



RHPC Board Meeting
March 7, 2025
SETRAC Conference Center
1111 North Loop West, Suite 160
Houston, Texas 77008



Call to Order

Dr. Kevin Schulz called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Dr. Schulz announced Eric Steffel with Northwest Community EMS as the new EMS Board Representative.

RHPC Board Roll Call

Dr. Schulz called roll for the Board members in attendance.

Stephen Bennett	Andy Fisk (on behalf of Gabriella Lopez)
Toni Carnie	Michael Nixon
Danielle Calhoun	Michael Olivier
John Fleming	Kevin Schulz
Raymond Lomelo	Mark Sloan
	Lydia Worthen

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Ms. Carnie requested review and approval of the January minutes. Collin Poole (HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood) made a motion to approve the minutes, Danielle Calhoun (Harris County Public Health) second the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion.

New Business

- **Cold Springs Decon Presentation**

Collin Poole (HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood) presented on the January 24th Cold Springs decontamination incident where a diesel tanker truck carrying sulfur dioxide crashed on FM17252 resulting in a chemical release. The incident escalated when it was discovered that a Cold Springs ISD school bus carrying 33 students and bus driver drove through spill (among other personal vehicles) before emergency responders arrived which resulted in many individuals experiencing immediate respiratory symptoms. After response from SETRAC, San Jacinto County, and the AMBUS Team, the on-scene command informed SETRAC the school bus was transporting all patients to HCA Kingwood where their staff conducted the decontamination process (*presentation filed with RHPC Board minutes binder*).

- **Edge Consultants West Presentation**

Al Mockaitis (Edge Consultants West) provided an overview of their phone to satellite product for healthcare facilities that can be utilized during communication outages and grant funding opportunities for rural healthcare facilities (*presentation filed with RHPC Board minutes binder*).

- **Warming Centers (*deferred*)**

Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities

Long Term Care Update (C102)

Fidel Calvillo reported on the following Special Populations issues:

- Planning with local jurisdictions for upcoming Emergency Preparedness Bootcamps in our Region.

- Continue to work with local jurisdiction on emergency preparedness workshop for elected officials; date and location has been confirmed.
- Training dialysis clinics on the use of EMResource.
- Participating with dialysis's Corporate Office in Emergency Preparedness Trainings.
- Continue to work with new facilities to be part of RHPC and provide emergency preparedness guidance.
- Special Populations virtual Regional Exercise May 13th.
- SETRAC Special Populations presentation at the TALA Conference in April.

Training and Exercise Update (C104)

Timothy Chapman reviewed the Training and Exercise Schedule distributed to the coalition members highlighting the upcoming tabletop exercises scheduled for the March/April corridor meetings (*T&E schedule filed with RHPC Board minutes filed binder*).

EMTF Update (C104)

Grant Kelley submitted his EMTF report as follows:

Activity:

- 01.11.2025 to 02.13.2025 EMTF Sent a Wild Land Fire Support (WLFS) package to California to provide force protection to the Texas Wildland Firefighters that were sent to assist with the Palisades wildfire. Thank you to Humble Fire Rescue and Huffman Fire Department for being a part of the response.
- 01.24.2025 EMTF 6 had a regional mutual aid response to San Jacinto County for a Sulphur Dioxide Leak. Many thanks to all agencies who responded and provided assistance.
- 03.01.2025 to present EMTF has multiple WLFS packages prepositioned throughout the state of Texas as the fire weather was critical this week. EMTF 6 has deployed a full WLFS team to Burkburnett, TX. A WLFS team consists of 1 MEDL (Medical Unit Leader) 1 WPU (Wildland Paramedic Unit) and 1 AST (MICU Ambulance) Thank you to Humble Fire Rescue, Lufkin Fire Dept, CyFair Fire Department, and Fort Bend County for being a part of the response
- EMTF 6 has been placed on standby for Severe Weather, Winter Weather, and Critical Fire weather a total of 8 times since January 1st
- EMTF 6 is actively planning a regional mutual aid response to "Jeep Weekend" in GCESD#2 (May 16th and 17th) World Cup planning is on going
- EMTF 6 has received our cache of Radiological Response Unit (RRU) equipment. The curriculum is still in development; the first courses should be late Q3 or Q4 to be operational for 2026.
- Regional AMBUS workgroups have resumed. IDRQ quarterly trainings have begun.
- EMTF 101 and EMTF Deployment basics are available to be scheduled (prerequisite to deploy).
- An EMTF Reimbursement refresher near the beginning of hurricane season (1st week of May).

