



Chairman	Dr. Brent Kaziny
Past Chair	Dr. David Persse
Vice Chairman Hospital Services	Sterling Taylor
Vice Chairman Pre-Hospital Services	James Campbell
Secretary	Walter Morrow
Treasurer	Lon Squyres
Officer-at-Large	Dr. Kevin Schulz
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

July 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. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed.

3. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Tom Flanagan outlined the process for voting for the open executive committee positions (Chairman, Vice Chairman of Hospital Services, Officer-at-Large) that will occur at the end of meeting. Per the SETRAC bylaws, the elected candidate must receive a majority of the votes (50% or more). Run-offs will be held for positions with more than two candidates, if necessary. Voting will take place electronically and anonymously.

In addition to the executive committee positions, voting will take place at the end of the meeting to approve/ratify the nominations for the board members whose terms are expiring.

4. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Chairman

Dr. Persse shared that this will be his last meeting as board chairman. He thanked all responders who assisted with the Fourth of July flooding response in the Texas Hill Country. He also commended how the hospital systems and the region come together during times of disaster, and it has been amazing to watch. SETRAC has been integral in regional response and has global attention for its leadership, boots-on-the-ground, and administrative assistance during events. Dr. Persse concluded his report by thanking everyone for allowing him to serve as board chair and that he hopes he represented SETRAC well.

B. Vice Chair Hospital Services

Mr. Flanagan provided a report on the reassessment of current SETRAC member dues, which have not had an increase in over ten years. Mr. Flanagan made a recommendation to move forward with the recommendation from the RAC to revise the SETRAC member dues according to a tiered system based on the number of licensed beds for hospitals and number of runs for EMS agencies (document showing fee schedule was provided to the board). Air transport agencies, specialty hospitals, freestanding EDs, dialysis centers, LTACs, and nursing homes would have a set amount. The change in membership dues would not cover the entire shortfall that would be created due to cuts in federal and state funding. Mr.

Flanagan also recommended looking at future annual increases based on consumer pricing index (CPI) so leadership of member organizations can plan ahead. Everyone in attendance was asked to share the information with their leadership.

Dr. Persse shared that SETRAC will provide change management once the fees are approved.

C. Vice Chair Pre-Hospital Services

James Campbell commended Grant Kelley, Troy Erbentraut, and the team for their assistance with the Texas Hill Country response and taking care of their crews. He also gave appreciation to Chief Dudley Wait for keeping everyone up to date with legislation in Austin which entered into special session today. Legislative bills, including a bill providing \$10 million in funding for the whole blood program, will be up for approval and, if approved, will go into effect in September.

Clayton Ehrlich sent out a survey gauging interest in the whole blood program from an EMS standpoint. A meeting will be held on August 6th between Dr. Persse, Chief Wait, and Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to discuss regional distribution and exchange of blood products.

D. Secretary

Mr. Morrow shared his thanks to SETRAC for their assistance with the deployments and helping the smaller agencies involved in the response.

E. Officer-at-Large Report

Dr. Kaziny echoed the previous comments about SETRAC's terrific assistance during disaster response. He shared concerns about challenging financial times regarding grant funding. It appears the funding for the Pediatric Disaster Network, while still alive, may be axed by ASPR from 10% to 48.5%. Dr. Kaziny has been highlighting SETRAC's work on a national level and encouraged the board to keep in mind the possible changes to grant money, the value of SETRAC, and the proposed SETRAC dues.

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 figures presented are the previous year's budgets that are being wrapped up.
- The Frost account is being migrated to Amegy Bank. The Amegy Bank operating account has a large balance; however, Amegy Bank is able to spread the money among multiple FDIC covered accounts in order to ensure the money is insured.
- Maestro Services will be dissolved as it has not been used and developed as anticipated. The funds will be moved to SETRAC funding.
- Although the unrestricted net asset growth shows an increase over the past couple of years and is being built up, consideration needs to be given to long-term solutions as the amount is not enough to cover the shortfalls in state and federal funding.

5. EXECUTIVE REPORT

Lori Upton provided a written report to the board. Highlights include:

- Some HPP indirect funding was returned to the state due to funds not being spent (these funds cannot be reallocated).
- On June 30th, SETRAC was advised that the Federal government only obligated 67% of funding to the state beginning on July 1st. Should the remainder not be provided, the result would be a deficit of \$1.2 million for SETRAC. Cost saving measures including the cutting of all conference travel and individual facility-based decon trainings have been implemented. There are currently two vacant positions at SETRAC that will not be filled, and staff raises were held to 2%.

