



RHPC Board Meeting
November 3, 2023
SETRAC Conference Center
1111 North Loop West, Suite 160
Houston, Texas 77008



Call to Order

Lori Upton called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

RHPC Board Roll Call

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

Stephen Bennett	Tom Munoz
Toni Carnie	Michael Nixon
John Fleming	Michael Olivier
Dena Daniel	Sean Simmons
<i>(on behalf of Gabriella Lopez)</i>	Mark Sloan
	Lydia Worthen

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Ms. Upton requested review and approval of the July minutes. Michael Nixon (Fort Bend County EMS) made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Lydia Worthen (Christus SETX St. Elizabeth) seconded the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

New Business

- **Drill Policy**

Carrie Cox (SETRAC) reviewed the drill policy. After review, the coalition members unanimously agreed to approve the policy (*copy of the policy filed in the RHPC Board minutes binder*). The policy will go into effect January 2024.

- **End of Year Survey**

Lisa Spivey (SETRAC) announced the End of Year survey will be sent out on December 4th with a month to complete (due January 6th).

- **New HFD Rotation**

Ms. Upton announced a new initiative involving an Emergency Detention Order (EDO) is set to begin on November 13th, because of a collaboration between SETRAC, the Houston Fire Department, and the Houston Police Department. The process is initiated when the Houston Police Department issues an EDO and contacts the Neuropsychiatric Center (NPC). If the NPC is at capacity, the police will then contact the Houston Fire Department's telemetry unit, asking for the closest acute care facility to transport the patient.

At the telemetry unit, both an EMS and a police officer will work together to ensure no single facility is overwhelmed with EDOs. Initially, this initiative will only cover areas within the Houston Fire Department's transport jurisdiction, with plans to expand the program in the future.

Hospitals in the area are required to fill out a status form at midnight daily, which can be found in EMResource. Additionally, an update status for psychiatric facilities has been added to the EMResource homepage. These facilities are asked to update their status daily or as needed.

Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities

Long Term Care Update (C102)

Fidel Calvillo highlighted some of the items in the Special Populations update as listed below (*filed with RHPC Board minutes binder*).

Emergency Preparedness Bootcamps have been completed for all Corridors meeting grant requirement 6 in total;
Continue to on board new facilities into the Coalition;
Providing guidance and SETRAC training to new facility administrators;
Presented at the HHSC Annual Provider meetings in October and upcoming in early November;

End of the Year Survey created for the Special Populations and to be distribute to Special Populations Stakeholders in December. This will collect the latest information from our stakeholders and assist with planning for this year's initiatives.

An LTC speaker presented lessons learned during a hurricane evacuation at our upcoming Symposium this year. There was an increase in attendance for Special Populations.

Training and Exercise Update (C104)

Ms. Cox reviewed the July Training and Exercise Schedule distributed to the coalition members (*copy filed with RHPC Board minutes binder*), and highlighted some of the classes as follows:

PER-211 Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Events classes facilitated by TEEEX scheduled for December 5th-6th and December 11th-12th at SETRAC.

The 2024 Regional Exercise (Operation Solar Storm) planning is underway. Ms. Cox gave the coalition members a brief overview of how the exercise will play-out and stated more details are to come. Registration emails will be forthcoming.

HAM Radio 101 is scheduled for November 8th and HAM-in-a-Day is scheduled for November 15th at SETRAC. The Off-the-Grid exercise is scheduled for December 19th.

EMResource training continues to be held online; however, special classes can be scheduled by emailing requests to exercise@setrac.org.

EMTF Update (C104)

Troy Erbentraut introduced himself as the new Director of Response. He reported Mikal Orr (SETRAC EMTF-6 Coordinator) took another position with the Texas Forest Service so this position is open should anyone know of someone interested; the position is posted on the SETRAC website for them to submit their resume.

