



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

January 27, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Dr. David Persse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. The meeting was held in-person at the SETRAC Conference Center. Walter Morrow, Secretary, called roll and a quorum was established.

2. WELCOME

Dr. Persse welcomed the board members and the stakeholders in attendance. It was announced that an executive session would be held immediately following the general meeting.

3. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Chairman

Dr. Persse reported that Winter Storm Enzo did not reach a disaster declaration level. The City of Houston opened 11 warming centers along with non-governmental organizations. At one point during the storm, the City of Houston housed 1,700 people in their warming centers. There were very few carbon monoxide poisonings reported. There continues to be an issue with hospitals discharging patients to the warming centers, which are not equipped to handle social work and transportation cases. Dr. Persse tasked Dr. Kevin Schulz and the RHPC to work with hospitals in determining alternatives for where patients can be discharged other than warming/cooling centers when there are extreme temperatures in the region.

The Texas Medical Board had moved §197 regarding EMS/Medical Director Rules from its own chapter to now being under §169 with about 80% of the words missing. The Texas Medical Board did not have the intention for the verbiage to be "gutted". Dr. Persse and Dr. Schulz are currently working with a fellow who will be looking into the missing verbiage and to where it may have been moved.

B. Vice Chair Hospital Services

Tom Flanagan is working with a group that is addressing how to redistribute dues to healthcare systems and is looking to have a draft proposal to present to the board in April. The group is also tasked with reviewing a real-time bed reporting pilot program from Oregon. If the region opts to participate, this could change the way patients are transported to hospitals by EMS.

C. Vice Chair Pre-Hospital Services

James Campbell reported that Cy-Fair is piloting a "direct to lobby" protocol. A suggestion was made at the most recent EMS Committee meeting to have reimbursement training for county funds annually or biannually. GETAC currently has two EMS work groups – a wall times task force and a group to review rule §157.11.

D. Secretary

Mr. Morrow had no items to report.

E. Officer-at-Large Report

Dr. Kaziny reported that SETRAC continues to receive terrific feedback from external partners across the Gulf Coast as a G7 partner.

After having conversations on the format of how future meetings should be held (in-person, hybrid, etc.), Dr. Kaziny would like to put together a survey or poll for board members and SETRAC committee members to complete. Options include:

- Keep the meetings as is (in-person only)
- Have a hybrid virtual/in-person version
- Have some degree of leniency to allow those who live further distances away to attend virtually.

F. Treasurer Report

Lori Upton reported on behalf of Lon Squyres on the SETRAC financials which was provided to the board. Highlights include:

- All grant accounts are on track with spending and the financial status is looking strong. In February, all accounts currently with Frost Bank will be moved to Amegy Bank.
- Unrestricted asset growth shows a total fund balance of \$978,361.73.

4. EXECUTIVE REPORT

A written report was provided to the board and Ms. Upton provided the following highlights:

- HPP budget amendments are due at the end of January. Due to the completion of the SB8 program (EMS Education), an amendment will be submitted for TSA-Q to allow Clayton Ehrlich to move into the EMS Response Manager position.
- SETRAC staff along with several stakeholders recently visited STRAC to learn how that region sets up their mental health initiatives. A meeting will be held at SETRAC to discuss how funds can be saved through the implementation of a collaborative.
- The HFD Base Station contract is up for renewal and an RFP was submitted by SETRAC. SETRAC was selected as one of the three finalists.
- Ryan Hand, the real estate agent that has been assisting with locating a new location for SETRAC, has written a letter of recommendation offering the seller \$8.325 million with a review period of 60 days. SETRAC would have a non-refundable amount of \$1,000 if the agreement is terminated. The property would be purchased by the SETRAC Foundation and SETRAC would pay rent to the foundation.
- SB8, which ended on December 31, 2024, was able to provide 250 scholarships to our region.
- **Preparedness and Response** – A written report was provided to the board prior to the meeting. Lisa Spivey and Troy Erbentraut provided the following update:
 - Ms. Spivey thanked all the partners for their assistance during the recent winter storm and MCI event. This was the first time Pulsara was used region wide.
 - Pulsara, decon, and Stop the Bleed trainings continue across the region. There has been a lot of participation with the technology drills.
 - Forty-five hospitals have completed the end-of-year surveys. Surveys are due February 3, 2025.
 - Nominations are being accepted for the EMS representative position for the RHPC Board.
 - SETRAC was voted in as a member of CIMA.