Please reach out if you would like to be added to the EMTF communications list or participate in any of the upcoming trainings or responses.

EMS Update (C104)

Clayton Ehrich submitted his report as follows:

Wristbands: The Texas EMS Wristband Program is actively being implemented across the SETRAC region. EMS agencies have already received their wristbands, and hospital partners will receive their allotted wristbands at their upcoming corridor meetings. If your hospital is unable to attend the next corridor meeting and needs wristbands, please contact your coordinator to complete a request form and schedule a pick-up from the warehouse. EMS agencies in the R&H region that have not yet received their wristband allotment should also reach out to their RHPC coordinator or Clayton Ehrlich for assistance.

SETRAC encourages all EMS and hospital partners to integrate wristbands into their daily operations and requires their use during disasters for patient tracking. Additional information about the wristband program is available on the SETRAC website homepage.

Whole Blood: The EMS Blood Products Committee Continues to work towards a regional whole blood rotation process. The committee has been met with challenges when attempting to implement this into the SETRAC region. The Committee continues to work with the GETAC Whole Blood Task Force, the Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion Initiative Coalition, and other interested parties on these challenges. Currently the committee is seeking to meet with those interested parties to determine the best possible route to get a rotational whole blood program in our region as well as creating supply of whole blood for this initiative.

Regional Mass Casualty Event Plan Review: As previously mentioned, SETRAC and RHPC are in the process of revising the no-notice MCI plan and will be holding a plan review meeting on March 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM. While a virtual option will be available, in-person attendance is strongly encouraged.

If you are interested in participating in the review meeting, please contact your coordinator or Clayton for invite details.

Inventory Update (C104)

Deferred

World Cup Update

Dr. Schulz stated the World Cup update will remain on the agenda from now through June 2026 for planning and situation awareness. There is expectation that the population will increase anywhere from five to eight percent in Houston and surrounding areas. Dr. Schulz advised the hospitals to be planning for a surge in patients.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

Toni Carnie reported the 2025 award applications have been updated but have not been uploaded to the website yet. She encouraged the coalition members to continue working on their submissions for the 2024/2025 year as the submission due date is August 31, 2025.

Symposium Planning (C101)

Dr. Schulz reminded the coalition members to save the date for the upcoming 2025 Preparedness Coalition Symposium scheduled for October 15th-17th at the San Luis Convention Center in Galveston, Texas.

Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

Deferred

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Ashlee Thurman reported the latest Downtown Corridor meeting was held on February 7th. The next meeting is dedicated to the tabletop exercise and is scheduled for Friday (April 4th) at the SETRAC.

South Corridor – No update given.

East Corridor – Lydia Worthen reported the last East Corridor meeting was on January 10th at Chambers County Health Services Building in Anahuac. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14th in Jefferson County at the Jerry Ware facility in Beaumont, and this meeting will be dedicated to the tabletop exercise. Since the last meeting, East Corridor had the winter storm event and the Chaos Control Seminars. The first seminar was cancelled due to the winter weather, the second seminar was held on February 27th at the Beaumont EOC where the 50+ class went over airway burns, MCI, and an overview of incident command, and the third seminar is scheduled for March 18th at the Port Arthur Civic Center. There was an MCI event on March 5th on Hwy 73 where patients were transported.

West Corridor – Andrew Fisk reported the last West Corridor meeting was held on February 28th at Memorial Hermann Memorial City and CISA gave an overview of services they have at no charge. The Texas EMS wristbands were distributed at this meeting as well.

North Corridor – Stephen Bennett reported the North Corridor last met on January 8th where Evan Voss with Generac provided an update on the new state generator initiative. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th at Tyler County Hospital and the meeting will be dedicated to the tabletop exercise.

Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

DSHS 5/6 South

Alexa Wilson gave an update on the Measles outbreak data points as follows:

- (3/7/25): 198 cases in West Texas.
- 23 patients have been hospitalized.
- 5 cases have occurred in vaccinated individuals that have received at least 1 dose of the MMR vaccine.
- 193 cases occurred in unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown individuals.
- 30 cases and 1 fatality in a neighboring county (Lea County) in New Mexico.
- Children account for around 77% of the detected cases.
- 1 school-aged child fatality associated with the outbreak.
- 4 measles cases unrelated to West Texas outbreak in TX (2-Harris, 1-Rockwall, 1-Travis).
- (3/6/25) US Case Count: 222 cases from 12 states (Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Washington).
- 17% of these cases have been hospitalized and 93% of cases being outbreak related.

The counties in West Texas that are affected with the respective case counts are Dallam-5, Dawson-9, Ector-2, Gaines-137, Lubbock-3, Lynn-2, Martin-3, Terry-29, Yoakum-8.

TEPHI Talks Channel – Measles Seminar will be posted on: https://www.youtube.com/@TEPHI_Texas

Harris County Public Health

Danielle Calhoun reported there are no measles cases in Harris County. HCPH is working with their local public health jurisdictions and distributing HAN messages as needed. She advised they are hosting town halls with local providers and providing immunizations throughout the community. HCPH is also planning and preparing for the World Cup event and are interested in participating in any workgroups as needed.

Fort Bend Public Health

Charles Brockett reported on the infectious disease activities in their county. FBPH is also planning for the World Cup event. A POD and Shelter exercise is scheduled for May 17th, and planning for a radiological exercise in the Fall.

Houston Public Health Department

John Fleming reported HPHD is monitoring rodeo public health activities and actively promoting vaccinations, and they continue to monitor measles activity. They are scheduling AAR meetings to discuss their warming center processes, and World Cup planning is ongoing.

OEM

Harris County OEM

Mark Sloan reported HCOEM is monitoring Texas legislation for upcoming bills that will affect long-term care facilities. EOC activated at Level III monitoring the Houston Rodeo and Livestock Show. He mentioned having two open positions in April

EMS

Dr. Schulz reported HFD is monitoring rodeo activities at NRG as well.

Other Partners

No other partner updates given.

Open Discussion/Other

DSHS Bed Reports

Lisa Spivey gave an update on the DSHS bed reports and the submitting process expectations. She announced there will be no bed reports this weekend, but they will begin again on Monday morning (March 17th). gave an update on the new DSHS bed reports and the submitting process expectations.

Mayor Sylvester Turner

Dr. Schulz announced the passing of Mayor Turner and acknowledged his twenty-five years of service to the City of Houston and the state of Texas.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Sloan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded, and Dr. Schulz adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm. The next RHPC Board meeting is scheduled for May 2nd at SETRAC (1111 North Loop West, Suite 160, Houston, Texas 77008) in the conference center.

Attendees

Crystal Williams, Susan Burton, Mark Sloan, Lydia Worthen, Raymond Lomelo, Lisa Spivey, Janie Ochoa, Paul James, Lisa Valenzon, Solomon Guerrero, Trey Urech, Gary Litton, Cathy Muscat, Timothy Chapman, Alexa Wilson, Mark Burgess, John Wingate, Chris Jannise, Trey Frankovich, Christopher Andrews, Glenda Self, Sherry Richardson, Jonathan Keels, Amy Fields, Kathryn Izquierdo, Danielle Calhoun, Laren Freitag, Alison Hare, Chelsia Elmore, Kevin Guerrero, Collin Poole, Robert Scott, Bryan Campbell, Sarah Morris, Beverly Foster Jenny Pfannes, Scott Reeves, Charles Brockett, Nancy Mathew, Jackeline Cervantes, Angela Lee, Cassidy Werts, Justin Zimmer, Allison Reimers, James Meaux, Chirstian Watkins, Joseph Murray, Katherine Samuel, Toni Carnie, Dr. Kevin Schulz