

# RHPC Board Meeting

May 2, 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.

### RHPC Board Roll Call

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

Danielle Calhoun

Kevin Schulz, MD

Raymond Lomelo

Mark Sloan

Gabriella Lopez

Toni Sloan

Michael Nixon

Eric Steffel

Michael Olivier

Lydia Worthen

Approval of Minutes (C101)

Dr. Schulz requested review and approval of the March minutes. Ashlee Thurman (Harris County OEM) made a motion to approve the minutes, Toni Sloan (HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball) second the motion, and the coalition members carried the motion.

### New Business

#### UTMB Presentation

Dr. Carri Lavine (UTMB) presented on the HHS Region 6 RESPTC/University of Texas Medical Branch to give the coalition members an awareness of who they are and what they do (presentation filed with RHPC Board minutes binder).

#### Cyber Assessment

Lisa Spivey reported SETRAC has been working with the state, other RACs across the state, and cybersecurity experts at the federal level on a cyber assessment tool for hospitals that will be sent out soon along with the HVA. The first is like a document your will read through, and the second one is an HVA for cybersecurity to assist in identifying our threats.

#### RHPC Nominations

Ms. Spivey announced the RHPC Board and corridor chairs/co-chairs are up for nomination. She will send out the nominations next week and there will be a two-week period after nominations are received for the voting process.

# 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. June 24<sup>th</sup> in Montgomery County for West Corridor. In the works for an additional bootcamp in Brazoria Co for South Corridor.
- Continue to work with local jurisdiction on emergency preparedness workshop for elected officials. On hold for now.
- Training dialysis clinics on the use of EMResource has been conducted.

- SETRAC participated with dialysis's Corporate Office in Emergency Preparedness Hurricane Trainings.
- Continue to work with new facilities to be part of RHPC and provide emergency preparedness guidance.
- Special Populations virtual Regional Exercise May 13<sup>th</sup>. Last day to register May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year's exercise will include facilities simulating an evacuation.
- SETRAC Special Populations presentation at the TALA Conference in April RACs overview and disaster preparedness.
- Reached out to the TDEM STEAR Rep to discuss the new STEAR online registration for LTCS and home health/hospice providers.

# Training and Exercise Update (C104)

Timothy Chapman reviewed the Training and Exercise Schedule distributed to the coalition members highlighting the upcoming regional exercise on May 8<sup>th</sup>. A Pulsara training course with EMS is coming soon, CMOC 101 trainings continue, and there will be an off-the-grid drill in June. (*T&E schedule filed with RHPC Board minutes filed binder*).

## EMTF Update (C104)

Grant Kelley submitted his EMTF report as follows:

## Recent Responses and Preparedness

- Bay City Ammonia Release: EMTF swiftly deployed a robust no-notice response, including 1 Heavy Strike Team, 5 ambulances, and 1 AMBUS, ensuring effective incident management.
- Severe Weather Standby: EMTF-6 has been activated 9 times for severe weather preparedness, showcasing our commitment to regional safety and rapid response readiness.

## Training and Curriculum Development

- MIST Curriculum Advancement: Our coordinators are hard at work developing the new MIST curriculum. The first class, a refresher, is tentatively scheduled for mid-to-late summer 2025, with a new MIST course planned for mid-to-late fall 2025.
- NWCG MEDL Course: EMTF, in collaboration with the Texas Forest Service, will host the NWCG MEDL Course in San Antonio from May 20-22, 2025, enhancing our medical leadership capabilities.

## Crystal Beach Go Topless Weekend 2025

- Proactive Planning: We're actively coordinating a comprehensive mutual aid response for this high-demand event, including a Type 3 MMU, two ambulance strike teams, and overhead coordination during peak hours.
- Community Support: We've secured significant donations of assets and equipment, bolstering our operational capacity.

#### Current Needs

• Urgent Request: We urgently need 10 I-Stat 1 CG4+ cartridges. Any assistance in securing these critical supplies would be greatly appreciated—please reach out if you can help!

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- TDEM Conference Workgroups: The next EMTF workgroups will convene at the TDEM Conference in Fort Worth, fostering collaboration and strategic planning.
- Call for Volunteers: We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to set up, tear down, and staff the EMTF display at the TDEM Conference. If interested, please let us know, and we'll add you to the list.