- Jeremy Way was chosen as First Responder of the Game at a recent Houston Texans football game.
- The training and exercise team recently held an ICS 400 course at SETRAC.
- One of the SETRAC SMUs may have been used in the Carolinas.
- Oxygen storage at the warehouse has been increased so they are available should they be needed during a disaster.
- MIST boxes have been created for EMTF.
- EMTF will have a radiological response unit and EMTF-6 will receive a cache of radiation equipment.
- Regional AmBus meetings will be scheduled.
- Several people from the region assisted with the fires in California.
- **Emergency Healthcare Systems** – A written report was provided to the board prior to the meeting. Suzanne Curran, Melanie Aluotto, and Troy Erbentraut provided the following updates:
 - New leaders were elected for all the EHS committees.
 - The Trauma Committee is reviewing the new rules that have been published and adopted. The committee is helping provide education on some of the common areas of concern during surveys.
 - A Trauma Registry Workshop is scheduled for February 21, 2025.
 - The top five mechanisms of injury for pediatric patients have not changed.
 - In 2024, SETRAC staff and EMS partners trained over 1600 community members on Stop the Bleed.
 - A Stop the Bleed Train the Trainer course is planned for February 28, 2025. Classes continue to be scheduled including with Houston Airport System personnel.
 - The Pediatric Committee will be participating in the “We Have A Little Emergency” (WHALE) program that was rolled out by the GETAC Pediatric Committee.
 - The Stroke Committee recently developed a CE on the topic of posterior strokes. Education is being developed for CEs for 2025, and the committee continues to work on PI projects and abstracts.
 - The Perinatal Committee developed a best practice education video for the maternal program. The video has been well received and provides CEs via the SETRAC LMS.
 - In the region, 162 EMS have been trained in NRP. Several classes for 2025 have been planned.
 - The Maternal Subcommittee will be collecting data on primary C-section reduction.
 - A task force has been created to determine a PI project regarding syphilis. The task force is working with various health departments on this topic.
 - SETRAC has three poster presentations at the upcoming Neonatal Insights Conference.
 - The recently created Emergency Services Committee will be working on EMS wall times, behavioral health LOS in EDs, and data development needs.
 - SETRAC has disseminated wrist bands to EMS across the region and will begin to distribute the bands to hospitals.
 - The EMS Committee has created a work group focusing on EMS body cameras.

Cathy Williamson, chair of the SETRAC Cardiac Committee, provided the following report on behalf of the committee:

- The Cardiac Committee will be focusing on participation including non-PCI and freestanding EDs. Hospital systems would present their best practices at future meetings.
- A toolkit will be developed to improve door-in door-out times and door-to-balloon times for transfer patients.
- A campaign to call 9-1-1 will be invigorated to educate the public.

- Information will be presented to hospitals on the need for access to patient level data to assist with cardiac initiatives.

5. 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 elected leaders for Emergency Healthcare Systems (EHS) Committees*

The board approved the leaders recently elected by their respective committees with no objections or abstentions. (See attached list.)

b. *Approval of elected medical director for Prehospital/EMS Committee.*

The board approved the Prehospital/EMS Committee's election of Dr. Lars Thestrup (Bellaire Fire Department, Hatzalah EMS, Fort Bend County EMS) as the committee's medical director with no objections or abstentions. Dr. Thestrup will complete the 3-year term previously held by Dr. Shane Jenks and Dr. Lesley Osborn which will end in January 2026. At that time, Dr. Thestrup will be eligible to serve his first full-term if re-elected by the Prehospital/EMS Committee.

c. *Approval of elected medical director for Perinatal Committee.*

The board approved the Perinatal Committee's election of Dr. Leslie Rafanan (Memorial Hermann Sugar Land) as the committee's maternal medical director with no objections or abstentions. Dr. Rafanan's term will end in January 2026 and will be concurrent with the terms for medical directors of other service lines. In January 2026, Dr. Rafanan will be eligible to serve her first full-term if re-elected by the Perinatal Committee.

d. *Approval of elected medical director for Cardiac Committee.*

The board approved the Cardiac Committee's election of Dr. Kevin Schulz (Houston Fire Department) as the committee's medical director with no objections or abstentions. Dr. Schulz will complete the 3-year term previously held by Dr. James McCarthy which will end in January 2026. At that time, Dr. Schulz will be eligible to serve his first full-term if re-elected by the Cardiac Committee.

e. *Approval of HPP TSA Q budget amendment.*

See discussion under the agenda item "Executive Report". The board approved moving forward with the amendment to the HPP TSA Q budget. There were no objections or abstentions.

f. *Approval of moving forward the recommendation to the SETRAC Foundation regarding the purchase of property.*

A motion was made and seconded to move forward with the initial assessment that has SETRAC at-risk of losing only \$1,000 if SETRAC backs out of the agreement. The board approved the motion with one objection and no abstentions.

6. GENERAL / OPEN DISCUSSION

In appreciation of each board member's service, Ms. Upton gave each board member a new notebook with the SETRAC logo.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Persse adjourned the general board meeting at 7:38 pm. An executive session immediately followed the meeting.

SETRAC Board - Secretary: _____