



February 2019

Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol Set for Feb. 26

Trauma and emergency healthcare advocates will gather Feb. 26 to make their voices heard at the state Capitol. Hosted by TETAF, the day begins with registration and continental breakfast from **8 – 8:30 a.m.** in the **Board Room** of the **Texas Hospital Association**, located at **1108 Lavaca St., 7th floor**. Note that parking at THA is **NOT** available.

At 8:30 a.m., an overview of the day's activities with a briefing on key messages to deliver throughout the day will be provided. At 9 a.m., attendees will walk to the Capitol for recognition in both the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. The House convenes at 10 a.m., and attendees should be in the House gallery on the third floor and seated by 10 a.m. The Senate convenes at 11 a.m., and attendees should be in the Senate gallery by 11 a.m. Note that times may be adjusted depending on the legislative schedule on Feb. 26.

Following these events, attendees should meet with their elected officials. TETAF encourages you to contact your state senator's and state representative's offices to schedule appointments for Feb. 26. Go to www.Capitol.texas.gov for assistance in identifying your lawmakers and obtaining office contact information.

There is no charge to participate in this event to deliver key messages one-on-

one. **However, so that we may adequately prepare for all who plan to participate, please register your attendance**

at: <https://2019traumadayatcapitol.eventbrite.com>.

Paid street parking is available around the Capitol, including Colorado Street south of 10th St. Paid parking is available in several garages within walking distance of the Capitol, including the [Wells Fargo building](#) at 15th and Guadalupe; [One American Center](#) at 600 Congress with entry on W. 7th St.; and the [Perry-Brooks Garage](#) at 720 Brazos.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact TETAF at 512-524-2892.

Senate Finance Committee Takes Testimony on Health Funding

On Feb. 6, the Senate Finance Committee heard invited testimony on state funding of health and human services from a number of agency representatives. The initial budget proposal reduces funding for EMS and Trauma Regional Advisory Councils.

In addition, the committee heard public testimony, and a large group of stakeholders representing diverse interests – from trauma/EMS providers to representatives of the disability community – each provided two minutes of verbal testimony.

Wanda Helgesen, RN, executive director of Border RAC and a member of the TETAF board, submitted written testimony as well as spoke verbally at the hearing. Speaking on behalf of TETAF, her testimony focused on the increase in RAC responsibilities since 2006. She explained RACs' roles in responding to day-to-day medical emergencies as well as when disasters – natural or man-made – occur. She pointed out that state funding has remained stagnant at the 2006 level despite the increased responsibilities and the 20 percent plus growth in the state's population.

Darrell Pile, chief executive officer of the SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory

Council, testified on behalf of Trauma Service Area Q. He shared the impressive history of his organization and highlighted some of the RAC's key roles, focusing on stroke and disaster response. He pointed out that as a result of population growth and increased trauma runs, in 2019 SETRAC will receive only \$64,555 more than it received in 2013 (totaling \$515,547). Non-trauma needs continue to mount and the RAC is asked to address mental healthcare capacity needs and preventable deaths due to infections (SEPSIS) and to provide stop the bleed training, among others. He also underscored the need for Driver Responsibility Program replacement funding.

TETAF appreciates the attendance of a number of stakeholders and those who testified and/or submitted written testimony.

House Appropriations Article II Subcommittee Has Hearing

On Feb. 13, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Article II (health and human services funding) had a hearing focusing on the 2020-21 budget for health and human services agencies.

John Hellerstedt, M.D., commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, provided invited testimony. Referencing the proposed budget cuts to his agency, he portrayed them as changes in policy. Rep. Sarah Davis (R-Houston) posed questions recommended by TETAF to the commissioner with regard to the role and funding of RACs. While Dr. Hellerstedt acknowledged understanding the proposed budget cuts to RACs and EMS, he was supportive of their work.