Inventory Update (C104)

Philip Cutler introduced himself as the new Logistics Manager replacing Kyle Ericksen. Going forward, should anyone have questions regarding inventory and assets, please email him at philip.cutler@setrac.org. Ms. Upton announced Jarrad Moreno will be starting next week to fill Mr. Cutler's position as the Mobile Asset Coordinator.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

The small facility award went to CHI St. Luke's Livingston, the medium facility award went to Christus St. Elizabeth/Beaumont, and the large facility award went to Memorial Hermann TMC.

Symposium Planning (C101)

The coalition members took some time to share some symposium feedback with SETRAC. Ms. Upton advised anyone interested in serving on the Planning Committee should email Ms. Spivey at lisa.spivey@setrac.org.

Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

Ms. Cox reported the committee members are currently working on the Chemical Response Plan.

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Michael Olivier reported the Downtown Corridor met on August 4th at the City of Houston OEM where the corridor members learned more about their operations. The Houston Fusion Center gave a presentation and Texas Children’s Hospital also gave a presentation regarding their decontamination event in July. The Downtown Corridor radio check was conducted this morning with increased participation and the corridor members continue to work on their participation. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1st at SETRAC.

South Corridor – Michael Nixon reported the next South Corridor met on September 8th at Houston Methodist Clear Lake where they discussed the SNP full-scale exercise held a few weeks ago. Christy Gonzalez (Wharton EMS) was announced as the South Corridor co-chair. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10th at the HCA Southeast.

East Corridor – Lydia Worthen reported the East Corridor met on September 15th at Chambers County Public Health with good discussion regarding upcoming events, lessons learned, and best practices. They are working to pull a group together to go to the FEMA training in Anniston, Alabama. The next meeting is scheduled for next Friday (December 8th).

North Corridor – Stephen Bennett reported the North Corridor met for an in-person meeting on September 13th at the Pitser Garrison Civic Center in Lufkin. Jon Clingaman (TDEM) gave an overview of the County Liaison Officers Program and the new regional changes. The next meeting is scheduled for November 8th at Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital.

West Corridor – Dena Daniel reported the West Corridor met on September 22nd at Memorial Hermann where Waller ISD was present to give a presentation on emergency management through the eyes of education. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday (December 15th) at Texas Children’s Hospital West Campus. Ms. Daniel announced the West Corridor will be adjusting the 2024 meeting schedule to be scheduled the fourth Friday of every even month (February, April, June, August, October/Symposium, and December) versus odd months as in the past.

Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

DSHS 6/5 South – Ms. Spivey gave Justin Woodard’s report in his absence as follows:

DSHS is experiencing a ‘Red Tide’ bloom in our waters last month, poisoning some shellfish in the Gulf and causing respiratory problems. We released alerts and fact sheets, but I am happy to report that the waters are now cleared and as “clean” as normal.

RSV numbers are on the rise statewide and within our region. As of 10/21, the positivity rate for PCR tests for RSV was 14.05% in Texas and 23.39% in Region 6. CDC released a HAN due to the limited availability of nirsevimab (the new monoclonal antibody for RSV to be given to infants during their first RSV season to protect against the infections) in the United States. CDC recommends prioritizing available nirsevimab 100mg doses for infants at the highest risk for severe RSV disease: young infants (age <6 months) and infants with underlying conditions that place them at highest risk for severe RSV disease.

There is a nationwide outbreak of *Salmonella* (strain *Salmonella Thompson*): Gills Onions is voluntarily recalling Gills Onions branded fresh diced onions products because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*. Recalled onions were sold in select stores and were also sent to restaurants and institutions nationwide and in Canada. There have been 73 associated illness and 15 hospitalizations in 22 states (including 1 case in Texas).

COVID numbers are also increasing. COVID case numbers are up 3.5% for last week (10/22-10/28) compared to the previous week in Texas. In Houston the COVID wastewater has been increasing since the report for 10/9. The latest report on the website from 10/23 shows 124% of the baseline compared to 98% the previous week.

