAC CEO position. Ms. Upton previously served as the Interim CEO.

Dr. Persse also reported that the viral season has passed; however, the region remains ready to respond should the numbers rise again and continues its focus on heart attacks, strokes, trauma, perinatal, and pediatric illnesses.

##### B. Vice Chair Hospital Services

Tom Flanagan shared that the wrist band requirement discussed at the October meeting has been delayed to June 2024.

Mr. Flanagan provided an update on the Pulsara topic that was discussed during the October meeting. In order for the region to use Pulsara as a communication platform, all hospitals and EMS agencies in the SETRAC region will need to agree to use the application. A meeting will be held with hospital system representatives and additional information will be presented at the April meeting. Mr. Flanagan reiterated that the region would continue to use EM Track for MCI events (not the Pulsara MCI component) and that SETRAC is not a rule-making entity.

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

James Campbell reported that EMS continues to discuss the Texas wristband initiative.

**D. Secretary**

Mr. Morrow had no items to report.

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

Dr. Brent Kaziny had no items to report.

**F. Treasurer Report**

Lon Squyres provided an overview of the printed financial reports that were given to the board. Mr. Squyres stated that SETRAC is in a good financial position and that grants are currently being spent out according to plan.

Two of the investment accounts were moved into a longer-term account and is accruing a higher interest rate. SETRAC currently has a net revenue of \$32,308 for the fiscal year.

**4. EXECUTIVE REPORT**

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

- A business plan was presented and approved by the board which includes:
  - Creation of 3 new positions:
    - Director of Business Operations
    - EMS Coordinator – Clayton Ehrlich, who currently serves as the TSA-Q Coordinator, has accepted the position and will begin February 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Clinical Director for Trauma/Pediatrics – Suzanne Curran has accepted the position and will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Chief Financial Officer position and TSA-Q Coordinator position will be eliminated.
- An annual report was created and distributed to the board members. Carrie Cox (Regional Training and Exercise Coordinator) worked with Ms. Upton to produce the report and will work with Jeremiah Williamson (Director of Information Technology) to have the annual report accessible electronically.
- SETRAC received \$255,000 in donations during the Giving Tuesday campaign held in November.
- The first round of funds from the grant for EMS education (Senate Bill 8) has been received. The program has over 200 inquiries and around 35 active applications in this region.
- Separate initial meetings were held with mental health officials and law enforcement to address possible solutions to the number of mental health patients that are brought to acute care hospital emergency departments. Future meetings will include acute care facilities and a meeting with STRAC to learn more about their Mental Health EDO program.
- RAC leadership met with the Interim Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Dr. Jennifer Shuford, regarding the value of RACs. Dr. Shuford shared her respect for RACs and support for appropriate funding. TETAF is working with legislators and the state health department on RAC funding.
- SETRAC has confirmed that the age for pediatric patients according to the GETAC Trauma Committee is less than 15 years of age. The SETRAC trauma plan and future reporting will need to adjust pediatric information accordingly.
- Trauma Rules will be adjusted to reflect that only trauma patients will need to have Texas wristbands. The EMS Rules will be adjusted accordingly when the rules come up for review after the Trauma Rules go into effect.

- 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 2020. Another meeting will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss eligibility for the credit that carried over into 2021.
- COVID numbers are increasing in the region; however, the increase is not as significant as prior waves.
- **Preparedness and Response** – Chris Collier and Lisa Spivey provided the following update:
  - Coordinators are reengaging with stakeholders through meetings, trainings, and exercises.
  - Ms. Spivey and Mr. Collier were invited to participate in a behavioral assessment team headed by Texas Department of Public Safety, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, and local behavioral facilities with hospital and EMS partners to join at a later time. The purpose of the team will learn to identify threats early, notify location and facilities, and respond accordingly.
  - A listing of real-world incidents from 10/1/2022 to current was provided to board members.
  - The end-of-year survey was sent to stakeholders. Results of the survey will be used to assist SETRAC in determining what type of trainings to bring to the region as well as facility needs.
  - Regional boot camps are being scheduled for special population facilities as well as a full exercise to prepare for hurricane season.
  - Over 200 agencies participated in December's "Off-the-Grid" drill.
  - The annual regional functional exercise is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> and SETRAC will participate in the state hurricane evacuation exercise in May.
- **Emergency Healthcare Systems** – Tonya Carter provided the following update:
  - Elections for committee leaders were held in January.
  - All committees are discussing which data metrics are not captured in their respective hospital registries that they would like to collect from EMS.
  - The main focus of the Perinatal Committee is to help hospitals fully understand the maternal rules that went into effect in January. The Breastmilk at Discharge QI workgroup awarded nine hospitals for their overall improvement in babies receiving mother's own milk at discharge. Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) trainings are continuing around the region.
  - The Cardiac Committee is developing a regional cardiac plan. A regional collaboration will take with the Stop-the-Bleed program to combine CPR and bleeding control trainings.
  - Regional wake-up strokes and rehab utilization is being studied by the Stroke Committee.
  - Recent trauma data shows an increase in the number of pediatric firearm injuries occurring by firearms. The Trauma Committee will collaborate with the Pediatric Committee to further review this data. A trauma registrar workshop will take place in the fall at SETRAC.
  - The Injury Prevention Committee continues to push Tai Chi classes to assist in the prevention of falls among the older population in the region.
  - The recent ASPR grant and collaborations with other committees is the focus of the Pediatric Committee.
  - SETRAC continues to work with national registries to obtain patient level data (without PHI) to assist committees with better information to review the regional system of care.

## 5. GUEST PRESENTATION – TETAF INITIATIVES

Dinah Welsh, TETAF President and CEO, provided an update on the initiatives of TETAF during this legislative session which include:

- Preserving and increasing funding for Regional Healthcare Systems.

- Increasing funding for Regional Advisory Councils.
- Improving and funding statewide health data collection efforts.
- Establishing a statewide perinatal database.
- Improving efforts focused on the health care workforce shortage.

## 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. *Approval of revised SETRAC Bylaws*

Revisions to the bylaws, as discussed during the October meeting, were presented to the board for approval. Revisions include:

- the creation of the Medical Directors Committee
- revision to Article 3 concerning the At-Large position for "Facilities" (Sections 3.2.4 and 3.5.4)
- formatting and grammatical changes

The purpose of the creation of the Medical Director position for each service line was reviewed. There being no further discussion or objections, the board approved the revisions to the bylaws.

#### b. *Approval of elected leaders for Emergency Healthcare Systems committees*

Elections were recently held for leadership of the service line committees in accordance with the SETRAC bylaws. The list of elected leaders was presented to the board for approval.

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

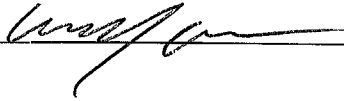
## 7. GENERAL / OPEN DISCUSSION

Mark Sloan made the following announcements:

- Big City Emergency Managers will host a meeting of 16 jurisdictions this fall. Ms. Upton has been invited to speak to the directors about RACs and their involvement as a coordinating body for mass casualty incidents at an event Big City Emergency Managers.
- Five new subcommittees have been created as part of TEMAC's response committee. RAC representation will be needed.
- The next major events taking place in the region are the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the NCAA Men's Final Four basketball tournament.
- Extremely high winds are expected on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Most impacts will be south of I-10 and eastern Texas. Emergency transport personnel should use caution in case of flooding and tornadic activity.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Persse adjourned the general board meeting at 7:50 pm.

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