



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

Board Meeting Minutes July 17, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Dr. David Persse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. The meeting was held in-person at the SETRAC Conference Center. Walter Morrow, Secretary, 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. This meeting serves as the annual meeting for the SETRAC Board.

3. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Dr. Persse and Mr. Morrow reported on behalf of Tom Flanagan who was unable to attend the meeting.

Dean Casburn has resigned as the board representative for Walker County. In his place, the county judge for Walker County, Colt Christian, has nominated Rachel Parker, EMS Director – Walker County EMS, to serve on the SETRAC board.

In accordance with the SETRAC bylaws, five of the occupied board of director positions will expire as of this meeting. Nominations have been received for the following to serve a new three-year term which will go into effect following this meeting:

- Houston Methodist Hospital System – Wayne Voss
- Texas Children's Hospital – Dr. Brent Kaziny
- Austin County – Walter Morrow
- Harris County – Justin Reed
- Wharton County – Christy Gonzales

One additional position, At-Large #2, is currently vacant. Lon Squyres has been nominated to serve in this position for a three-year term.

In accordance with the SETRAC bylaws, two of the board officer terms will expire as of this meeting. Nominations have been received for the following to serve a new three-year term which will go into effect following this meeting:

- Treasurer – Lon Squyres
- Vice Chairman of Pre-Hospital Services – James Campbell

4. **OFFICER REPORTS**

A. **Chairman**

Dr. Persse had no items to report.

B. **Vice Chair Hospital Services**

There were no items to report on Mr. Flanagan's behalf.

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

James Campbell reported that the EMS Committee has new leadership for 2023-2025 and goals have been set for the committee. Several legislative updates have been passed during the past session that will impact the region including the continuation of Senate Bill 8 (SB 8) and transporting of patients in fire trucks, of which GETAC has put together a subcommittee to review verbiage regarding the protocols.

D. **Secretary**

Mr. Morrow had no items to report.

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

Dr. Brent Kaziny was unable to attend the meeting. There were no items to report on his behalf.

F. **Treasurer Report**

Lon Squyres provided an overview of the printed financial reports that were given to the board. Mr. Squyres stated that accounts are being spent as scheduled and expected with no concerns.

The expenditure report indicates a variance on ASPR grants as of June 30th; however, these funds have been expensed out as of this meeting.

The number of financial accounts has been reduced from 8 accounts to 6 accounts, 3 of which are investment accounts that are earning a decent amount of interest.

Due to a couple of unexpected expenses, the unrestricted net asset is a negative amount. Additional money will be added due to the COVID payroll tax credit.

An application for a refund for payroll taxes paid during COVID has been submitted.

5. **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

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

- The Texas Legislature approved DSHS's additional request for \$6.6 million for RACs to assist with clinical initiatives. These funds will be divided evenly among all RACs, of which SETRAC will receive \$150,000 to cover clinical expenses.
- The HPP program will continue to see flat-line funding. SETRAC has not yet been notified on the actual budget. The draft budgets approved during the last board meeting will be submitted before the end of the month and will be readjusted as necessary when notification of the actual amount of funding is received.

- Troy Erbenbraut has been hired as the new SETRAC Director of Emergency Services and Response and will be starting at SETRAC on August 7th.
- SETRAC is conducting interviews for the final two candidates for the full-time accounting/comptroller position.
- Three out of five payments have been received for the COVID tax credits filed with Synergy. The total amount requested is about \$750,000 and will be applied to the general fund.
- There is approximately \$1 million available in funds for the SB 8 grant. To date, 77 scholarships have been funded.
- Maestro is holding steady at \$90,000 and the general operating fund for the SETRAC Foundation is at \$303,677.
- Participation for clinical meetings is currently set at 6 meetings per year (3 for the specific committee and 3 from any other SETRAC meeting.) The RAC rules are being changed from facility attendance to now including trauma medical directors and program managers for facilities are being required to attend for trauma participation. SETRAC will provide Zoom availability for clinical meetings, with the exception of data meetings which will be in-person only. Anyone attending a meeting via Zoom will need to have their cameras turned on. Meeting minutes will now include the names of attendees.
- Dr. David Weisoly and Dr. Eugene Toy from the Perinatal Committee have put together a 2-part video on placenta accreta spectrum disorder. The video will be made available on the SETRAC learning management system. CEs and CMEs will be available.
- The stroke level designations in EMResource will be changed so they match the state designations.
- The SETRAC IT department continues to mitigate attacks on our IT system. Between May 5th and May 11th, seven email accounts were targeted at a rate of about 26.9 thousand login attempts daily.
- **Preparedness and Response** – Lisa Spivey and Chris Collier provided the following update:
 - The SETRAC team has been dedicated to enhancing trainings and shifting toward more in-person meetings, maintained collaboration with adult protective services, and successfully finalized the Regional Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) with active participation from all five corridors. The final Regional HVA document can be accessed on the SETRAC website.
 - For 2023, a “Back to the Basics” overview began to ensure all stakeholders are familiar with the standard processes and resources available during a disaster.
 - The team has met with rural county judges and EMCs to provide program updates.
 - The training and exercise team completed the spring radiological exercise with over 100 facilities and agencies participating in tabletop exercises and over 65 agencies and facilities participating in the functional exercise.
 - Fidel Calvillo, Special Populations Coordinator, completed five boot camps in all five corridors. The next round of boot camps, targeted for special populations facilities are being planned.
 - Resources and staff were provided for the Pride Parade and multiple 4th of July celebrations. A cooling station was set-up for the Nacogdoches festival.
 - SETRAC assets were recently displayed in our North Corridor (Nacogdoches) and will be displayed in other corridors as well.
 - SETRAC staff participated in a G7 exercise at Texas Children’s Hospital functional exercise.
 - On June 24th, John Wingate, Training and Exercise Coordinator, responded to TCH West to assist with decon operations with staff in response to a real-world event.
- **Emergency Healthcare Systems** – Melanie Aluotto and Suzanne Curran provided the following update:
 - The Stroke Committee is developing a boot camp for new data abstractors and stroke coordinators. Dr. Rao is focusing on gaps in thrombolytics and thrombectomies in the region with a goal of

presenting an abstract on evolutions in stroke care at the 2024 International Stroke Conference and increasing transparency and performance improvement.