OEM

City of Houston OEM – Tom Munoz reported they are preparing the Veteran’s Day Parade.

Harris County OEM – Mark Sloan reported they are working with the state on the College Football Championship scheduled for Monday (January 8th), the marathon in January, and monitoring the current protests. He reminded the hospitals to closely pay attention to the cyber activity that continues to be very high for the healthcare systems.

EMS

Wharton EMS – Christy Gonzales reported they will be conducting a free radio 101 training with Harris County in December open to other agencies. Life Flight is hosting a pediatric course and advance cardiac life support training. Reach out to Ms. Gonzales for more details.

SETRAC – No current update.

Other Partners

UTMB – Mike Mastrangelo reported UTMB participated in an Arkansas-based hemorrhagic fever exercise. Working with Maritime Industries to develop an infectious diseases exercise. Also working with Texas City ISD on a hydrofluoric acid release plan and working with Port of Galveston on a phosphite release incident plan. In May, they will conduct a chemical symposium and exercise.

Harris Health System – Santonio Hoke reported he is no longer the Emergency Manager for LBJ, and they are currently interviewing for this position.

Open Discussion/Other

Proposed 2024 RHPC Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Upton requested review and approval of the 2024 RHPC Board meeting schedule (*copy filed with RHPC Board minutes binder*). Toni Carnie suggested the July meeting be rescheduled for July 12th to avoid the July 4th holiday week. The coalition members agreed and approved the schedule with the July meeting change.

Bariatric Patients

There was discussion regarding the availability for bariatric patient equipment. Anyone with more information regarding this matter, please forward it to Ms. Spivey at lisa.spivey@setrac.org.

Whole Blood Workgroup

Clayton Ehrlich reported the EMS Committee has a new subcommittee called the EMS Blood Products Subcommittee. This subcommittee is looking to regionalize the processes of prehospital blood administration to ensure that we as a region are being good stewards and reducing waste of blood. The subcommittee had its second meeting recently where we created two workgroups of the subcommittee were established; they are the EMS Blood Products Clinical Workgroup and the EMS Blood Products Operations & Logistics Workgroup. Gulf Coast Blood Bank was also in attendance at the meeting to get the regionalization process implemented with them as a partner. More to come on this initiative and we are excited to get this regional process in place.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, Ms. Upton adjourned the at 2:28 pm. The next RHPC Board meeting is scheduled for January 5th at SETRAC (1111 North Loop West, Suite 160, Houston, Texas 77008) in the conference center.

Attendees

Ashlee Thurman, Adam Lee, Scott Reeves, Santonio Hoke, Fidel Calvillo, Mike Mastrangelo, Michael Olivier, Bryce Allen, Cassidy Werts, John Wingate, Andrew Smith, Kat Samuel, Lisa Spivey, Kim Hobson, Jackie Galeva, Kim Kethan, Kenton Barnett, Geoff McKeel, Ramon Rodriguez, Mike Jaquez, Cythina Crespo-Bonparte, Joseph Murray, Sarah Bafford, Charles Brockett, Cathy Muscat, Christina Watkins, Christi Gonzales, Angela Cone, Dena Daniel, Chelsia Elmore, John Fleming, Raymond Hall, Ronnie Hamilton, Maureen Allender, John Gomolka, Joshua Laslie, Kevin Herrington, Katie Linn, Evelyn Locklin, Amy Lopez, Bonnie Macius, Nancy Mathew, Michael Nixon, Paul James, Douglas Pfaff, Jenny Pfannes, Allison Reimers, Richard Dunn, Robert Laffey, Ronnie Xavier, Sarah Henry, Glenda Self, Danny Shine, Sean Simmons, Bernard Smith, Solomon Guerrero, Tyler Tipton, Lisa Valenzon, Aaron Velasquez, Thomas Wilbur, Dawn Wood, Lori Upton, Roxie Ward