



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*

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### Board Meeting Minutes

**April 21, 2025**

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Dr. David Persse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Memorial Hermann is making a change to their representative on the SETRAC board. Due to this change, there will be a vacancy in the Vice Chairman of Hospital Services role as Tom Flanagan will no longer be serving as a board member.

#### 3. **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Flanagan reported that the following individuals have been nominated to serve on the SETRAC Board of Directors. The board will vote at this meeting to approve the nominations.

- Dr. Samuel Prater has been nominated by Erin Asprec to replace Mr. Flanagan as the representative for Memorial Hermann.
- Sterling Taylor has been nominated by Dr. Marc Boom to replace Wayne Voss as the representative for Houston Methodist.

The nominations period for the following officer positions were opened at the meeting and will remain open for 30 days. Voting on these positions will take place at the July 2025 board meeting. Nominations are to be sent to [nominations@setrac.org](mailto:nominations@setrac.org).

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman of Hospital Services
- Officer-at-Large

The following board member terms will expire in July 2025. These representatives may be renominated to a new three-year term. Nominations are open through Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- CHI St. Luke's Health
- City of Houston EMS (HFD)
- Colorado County

- HCA Houston Healthcare
- Matagorda County
- Regional Hospital Preparedness Coalition (RHPC) – to be selected by the RHPC board
- Waller County

#### **4. OFFICER REPORTS**

##### **A. Chairman**

Dr. Persse reported that the SETRAC employees received an employee survey via BentEar Solutions. The survey is due on April 25<sup>th</sup>. A similar survey will be sent to stakeholders following the conclusion of the staff survey.

While the Greater Houston area has a high immunization rate against measles, there could be some travelers/immigrants from other countries that could see a larger rate of infection due to not being immunized.

The World Cup could bring half a million people to Houston during the 39-day event. Healthcare facilities are asked to prepare for a larger influx of people.

##### **B. Vice Chair Hospital Services**

Mr. Flanagan reported that the real-time bed reporting pilot is being put on hold due to the activity taking place at the federal level.

The ad hoc dues committee is reviewing cuts that could be made at the federal and state level to help determine what the changes in dues may look like. The information will be presented at the July meeting.

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

James Campbell reported that the challenges of getting a rotational regional program are being worked through for the whole blood project.

The no-notice regional MCI plan has been reviewed.

There is a bill currently in legislation that could potentially fund blood products and there is talk about possibly continuing Senate Bill 8 in some fashion.

The EMS leadership listserv is being used on a regular basis and has been very useful.

##### **D. Secretary**

Mr. Morrow had no items to report.

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

Dr. Kaziny reminded hospitals and prehospital services to recognize or identify individuals that may have measles so appropriate precautions can be implemented when transferring the patient.

Dr. Kaziny also reminded everyone that this is a good time to prepare for hurricane season.

##### **F. Treasurer Report**

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

- All grant accounts are on track with spending.
- The Amegy Bank operating account has a large balance; however, Amegy Bank is able to spread the money among multiple accounts in order to ensure the money is insured.
- Unrestricted asset growth shows a total fund balance of \$983,957.99. Approximately \$350,000 from the general fund is taken to support current operations to support shortfalls in state and federal funding.

Clarification was provided by Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Squyres on how the purchase of a new warehouse/office space would be funded. The SETRAC Foundation would purchase the new location while SETRAC would lease the space from the SETRAC Foundation. SETRAC is not able to purchase a building using grant funds from the state. A suggestion was made to emphasize that the SETRAC Foundation and SETRAC are two different entities and that it is the Foundation that would be purchasing the building.

Mr. Squyres shared that Maestro will be dissolved due to the lack of requests and resources. The funds will be deposited into the SETRAC account.

## 5. EXECUTIVE REPORT

Lori Upton provided the board members with an orientation book that includes an overview of SETRAC finances, governing structure, affiliated organizations, and bylaws.

Ms. Upton thanked Dr. David Weisoly, Dr. Elizabeth Eason, Dr. Nichole Davis, and Dr. Eugene Toy for their assistance with developing protocols for babies and pregnant mothers in regard to measles exposure that was disseminated through our listservs.