He thanked the coalition members for their continued support as we strengthen our region's emergency medical response capabilities.

### EMS Update (C104)

Troy Erbentraut reported the MCI Plan has been reviewed and final adjustments have been sent to the SETRAC Board for approval. The next EMS meeting is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> along with SETRAC hosting a blood drive the SETRAC office on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the SETRAC office for those that would like to come out to donate.

# **Inventory Update (C104)**

Deferred

### World Cup Update

Mr. Erbentraut gave a brief overview on what to expect as the World Cup comes to Houston. He reported there is a page dedicated to the World Cup on the SETRAC website to help provide information and it will be updated as information is shared. Ms. Spivey added she has reached out to the Houston Airport System and Public Health for information to share, and Metro will probably be sharing information closer to time as rail schedules are identified.

Dr. Schulz stated base camps, games, teams, etc. will probably be determined after the first of the year and all that information will be updated on the SETRAC website once information becomes available. Toni Sloan encouraged the hospitals to have all their frontline personnel signup for Pulsara and MCI training as soon as possible to be prepared for this event.

# Sub-Committee Updates

## RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

Ms. Sloan reported the 2025 award applications are on the SETRAC website, and 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. She requested the Award of Excellence be added to all upcoming corridor meetings for her to attend and present.

# Symposium Planning (C101)

Ms. Spivey reported symposium planning, and "Call for Speakers" continue. She encouraged the coalition members to send in their speaker packets or send any recommendations to her. The San Luis Resort is sold out, but there is still room at the Hilton. She reminded the coalition members to save the date for the upcoming 2025 Preparedness Coalition Symposium scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> at the San Luis Convention Center in Galveston, Texas.

# Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

Deferred

# Corridor Updates (C101)

**Downtown Corridor** – Michael Olivier reported the last Downtown Corridor meeting was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and was dedicated to the tabletop exercise which was well attended. There was EMS representation providing good perspective from their end. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> at SETRAC.

**South Corridor** – Mike Nixon reported their last meeting was dedicated to the World Cup tabletop exercise as well. The sub-medical director (Lars Thestrup) is the World Cup Medical Director which some background information which helps the county gearing up for the event. The next corridor meeting is May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Fort Bend County OEM in Richmond.

**East Corridor** – Lydia Worthen reported their last meeting was March 14<sup>th</sup> at Jack Brooks Airport with good participation in the World Cup tabletop exercise. The next corridor meeting is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at Chambers County Health Services Building. She also reported the corridor members, along with other federal and state agencies, participated in a full-scale exercise on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Jack Brooks Airport. The exercise involved an airplane fire with fifty patients consisting of mass casualty and mass fatality injuries, and the patients were played by volunteers. Assets from SETRAC, multiple fire departments, and other agencies were there to assist.

West Corridor – Andrew Fisk reported the last West Corridor meeting was held on April 25<sup>th</sup> at HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest dedicated to the tabletop exercise with excellent participation from a diverse group of agencies and hospitals. The next corridor meeting is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> at the newly opened Houston Methodist Cypress Hospital.

**North Corridor** – Janay Yancey reported the North Corridor last met on March 12<sup>th</sup> and the meeting was dedicated to the tabletop exercise with good participation. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at Woodland Heights with a Pulsara representative scheduled to present.

# Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

## **Harris County Public Health**

Trey Frankovich reported they are continuing their measles vaccine plans and the locations can be found on their website. They are conducting internal planning for FIFA and in the beginning stages of their FAC exercise planning.

### **OEM**

### **Montgomery County OEM**

Montgomery County OEM is prepping for their June 5<sup>th</sup> exercise, the DSHS exercise scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, and the upcoming Hurricane Expo. Justin Zimmer reported they are taking their trailer to Jeep Weekend to assist law enforcement. They also have supplies stocked and ready for FIFA.

### **Harris County OEM**

Mark Sloan reported the tornado warning for Harris County has expired and moved into Liberty County. They are seeing rain counts of four to six inches per hour within these cells and they are expecting street flooding through 3:00 am period as the front is moving from North Texas through South Texas. They are also currently seeing high winds and hail to the west of us.

