South Corridor Minutes
September 11, 2026
Houston Methodist Clear Lake
West Bldg. – 2036 Space Park Dr
AmocoFCU Conference Room
Nassau Bay, Texas 77058
1:00-3:00 PM

A. Call to Order

Michael Nixon called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast's leadership commenced the meeting by presenting a comprehensive review of their mission and accomplishments.

B. Minutes (C101)

Mr. Nixon requested review of the May Minutes. Lori Foster (Memorial Hermann Sugar Land) made a motion to approve the minutes, Jacob Riegle (Galveston County Health District) seconded the motion, and the corridor members carried the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

C. New Business

Personnel & Leadership Changes

- **Jeremy Way:** Resigned from SETRAC; appointed as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Brazoria County.
- **Katherine Samuel:** Appointed as the current South Corridor Manager for SETRAC (a basic EMT and former Stafford fire department volunteer).
- **Larry Niedringhaus:** A retired Army officer who has taken over as the new Director of Preparedness and Response**.**

Corridor Map Revisions

- **South Corridor**: Added Austin and Colorado counties (moved over from the West Corridor).
- **West Corridor:** Absorbed the Downtown corridor, which no longer exists independently.
- **East & North Corridors:** Maintained their current configuration.
- **Healthcare Preparedness Program**: Expanded SETRAC staffing into RAC F and RAC G as of June 1st.

DSHS Hospital Bed Reporting Initiative

- **The Problem:** Recent statewide/regional bed availability reporting saw a low 40% participation rate, which does not accurately reflect the region's actual preparedness.
- **The Pushback**: Stakeholders expressed confusion and fatigue over repetitive requests, questioning why they need to log data for "drills" when they are already fighting overcrowding in Emergency Departments.
- **Actionable Solutions & Strategy:**
    - **Rebranding:** Avoid calling mandated regulatory state reports "drills" to emphasize their compliance requirement.
    - **Simplification:** Provide clearer, simpler guides for automated pulling from Electronic Medical Records (EMR) like Epic.

- **Automated "Bed Sync":** Strongly encouraging facilities to implement automated bed syncing to EM Resource.
- **Time & Cost Warning:** The automated sync onboarding is currently free but will become a paid service after an upcoming deadline. It is a complex IT process that can take over 1.5 years to complete, so facilities need to start early.

Next Steps & Logistics

- **November 13th Meeting**: The team is seeking a volunteer facility to host the upcoming November 13th meeting, ideally at a location central to the corridor.

D. HPP Capabilities Review

Pulsara Update

- **In-Person Push:** While online training modules exist, the team recognizes that facilities prefer hands-on, in-person instruction at their specific locations.
- **Available Trainers:** The training team includes **Kat, Timothy, and Fidel**, along with other SETRAC staff members.
- **Target Audience:** Specifically aimed at training or retraining **ED staff** at partner hospitals to improve system utilization and familiarity moving forward.

- **World Cup Update**

SETRAC and regional partners completed extensive preparedness efforts for the FIFA World Cup, including public health monitoring, emergency planning, and medical support at Fan Fest. Memorial Hermann staffed a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) for 39 days, providing urgent care services and reducing the burden on local emergency departments. Approximately 800 individuals received triage and cooling services, while 35 patients required transport to a higher level of care. Fort Bend County EMS also provided infectious disease response support and medical coverage for visiting teams. Overall, the region experienced minimal impact, and lessons learned will be incorporated into future large-scale events and emergency preparedness efforts.

E. EMTF Update (C101)

- The Ross Fire in California burned more than 90,000 acres and reached 78% containment. Resources are beginning to scale back.
- At the peak of the fire, 15 wildland fire support packages were deployed to assist firefighters with support and protection.
- A Type 6 Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) physician provided medical care to firefighters, including treatment for cuts, scrapes, sunburns, bee stings, and other minor injuries.
- EMTF resources were pre-positioned for Tropical Storm Edouard but were not needed for evacuations.
- Acadian assisted with the evacuation of a nursing home in Silsbee after a fallen power pole damaged the building. Approximately 20 patients were relocated to Livingston.
- Training efforts continued to expand regional response capabilities:

- 57 personnel trained in radiological response.
- 31 new Medical Unit Leaders (MEDLs) trained.
- 34 new Medical Incident Support Team (MIST) members trained.
- 35 new Infectious Disease Response Unit (IDRU) members trained.

- Grant and Chief Vance are now qualified to instruct IDRU courses and will offer regional training.
- Upcoming exercises include:
  - An Ebola patient transport and handoff exercise with UTMB.
  - An October 13 exercise to test infectious disease response procedures.
  - A September 29 ambulance evacuation exercise with Texas Children's Hospital involving infant isolettes.
- Grant clarified that IDRU is now the statewide terminology used for infectious disease response to maintain consistency and avoid confusion with the older REDA plan.

F. Training and Exercise Update

Although he was unable to attend, he provided training materials and an after-action report from a recent exercise for the meeting packet. He is currently working on the World Cup After-Action Report (AAR) and provided a list of available online training courses. He will also continue offering online WebEOC and Emergency Management Resource training.