- A hybrid hands only CPR/Stop The Bleed course is being planned for specific zip codes based on the Texas CARES registry.
- The SETRAC regional cardiac plan has been developed and has been submitted for board approval.
- SETRAC continues to work with the American College of Cardiologists on obtaining patient level chest pain data (no PHI.)
- The Perinatal Committee is working with the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB) on postpartum preeclampsia in the emergency department.
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) has been rolled out for prehospital providers. Six classes are scheduled for the remainder of the year including a large class at the United Way.
- To date, there have been 920 Stop the Bleed classes in our region with over 41,000 people trained, of which 12 classes were held in May with 210 people trained and 10 new instructors. For National Stop the Bleed Day, SETRAC was able to train members of the Houston Astros staff.
- The Pediatric Committee continues to work on firearm safety and community education.
- Guidelines are being developed for care of ill or injured pediatric patients that can be added to the SETRAC website.
- The G7 pediatric disaster drill was recently held.
- The Injury Prevention Committee has two community events planned, one of which will be a health fair on the east side of Houston. Tai Chi instructors will be available representing the Falls Prevention Work Group.
- "It's Only a White Line" is now available on YouTube.
- A trauma registry workshop was recently held with great attendance. Another workshop is planned for the end of the year.
- The trauma rules will be available for final public comment. SETRAC will set-up a meeting for trauma hospitals and EMS agencies to review the rules.
- Regional trauma data has been used to develop a heat map indicating the top 5 mechanisms of injury by zip code. Once approved by the board, the heat maps will be added to the SETRAC website.
- The regional trauma plan has been updated with input from trauma medical directors. The plan will need board approval.

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. *Election for the Walker County representative position on the SETRAC Board of Directors*

Rachel Parker was presented as the nominee for Walker County. The board unanimously elected Ms. Parker as a member of the SETRAC Board of Directors.

b. Election for expiring board of director terms

The nominees (see "Nominations Committee" section) were presented to the board. No additional nominations were made. The board unanimously elected the nominees to a new term for the expiring board positions.

Lon Squyres was presented as the nominee for the At-Large #2 position. No additional nominations were made. The board unanimously elected Mr. Squyres as a member of the SETRAC Board of Directors.

The terms for each of these positions are for three years and will expire July 2026.

c. Election for expiring board officer positions

The nominees (see "Nominations Committee" section) were presented to the board. No additional nominations were made. The board unanimously elected the nominees to a new term for the expiring board positions.

d. Approval of the SETRAC Regional Trauma Plan

The SETRAC Regional Trauma Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Trauma Committee and the committee is requesting approval from the SETRAC board. The plan was submitted to the board prior to the meeting.

Revisions to the plan include:

- inclusion of a pediatric age for a trauma patient
- revision of the triage guidelines to reflect the changes made by the American College of Surgeons.

The board unanimously approved the plan as presented.

e. Approval of Mechanism of Injury Heat Maps

The Trauma Research Work Group has created heat maps showing the top five mechanisms of injury by zip code for where the injury occurred as well as residential zip code. Approval has been received by the Trauma Committee to add these maps to the SETRAC website and the committee is requesting approval from the SETRAC board.

A demonstration of the interactive maps was provided to the board during the meeting.

The board unanimously approved the heat maps as presented.

f. Approval of the Regional Cardiac Plan

The SETRAC Regional Cardiac Plan has been created and approved by the Cardiac Care Committee and the committee is requesting approval from the SETRAC board. The plan been submitted to the board prior to the meeting.

The board unanimously approved the plan as presented.

7. GENERAL / OPEN DISCUSSION

Pulsara

Dr. Persse announced that SETRAC will not be taking a position on whether Pulsara should or should not be used or put in the role of facilitating conversations between Pulsara, EMS agencies, and hospitals.

The board members and stakeholders in attendance using Pulsara gave feedback on their use of the software including how it integrates with other PCR software, the approval process for implementing the software, and comments made by EMS personnel in the field and hospital ER staff.

Patient Arm Bands

Ms. Upton reported there is no news to report on the arm band initiative at this time. The use of arm bands will be dependent upon what is included in the trauma rules issued by the state. SETRAC made a request with a company to purchase the arm bands with funds available at the time; however, the company was not able to fulfill the order.

ER Wall Times

Dr. Persse provided an update on a case that was recently reported on a local news channel regarding a cardiac arrest patient that was delayed in receiving care due to EMS response time. Part of the reason was due to ambulances out of service due to hospital crowding.

A discussion took place which included the issue from the hospital side as well as the EMS Committee considering creating a work group to find possible solutions.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Persse adjourned the general board meeting at 7:36 pm.

SETRAC Board - Secretary: _____