Hurricane season is beginning and planning is underway especially with the unknow of what the federal declaration may look like as the adjustments in Washington DC continue to unfold. Mr. Sloan stated he would not be surprised if we see a named storm within the next three weeks in the Atlantic.

There continues to be a major internet outage across the region in Harris County. Comcast, Infinity, and AT&T have three areas being investigated for cuts to the system and network. They are looking at rerouting internet capabilities and has impacted some government activities and some businesses regarding credit card transactions now being cash only. Mr. Sloan is not sure if it has impacted the hospital systems, but some has been restored but it is an ongoing investigation.

### **EMS**

### **Houston Fire Department**

Dr. Schulz reported the Tri-Annual FFA Exercise at Bush Intercontinental Airport is scheduled for tomorrow morning (Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>) which will be an event in EMResource.

Dr. Schulz thanked all the partners that assisted at last week's Memorial Hermann Ironman Race where there were more than 500 patients treated.

### Other Partners

#### Harris Health (Ben Taub)

Ashley Thurman announced Ben Taub will be conducting a huge drill in preparation for the World Cup in April 2026. The planning committee will begin in July 2025 with the Houston Zoo and FBI as confirmed participants. She invited any hospitals and/or agencies interested in participating to contact her.

#### Michael E. DeBakey VA Hospital

Danny Shine reported they are conducting an NDMS tabletop exercise on June 11th.

### Open Discussion/Other

#### **SETRAC**

Lori Upton gave the coalition members an overview of the recent letter regarding the possible defunding of the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) which means the hospitals will not be funded. This would mean all the advantages funded through HPP (CMOC, EMTF assets, SETRAC assistance, etc.) will no longer be available. She stated, for any coalition members that find value in the benefits of the coalition to contact their representatives and congressmen to bring attention all the to everything that has been built over the last generation to ensure the funding is secured. The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) has reached out to the US House of Representatives and are working on our behalf.

#### 2025-2026 RHPC Board Meeting Schedule

Dr. Schulz reviewed the 2025-2026 dates with the coalition members. Mrs. Sloan made a motion to approve the schedule as written, Mr. Sloan seconded the motion, and the coalition members unanimously approved. The 2025-2026 RHPC Board meeting scheduled was approved.

## **RHPC Board Nominations**

Dr. Schulz reminder the coalition members that nominations for the RHPC Board chair and co-chair are open and should be sent to Lisa Spivey at <a href="mailto:lisa.spivey@setrac.org">lisa.spivey@setrac.org</a>.

# Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded, and Dr. Schulz adjourned the meeting at 2:56 pm. The next RHPC Board meeting is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> at SETRAC (1111 North Loop West, Suite 160, Houston, Texas 77008) in the conference center.

## Attendees

Aaron Velasquez, Allison Reimers, Amy Fields, Andrew Fisk, April Ganz, Ashlee Thurman, Ashley Simon, Barry Moore, Beverly Foster, Bonnie Macius, Bryan Campbell, Carrie Cox, Cathy Muscat, Christina Wakins, Christy Gonzales, Corey Bowers, Chrystal Williams, Danielle Calhoun, Danny Shine, Dylan Lancaster, Eric Steffel, Gabriella Lopez, Gary Litton, Glenda Self, Henry Maniego, James Meaux, Janie Ochoa, Jason Kime, Jerry Thomas, Joe Schorre, John Wingate, Justin Zimmer, Katherine Samual, Katie Linn, Kevin Guerrero, Kevin Schulz, MD, Kimberly Hobson, Lauren Burns, Lisa Spivey, Lori Upton, Lydia Worthen, Mark Sloan, Megha Bhatt, Michael Olivier, Michele Carter, Michelle Griffin, Mike Nixon, Nancy Mathew, Raymond Lomelo, Roger Morse, Sandra Leyva, Santonio Hoke, Sarah Morris, Scott Reeves, Susan Burton, Syed Ibrahim, Timothy Chapman, Toni Sloan, Trey Urech, Trey Frankovich, Victor Reyes

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