



RHPC Board Meeting
January 5, 2024
SETRAC Conference Center
1111 North Loop West, Suite 160
Houston, Texas 77008



Call to Order

Toni Carnie called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

RHPC Board Roll Call

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

Stephen Bennett	Michael Nixon
Toni Carnie	Michael Olivier
John Fleming	Kevin Schulz
Gabriella Lopez	Sean Simmonds
Gisela Cinta	Mark Sloan
<i>(on behalf of Tom Munoz)</i>	Lydia Worthen

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Ms. Carnie requested review and approval of the November minutes. Mark Sloan (Harris County OEM) made a motion to approve the minutes with or without a continuing statement under the Harris Health update. The update was revised as follows:

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

Amy Lopez (Memorial Hermann System) seconded the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion. The minutes were approved with revision.

New Business

- **Workplace Violence Toolkit (Senate Bills 240 and 840)**

Ms. Carnie gave a brief overview of the Workplace Violence Toolkit which was distributed to the coalition members *(copy of the toolkit filed in the RHPC Board minutes binder)*.

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)*.

End of the Year Survey was sent to Stakeholders and a good number of responses have been received. Information will help in developing our initiatives for 2024 year; continue to on board new facilities into the Coalition; providing guidance and SETRAC training to new facility administrators; Special Populations group participated in Off the Grid drill. An AAR template was provided to the participants to assist in meeting their CMS requirements; working with FSEDs to provide additional training on EMResource and meeting with new administrators; Special Population conference call was held in November.

Please contact Mr. Calvillo at fidel.calvillo@setrac.org with any questions or to schedule a meeting at your agency.

Training and Exercise Update (C104)

Carrie Cox reviewed the January Training and Exercise Schedule distributed to the coalition members (*copy filed with RHPC Board minutes binder*), and highlighted some topics as follows:

Planning is underway for the 2024 RHPC exercise series: Operation Solar Storm which will consist of four separate days of in-person exercise play. The registration form has been sent out and the following link may be used to register: <https://forms.setrac.org/232556258336057>.

Exercise dates are listed below:

- **March 26 – The Woodlands**
- **April 11 – Port Arthur**
- **April 16 – Lufkin**
- **May 1 - Houston**

Lisa Spivey shared the news that Carrie Cox is leaving SETRAC to assume the role of Training & Exercise Coordinator at Texas Children’s Hospital. SETRAC will miss her and wishes her the best in her new position.

EMTF Update (C104)

The EMTF-6 Coordinator position has been filled. Grant Kelley will be starting on January 16th, and he comes to SETRAC from Acadian Ambulance.

Inventory Update (C104)

No current update.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

Ms. Carnie reported the committee members have met since the symposium in October. She announced a new award has been added to the 2024 application process which is the Partnership Award. More details regarding the criteria are forthcoming and will mimic what we are using throughout the region.

Symposium Planning (C101)

Planning for the 2024 Symposium will begin towards the end of January or first part of February. Anyone interested in serving on the Planning Committee should email Ms. Spivey at lisa.spivey@setrac.org.

Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

Lisa Spivey reported the committee members are working on the chemical plan and stated the responses to the “End of Year” survey will help with this planning. She stated the survey is due today, but should anyone need an extension, they can contact her via email at lisa.spivey@setrac.org.

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Michael Olivier reported the December Downtown Corridor meeting was cancelled due to conflicts. Hot topics such as the End of Year Survey were communicated via email, and radio checks continue to improve. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2nd to be held at SETRAC.

South Corridor – Michael Nixon reported the next South Corridor met on November 10th at HCA Southeast. Chelsia Elmore presented on Texas Children’s Hospital West Campus decontamination event in June with a Q&A session where good discussion ensued. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15th at CHI St. Luke’s Sugar Land.

East Corridor – Lydia Worthen reported the East Corridor met on September 15th at Chambers County. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday (January 12th) at Jack Brooks in Beaumont with discussion surrounding the upcoming exercise.

West Corridor – Gabby Lopez reported the December West Corridor meeting was cancelled due to conflicts. The West Corridor radio checks were conducted this morning and came in at 57% participation. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd to be held at SETRAC. They will be sending out a West Corridor survey shortly to identify the 2024 hosting facilities and their participation challenges.

North Corridor – Stephen Bennett reported the November North Corridor meeting was cancelled due to the Shepherd explosion/fire. The next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday (January 10th) at CHI St. Luke’s Lufkin.

Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

Houston Health Department - John Fleming reported the following:

- For those receiving or wishing to receive the weekly HHD Flu Report (sample attached) it will soon be available as an online dashboard. HHD will share the link to the dashboard for distribution through SETRAC.
- HHD is still conducting the Syphilis Outbreak Response focusing on testing and treatment; monitoring MPOX including some local cases (and focused MSM outreach and vaccination) as well as keeping an eye on the clave 1 MPOX in the Congo; and ongoing wastewater testing for COVID-19, flu, and RSV.

Planning with COH, Harris County, Disability Rights Texas, and other partners for 5/4/24 Disaster Readiness & Resilience Clinic – May the 4th Prepare You.

A Whole Community/Disability Access and Functional Needs (DAFN) inclusive workshop for individuals, caregivers, and families to improve their preparedness for the range of threats and hazards that may impact area community members. Promoting readiness through planning and consultation with support and service representatives including healthcare/medical/EMS/pharmacy/DME professionals, emergency managers, electricity providers, public health/housing/mental health/public transportation professionals, faith leaders and others.

Harris County Public Health - Trey Frankovich reported their website has been updated.