- An IT consultant firm will provide a free assessment of our IT infrastructure and identify any potential areas for cost savings.
- ASPR now falls under the CDC and has been renamed as the Center for Preparedness and Response. HPP is currently not listed as being funded. HPP funds could be reinstated by Congress reauthorizing the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA) through the Appropriations Committee. TETAF has been contacted in hopes they will reach out to congressmen and congresswomen.
- A review was conducted on the cost of renting space at both the current SETRAC office location (~\$20,000 per month) and the SETRAC warehouse (~\$25,000 per month). Ms. Upton request for the board to make a recommendation to the SETRAC Foundation to purchase the warehouse location (estimated at \$6 million with a \$2 million downpayment). Upon purchasing, SETRAC would rent the space from the SETRAC Foundation. By moving the SETRAC offices to the warehouse, SETRAC would spend approximately \$30,000 per month on one location. Stakeholders would be relied upon to host larger meetings.
- SETRAC has been awarded the HFD base station contract for another five years. Mr. Stephen Scott has been hired to manage the base station as of July 1st.
- The contract with TEEX has been renewed.
- SETRAC has pulled out of the agreement with the New Mexico Department of Health to assist with their program due to a discrepancy in the amount SETRAC would receive for our services.
- Juvare has a new federal grant to institute real-time bed availability that meets the CMS daily requirements. Bed availability would be updated every fifteen minutes. There would be no cost to hospitals that sign on during the grant period (through 2028). Hospitals that wait and sign on after the grant period would bear the cost.
- The RAC Assessment is due August 31st and has been presented to the board for approval. Each of the data points have been reviewed and scored by stakeholders from the trauma and EMS committees. All items have received a 3 or 4 rating. The first year is only for the trauma and prehospital programs. Other service lines will follow in subsequent years.
- As presented to the board for approval was the suggestion to bring in a third-party organizational resiliency group to address employee concerns. The \$55,000 program would run for seven months with a four-step approach. Interviews with staff and board members would be conducted as a part of the program.
- Ms. Upton and Suzanne Curran recently spoke at the First Annual International Emergency and Disaster Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Graphs were provided to show the use of general funds to offset expenses over the years.
- Ms. Upton thanked Mr. Kelley, the EMTF group, and our partners for their assistance during the Texas Hill Country response.
- **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 James Meaux, Training and Exercise Coordinator, has left SETRAC.
 - A MGT-439 Pediatric Disaster course was scheduled for last week with another course to be held in October. A CHEMPrep workshop is being scheduled – additional information will be sent out.
 - A special meeting for elected officials was arranged through the City of Houston to provide education on the difference between nursing homes and apartments for those 55 years of age and older. Additional meetings will be arranged for other city and county officials.
 - SETRAC is working with Juvare to expand the EMResource dashboard for EMS providers
 - Collaboration with peers in Dallas continues in preparation for the World Cup.

- Daily hospital reporting has been discontinued; however, the quarterly public health report for DSHS may continue.
- Mr. Erbenraut reported that Jarred Moreno, Mobile Assets Coordinator, has left SETRAC. There are currently no plans to fill this position.
- SETRAC currently has assets deployed in the Hill Country as a part of the flood response. The EMTF response included both large and small EMS agencies.
- More EMTF trainings will be coming up (see report for dates.)
- SETRAC helped support the Go Topless Jeep event again this year.
- **Emergency Healthcare Systems** – A written report was provided to the board prior to the meeting. Suzanne Curran and Melanie Aluotto provided the following updates:
 - Due to the departure of Mr. Meaux from SETRAC, Ms. Upton will step in to assist Ms. Curran with the G7 exercises. This year's exercise will focus on hurricane preparedness.
 - EMS and the Injury Prevention are both seeing high incidences of falls in the Cinco Ranch area. Education on fall prevention will be provided at the Katy Safety Fest in September.
 - Stop the Bleed training has been completed with the Houston Airport System with over 1,200 staff trained and with United Airlines and the National Guard.
 - The RAC self-assessment was provided to the board prior to the meeting for review.
 - Sheila Lopez gave a presentation on the RAC Transfer PI Project that is currently underway for trauma patients in the region. This stems from a GETAC project looking specifically at how many severe trauma patients are transferred outside of the two-hour guidelines.
 - The Stroke Committee is also looking at the Cinco Ranch area for extended window strokes as well as areas where Heart of the Matter classes have been held. Stroke rehab utilization in the region is also being reviewed as well as at the GETAC level.
 - A Heart of the Matter (HOM) program was recently held at the Compass RN Camp at the TMC Innovation Center with about 100 students in attendance. Since the HOM program was implemented, 643 people have been trained with hands only CPR.
 - The Cardiac Committee has workgroups that are putting together door-in door-out (DIDO) toolkits to assist with the timely transfer of STEMI patients to PCI facilities.
 - The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB) is developing a syphilis toolkit as well as breastfeeding and safe sleep initiatives.
 - To date, 492 people have been trained in NRP classes taught in the region.
 - Antibiotic timeliness and breastmilk on discharge percentages are below the goals currently set by the Perinatal committee; however, great strides are being made. Updated toolkits for both initiatives are posted on the website.
 - Data points for C-sections and syphilis data collection are being finalized.
 - EMS wall times are being reviewed by the Emergency Services committee. Data use agreements will be sent to EMS partners so data can be collected to review the regional wall times. The Emergency Services committee is also reviewing behavioral health length of stay data and have an interest in looking at the number of patients awaiting transport to inpatient behavioral health beds and getting those patients out quickly.