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

- SETRAC has been awarded the HFD Base Station contract for an additional five years. SETRAC will employ a full-time base station manager.
- SETRAC was also awarded the HPP contract with the New Mexico Department of Health to be a fiduciary agent.
- Maestro currently has approximately \$92,000 in its account and is losing money each year due to lack of resources. A request will be made to the Maestro board to dissolve the organization and to roll the money over to SETRAC.
- SETRAC will once again be participating in the NASCAR Day Giveathon, a 27-hour national fundraising campaign. Ms. Upton challenged the board members to match her donation of \$200. The fundraising event will have opportunities to have donations matched.
- A blood drive will be held at SETRAC on May 22<sup>nd</sup> as part of EMS week and to support the whole blood program.
- Registration, call for speakers, and hotel reservations are now open for the RHPC Symposium. DSHS will give \$100,000 to support the symposium by adding a track for emerging diseases.
- A written budget has been created for the clinical department so directors can view their spending.
- The SETRAC Foundation has its own website at [www.setracfoundation.org](http://www.setracfoundation.org).
- The IT department has completed the requirements and attestations for PCI DSS compliance. This allows SETRAC to collect credit card information securely.
- **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 reported that the training and exercise team have been working with stakeholders in preparation for the World Cup.
  - An MCI triage training will be held at the end of the month, targeting EMS and ED partners.
  - The Special Populations Coordinator is developing a boot camp for elected officials, targeting the difference between 55+ apartments and nursing homes.
  - A big exercise simulating an aircraft crash will be held at Jack Brooks Airport. Over 100 volunteers will be assisting with the event and media will be present.

- A mandatory daily bed report in regard to the measles outbreak has been created in EMResource. There is currently no end date for the reporting. The reporting period is from 8am to 1pm on weekdays only.
- A webpage is being built which will be dedicated to World Cup information, resources, and upcoming trainings.
- Ms. Spivey thanked our partners at CenterPoint Energy for assisting with getting answers to hospitals during power outages.
- A meeting is taking place with Galveston officials with the upcoming Topless Weekend to determine what assets may be needed from SETRAC.
- All four of the regional ambulances were present for a training. A photo of all the ambulances together has been posted to our website.
- SETRAC has developed a cache of O<sub>2</sub> through a partnership with the Houston Health Department and the Houston Fire Department for use during a disaster.
- EMFT had IDR training at Cy-Fair on February 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Spivey reminded everyone that training is available for any organization that needs it and to keep the night and weekend staff in mind concerning training needs.
- **Emergency Healthcare Systems** – A written report was provided to the board prior to the meeting. Suzanne Curran and Melanie Aluotto provided the following updates as well as Dr. Nichole Davis (Pediatric Committee Chair):
  - One of the Level III trauma designated facilities will be going in active pursuit of a Level II designation.
  - The state is holding regular meetings to review the new trauma rules.
  - The Trauma Registry Workshop was held in February and was very successful. Next year's workshop is being planned and may include invitations to RAC H and RAC R.
  - Mechanisms of mortality is now being reviewed by the Trauma Committee to see if education is being delivered appropriately. For the first time, gun injuries has substantially decreased.
  - The Injury Prevention Committee will once again participate in the Katy Area Safety Fest to provide education to the community.
  - In the month of April, just under 1,000 employees from both airports were trained in Stop the Bleed. The last training will be April 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Crosby EMS have set up a program to help the elderly in the community that will be presented at the EMS committee.
  - Dr. Davis shared that the Pediatric Committee has a goal of liaising with the other committees so the pediatric population stays in the forefront and not an afterthought. The committee will continue to support the regional PECCs. Many RACs have 100% utilization of the PECCs while SETRAC is not taking advantage of the resources. A survey to determine the barriers of use will be sent out to hospitals soon. Sample cases will be presented at future meetings.
  - The Pediatric Committee will be developing a checklist for EMS and complex care clinics that they can distribute to parents so they are prepared so children with special needs will have the necessary items when sheltering at the hospital. Dr. Davis will also be liaising with shelters in hopes of making them aware of how restrictive shelters can be for children with special needs.
  - Texas Children's and SETRAC will be putting on the annual exercise for the G7. The Pediatric Preparedness for the Healthcare Professional will be taking place in San Antonio in August.
  - Ms. Upton reported that the National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative just released their latest newsletter. Texas is the national leader in pediatric readiness and in providing high quality care during emergencies. In 2024, GETAC endorsed the NPRQI as the method to ensure best outcomes for pediatric patients; however, to date no hospitals in SETRAC region have signed onto this initiative.