OEM

Harris County OEM – Mark Sloan reported cyber-attacks continue to be a threat especially with the Russia engagement and Israeli Hamas, and the Iran/China conflicts existing around the world. He encouraged everyone to have their cyber security plans and processes in place and ensure coordination with local law enforcement and federal agencies if affected by a cyber incident. Along with the Israeli Hamas, local protests are on the increase around the United States especially now that Houston is hosting the NCAA Championship game on Monday night.

Mr. Sloan urged the facilities and agencies to prepare now for a hard freeze as we could get an arctic blast sometime within a forty-day window. The combination of ice and snow is highly more likely than we have had in the past as low pressures are developing earlier than normal.

The Harris County OEM is supporting the City of Houston for the NCAA events and activities over the weekend and Monday night. They are preparing for the Houston Marathon next week, and then Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March which is another mass gathering event.

Mr. Sloan stated there are post-COVID after action reports out that impact hospitals, health systems, and emergency management. Everyone has an opinion on how well or not well it went, and Congress is listening. If Congress listens to the wrong people, there could be impacts on us that we were not expecting. He asked the coalition members to be alert.

He announced the Harris County OEM is looking to hire a Logistics Planner Specialist. He has also hired an Incident Response Liaison beginning in March who will be on scene for a variety of hazmat and other incidents that occur in Harris County.

City of Houston OEM – Gisela Cinta was in attendance for Thomas Munoz, COH OEM. She reported the City of Houston Emergency Operations Center will be activated for the 2024 College Football Championship activities throughout the weekend (January 5-8) with partners at the EOC on Monday, January 8th. She announced Deputy Director Thomas Munoz was appointed to the FEMA National Advisory Committee.

EMS

City of Houston EMS – Dr. Schulz advised the coalition members that HFD will be responding and cover the events for the NCAA Championship and Houston Marathon as appropriate. He gave brief update on HB624 regarding fire fighter transporting patients in a non-patient transport unit. He advised that the guidance document is now posted on the SETRAC website.

Wharton EMS – Christy Gonzales announced Wharton EMS has Memorial Hermann Life Flight coming out to host training (dates listed below) and CEs will be provided. SETRAC will send the flyers out to the coalition members.

- **January 12 – The Science of Resuscitation: A Level One Approach**
- **January 16 – Pragmatic Pediatrics**

SETRAC – No current update.

Other Partners

UTMB – Mike Mastrangelo reported UTMB recently participated in an exercise with Texas DSHS and the Arkansas Department of Health on the communications and approvals needed to transport a highly infectious patient into Texas for treatment at the Biocontainment Treatment Unit. Additional exercises with other Region 6 states are planned.

On December 15, UTMB, Galveston County, Galveston County Health District, industry partners, CISA, and others conducted a chemical incident preparedness exercise with a scenario of an extended power outage caused by a major winter storm.

A chemical incident preparedness workshop is planned with Texas City ISD in the coming weeks.

A deliberate Phosphine release incident exercise with the Port of Galveston is planned for the Spring.

A major Chemical Incident Symposium and Community Exercise is planned for May or June. Several federal agencies have expressed interest in presenting and participating in the exercise. The two scenarios that will be used for the exercise will be:

- Deliberate attack on an HF transport
- A Novichok incident

More details will be forthcoming – once we solidify the date for the symposium.

Open Discussion/Other

SETRAC/NCAA Championship & Houston Marathon

CMOC will be on call beginning today (Friday, 1/5) through Sunday (1/7) and onsite at the HEC/OEM Monday (1/8). CMOC will also be onsite for the Houston Marathon on Sunday (1/14).

Agreements

The HPP Agreement and the CMOC Agreement will be sent out in June or July of this year.

Behavioral Health Group

Ms. Spivey is waiting on the Technology Department to complete the dashboard; once this is completed, she will send out another meeting invite to the group for another update meeting to review the dashboard.

New Participation Process

Ms. Carnie explained there is a new participation process for the RHPC Board meetings. Facilities/agencies will either sign the sign-in sheet in-person or use the QR code to submit name, facility/agency, email, meeting date, and password via JotForm.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Sloan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded, and Ms. Carnie adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm. The next RHPC Board meeting is scheduled for March 1st at SETRAC (1111 North Loop West, Suite 160, Houston, Texas 77008) in the conference center.

Attendees

Kevin Schulz, Toni Carnie, Christy Gonzales, Fidel Calvillo, Janeana White, Mark Sloan, Michael Olivier, Kat Samuel, Cassidy Werts, Steve Takacs, Mike Nixon, Ramon Rodriguez, Scott Reeves, Bryce Allen, Amy Lopez, Kim Kethan, Kim Hobson, John Fleming, Trey Frankovich, Geoff McKeel, Eddie Burleigh, Denis Hyams, John Wingate, Mike Mastrangelo, Carrie Cox, Lisa Spivey, Rachael Aldape, Angela Cone, Dena Daniel, Kathryn Fisher, John Gomolka, Raymond Hall, Ronnie Hamilton, Christina Hatcher, Sarah Henry, Santonio Hoke, Johnny Luman, Nancy Mathew, Scott

Reeves, Danny Shine, Jose Silvas, Vicki Tarnow, Thomas Standley, Trang Nguyen, Aaron Velasquez, Dawn Wood, Joseph Murray, Corie Marquez, Chelsia Elmore, Rosaline Igbokwe, Albert Ramos, April Sanders, Austen McMillin, Bryan Campbell, Cathy Muscat, Charles Brockett, Glenda Self, Heather Walters, Jenny Pfannes, Jessica Vickers, Jesus Pedroza, John Pasquier, Joshua Laslie, Julie Matson, Lisa Valenzon, Lori Foster, Manuel Macias, Matt Richards, Melanie Graves, Mike Jaquez, Renee Ford, Robert Laffey, Roderic Moses, Rosemary Kaczmarski, Sean Simmonds, Gisela Cinta, John Fleming, Lydia Worthen, Roxie Ward