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. *Approval of enlisting a third-party organizational resiliency group to address employee concerns.*
A motion was made to approve spending \$55,000 to have a third-party organizational resiliency group address employee concerns. The board voted unanimously in opposition of the proposal, mainly due to the cost associated with the program.

A motion was made to issue an RFP which would encompass the same type of services but broaden those services to also include the possible migration of the current SETRAC office to the warehouse. The board unanimously approved the motion.

- b. *Approval of RAC self-assessment*

A motion was made to approve the self-assessment. The board unanimously approved the self-assessment as presented.

- c. *Approval of proposed dues changes*

A motion was made to approve the proposed dues changes as outlined in the CEO report/handout. The board approved the changes with one member abstaining.

- d. *Approval of recommending the SETRAC Foundation research the purchase of the property of the current SETRAC warehouse location*

A motion was made to approve the recommendation. The board unanimously approved the recommendation.

- e. *Vote for open board and board officer positions*

The board unanimously approved the nominations for the following board seats whose new terms will expire in July 2028:

- CHI St. Luke's – Donnie McLaughlin
- City of Houston – Dr. David Persse
- Colorado County – Michael Furrh
- HCA – Erin Erb
- Waller County – Rhonda Getschman
- Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (RHPC) – Dr. Kevin Schulz

The board unanimously approved the nomination of Dr. Paula Brock to fulfill the Harris Health seat vacated by Dr. Steven Brass. Dr. Brock will complete the remainder of Dr. Brass's term which will expire in July 2027.

Elections were held for the following Executive Committee positions:

- *Chairman*

The candidates for this position were Dr. Brent Kaziny, Dr. Kevin Schulz, Mr. Squyres, and Chief Wait. Prior to voting, Dr. Schulz removed his nomination for this position prior to voting. Electronic voting was conducted and a majority of votes for one candidate was not received. A run-off election was held by paper ballots with the top two candidates, Dr. Kaziny and Chief Wait, which resulted in a tie. An additional run-off election was held between Dr. Kaziny and

Chief Wait via paper ballot and Dr. Kaziny was elected as the chair by receiving a majority of votes.

- *Vice Chairman of Hospital Services*

The candidates for this position were Dr. Kaziny and Sterling Taylor. Due to Dr. Kaziny being elected as the chair, Mr. Taylor ran unopposed and was unanimously elected to serve as Vice Chairman of Hospital Services.

- *Officer-at-Large*

The candidates for this position were Dr. Kaziny, Dr. Schulz, and Justin Reed. Chief Reed removed his nomination for this position prior to voting. Due to Dr. Kaziny being elected as the chair, Dr. Schulz ran unopposed and was unanimously elected to serve as Officer-at-Large.

7. GENERAL / OPEN DISCUSSION

Appreciation

Dr. Persse and Mr. Flanagan were presented with gifts from SETRAC for their service on the SETRAC board. Dr. Persse's term as chair will come to a close at the end of this meeting. Mr. Flanagan will be rolling off the board as the Memorial Hermann representative and Vice Chairman of Hospital Services. Mr. Flanagan shared the history of SETRAC and how far the organization has come and encouraged the board to continue to move SETRAC forward in serving the community.

Legislation and Funding

Mark Sloan reminded the board to pay attention to the legislators during this special session as there are things that could come about based on the recent flooding in the Hill Country that may have a cascading effect on the ability to respond in the future. He also encouraged Ms. Upton to take advantage of this situation to sell what the RACs do so legislators understand the value of the response that occurred in the Hill County and possibly add a bill to assist with funding.

In the upcoming federal grant process, there will be 25% matches on all Homeland Security grants.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Persse adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

SETRAC Board - Secretary: _____