Ms. Upton suggested the Pediatric Committee have a goal of having 5 trauma centers actively engaged by this time next year.

- Stroke workgroups have been formed to review extended window strokes and stroke rehabilitation.
- About 40% of strokes and 50% of STEMIs are arriving via POV. The committees are working on a social media campaign to increase the use of 911.
- According to data shared at GETAC, SETRAC is outperforming the state in door-to-needle times.
- SETRAC is working with Dr. Sean Savitz at UTHealth to develop education for nurses, physicians, and medics.
- SETRAC is partnering with RAC R to help align stroke plans since both RACs share hospital systems.
- The Heart of the Matter program recently held a session at Dulles High School in Sugar Land. To date, 504 participants have received hands-only CPR training. A future event will take place at Houston Christian University.
- The cardiac data dictionary is being reviewed and updated to be inline with the NCDR Chest Pain MI Registry.
- A new cardiac workgroup will be developing a DIDO toolkit to help reduce STEMI transfer times in the region. Freestanding ERs will be targeted with this education.
- The American Heart Association will present their current bystander CPR initiatives at the next Cardiac Care Committee meeting.
- The TCHMB initiatives launching this summer will include safe sleep, congenital syphilis, and breastfeeding.
- There have been three NRP classes this year to date and more are being planned.
- Antibiotic timeliness has improved while breastmilk at discharge has slightly dropped from previous years.
- The Maternal Subcommittee is finalizing data points to track to begin tracking primary C-section rates.
- The Syphilis Task Force is working with health departments and will begin looking at data to complete a PI project.
- The ED Committee is looking at wall times. The NCTTRAC region is currently tracking wall times and will provide a presentation on their program.
- The ED Committee is reviewing what data will need to be collected to determine how to transfer behavioral patients out.

## **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. *Vote to approve nominations for open board positions***

The board approved the nominations of Dr. Prater and Sterling Taylor to fill the Memorial Hermann and Houston Methodist positions respectively. There were no objections or abstentions. Tom Flanagan will roll off of the Vice Chair of Hospital Services position at the July meeting.

## **7. GENERAL / OPEN DISCUSSION**



## **Legislation**

The RAC is currently watching the following legislative items:

- A bill has been introduced regarding the use of cold cots in hospitals. There are funds attached to the bill and it is not decided how the funds will be distributed. This could possibly be distributed through RACs.
- The whole blood program may be funded with \$10 million statewide.
- The state insurance plans where EMS will be reimbursed at their published rates is scheduled to sunset in September 2025. A bill to extend the plans is moving forward without difficulty.
- A bill setting aside money for rural county EMS ambulances and equipment was introduced.
- SB 672 has a hearing scheduled for Wednesday. The bill states that hospitals need plans for diversion in the instance of cyber-attack or electrical outage and the plan needs to be submitted to DSHS. This may be rewritten before the hearing.
- HB 1656 has not yet been scheduled for a hearing. The bill gives the authority to medical directors and paramedics to write emergency detention orders for psychiatric emergencies in the absence of law enforcement.

## **Whole Blood Program**

The GETAC Whole Blood Task Force is looking at how to redistribute blood that hasn't been used. This includes possibly moving to a 21-day rotation.

## **Cyber Security**

Nation-state actors are using AI to search hospital and EMS websites for names of staff and using the information as a data source to hack into systems. Access points are mobile devices that are logged into. Dual authentication is highly recommended.

## **Disposal of Insulin Syringes**

A question was raised if there was a program where diabetic persons could dispose of the syringes that are used by that individual. As long as the syringe is fully encapsulated (gallon jug, Plaster of Paris, etc.) they can be disposed of in the garbage.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Persse adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

SETRAC Board - Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