G. Special Populations Update (C101)

- Special Populations includes healthcare facilities outside of hospitals and long-term acute care facilities, such as nursing homes, assisted living, dialysis centers, hospice, home health, and surgical centers.
- A Special Pops Boot Camp is scheduled for November 17 in Lufkin, with two additional boot camps planned for Regions F and G in November.
- The boot camps will focus on winter weather preparedness, SETRAC's role, and how disaster response is coordinated for these facilities.
- Working with the Regional Disabilities Access and Functional Needs Committee to encourage durable medical equipment (DME) providers to have individuals who rely on oxygen or ventilators register with STEAR.
- Exploring a long-term reimbursement process for DME providers who provide additional equipment and supplies during disasters.
- Continuing outreach and education with dialysis centers, including providing resources and support for new supervisors.
- SETRAC recently supported the CMOC during Tropical Storm Edouard in the East Corridor, where 14 facilities were operating on generator power.
- Liaisons Gary and Butch coordinated support for the affected facilities.
- Emphasis remains on building relationships and communication so facilities know who to contact when emergencies occur.

H. Inventory Update (C101)

A new Ford Maverick was purchased and is now on-site, averaging approximately 36 miles per gallon and equipped with emergency lights. SETRAC office renovations are ongoing, with the office spaces expected to be completed by mid-October. Phase Two will include demolition and expansion of the current conference center to provide additional space.

I. Partners Updates (C101)

- **Partner Updates**

Public Health

- West Nile virus activity continues, with multiple positive mosquito pools reported. Only two human cases have been reported in the county so far.
- Fort Bend County finalized a contract for a large emergency operations site.
- A full-scale exercise is being planned with the State Guard, Public Health, EOC, and first responders.
- Fort Bend County is continuing its STEAR registration campaign through senior events, QR codes, and community outreach.
- STEAR information is being mapped through GIS to identify individuals who may need assistance during emergencies, including those requiring oxygen or other medical equipment.
- Galveston County is planning an October 2 functional exercise to simulate evacuating individuals registered with STEAR, including transportation of residents and pets.
- Galveston County is also updating dispensing sites and working on agreements with local school districts.
- Emergency management partners are updating annexes to Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) to align with state guidance.

EMS Updates

- Wharton County EMS continues working with OEM and public health partners to promote STEAR registration through community events and health fairs.
- A concern was raised regarding limited access to STEAR information outside the City of Wharton, despite EMS serving a larger territory.
- EMS assisted with an apartment complex evacuation due to a power outage and extreme heat, coordinating resources and resident relocation.
- EMS continues working with local colleges on additional training opportunities, including infectious disease response training.
- Fort Bend County EMS is partnering with the Fire Marshal's Office to conduct weekly inspections of identified group homes to address safety concerns.
- EMS emphasized the importance of STEAR registration and community preparedness ahead of hurricane season.

Hospital Partners

- Hospitals reported several potential Biocontainment Unit (BCU) activations that did not proceed.
- Hospitals continue conducting infection control, emergency preparedness, and cybersecurity downtime drills.
- A hospital system completed its first system-wide exercise involving nine separate incident command centers working together.
- A hospital system is restructuring its safety program to provide more consistent practices and centralized support across campuses.
- Pearland is continuing evacuation training and expanding mass casualty incident (MCI) preparedness efforts.
- One hospital participated in a nuclear exercise with STP, which focused on training rather than a graded exercise.
- A hospital partner offered surplus decontamination equipment, including tents, suits, and boots, to agencies interested in using the equipment for training. Interested organizations should contact Katie as soon as possible.
- CommonSpirit is transitioning its St. Luke's facilities to the CommonSpirit name, including CommonSpirit Downtown and CommonSpirit Sugar Land.

Additional Discussion

- A question was raised regarding hospitals accepting and utilizing Texas EMS wristbands. Wristbands are available at the SETRAC warehouse and can be requested as needed.
- Hospital partners expressed interest in participating in future NICU isolation and evacuation exercises.

Anyone wanting their partner update included in the minutes should send their update via email to Brenda Carrillo at brenda.carrillo@setrac.org. This will ensure updates are documented accurately in the minutes.

J. Open Discussion/Other Business

Adam Lee is asking members of the healthcare coalition to provide feedback on how to revitalize RHPC meetings and make them genuinely valuable instead of a 15-minute contract obligation**.** Over past sessions, turnout has dropped to just four virtual attendees, and a scheduling survey brought in a mere 27 responses across the entire region. To fix this, leadership is offering a "second chance" to redesign the format, proposing ideas like rotating physical locations across different corridors and restructuring the virtual environment to support active, adult-focused learning.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, meeting ended at 2:22. No QR Code Provided.

ATTENDEES: Danielle Conaway, Charles Brockett, Susan Burton, Dawn Wood, Christy Gonzales, Mellanee Roberts, Beverly Foster, Fidel Calvillo, Matthew Grout, Grant Kelly, Lori Foster, Cheri Cox, Robert Laffey, Jonathan House, Marisa Harner, Jacon Riegle, Michael Nixon, Sean Sevy, Dr.Fonja Tetzmesser, Adam Lee, Dale Lancaster, Scott McGarry, Jeffrey Smith, Julie Baker, Matthew Brown.