During public testimony, **Darrell Pile**, chief executive officer of the SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council and a member of the TETAF board, testified on behalf of both groups. He encouraged legislators to ensure proper funding of RACs and EMS agencies, especially if the source of funds must change due to elimination of the Driver Responsibility Program. He noted that SETRAC unites more than 147 licensed hospitals and more than 55 9-1-1 EMS agencies that function as a tight-knit team. He stated that monies historically intended for RAC trauma focuses do not cover today's costs because of ever-expanding

responsibilities, including improving stroke care, cardiac care, infant and maternal care, and injury prevention.

Jeff Beeson, D.O., also testified on behalf of TETAF. He quickly gave an overview of the important roles EMS and RACs play in directing patients to the appropriate hospitals for emergency care. Beeson noted that RACs, EMS and trauma hospitals cannot continue to meet the needs of more people and increasing mass casualty events because the system is working beyond its capacity day-to-day, and faces additional strains when large-scale disasters occur. He questioned how general revenue funding for EMS providers and RACs can be reduced in the proposed budget, stating, “The trauma and emergency health care system cannot do any more with fewer resources. We are healers, not magicians.” He emphasized that the trauma and emergency healthcare system is infrastructure that must be supported to protect the lives of all Texans, and that **not** investing in disaster readiness or trauma and emergency health care response is irresponsible and ultimately harmful.

TETAF appreciates the testimony of the TETAF representatives, and the presence of numerous stakeholders at the hearing.

Legislative Workgroup Calls

TETAF’s weekly Legislative Workgroup Zoom meetings are scheduled most Fridays at 10 a.m. To join the Legislative Workgroup, send an email to [Kathy Clayton](#). She will provide dial-in information.

Texas Perinatal Services Schedules Forum Feb. 19 for Customers

Hospitals that choose Texas Perinatal Services for maternal surveys have exclusive access to live Forums. The next one is scheduled for **1 p.m. Feb. 19**. Feedback on the first two forums has been overwhelmingly positive.

In addition, Texas Perinatal Services-contracted hospitals have access to a virtual library of tools to help prepare for and navigate the survey process. TPS has a **Virtual Training Manual** just for customers. It contains numerous

modules built around the most frequent questions from Texas hospitals, and continues to grow regularly. If you are a contracted hospital and need a link to the library, please contact [TPS](#).

More information about Texas Perinatal Services and its extensive customer-only resources is available at <http://texasperinatalervices.org/>.

Data Management Course Set Feb. 20-21; Save \$50 Today Only

TETAF is bringing its [Data Management Course](#) to South Texas. Join TETAF at **Driscoll Children's Hospital Auditorium** in **Corpus Christi Feb. 20- 21** to develop or enhance your skills as a trauma registrar.

Through a skills lab and case reviews, you will improve your data abstraction skills. Participants will learn how to:

- Use the data dictionary to ensure accuracy;
- Follow-up with validation of the data collected;
- Improve medical coding and trauma scoring to ensure quality output from your data; and
- Use registry data as meaningful use data for your trauma center.

More information and registration are available [online](#). You can earn up to 12.3 contact hours of continuing education. The course is approved by the American College of Surgeons for trauma registrar education at all levels of designated facilities.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact [Kathy Clayton](#).

TOPIC Course Scheduled Feb. 27

TETAF and The Society of Trauma Nurses – Texas Chapter will offer the **"Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Course"** twice in February. TOPIC focuses on the ongoing assessment of the continuum of

trauma care with a structured review of process and discussions of strategies to monitor trauma patient outcomes.

A TOPIC course for Level IV trauma centers is scheduled from **8 a.m. to noon** on **Feb. 27** in **Austin** in coordination with the GETAC meeting. More information and registration is [available](#) on the TETAF website.

Texas AWHONN Conference Scheduled May 16-18 in Frisco

The Texas Chapter of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) will hold its 2019 conference May 16-18 in Frisco. The event will be at the Embassy Suites Frisco Hotel Convention Center & Spa, located at 7600 John Q. Hammons Drive in Frisco.

Theme for the 2019 conference is “Texas Nursing Stars – Celebrating 110 Years of Nursing Excellence.” TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services is one of the sponsors for the event and is providing continuing education credit for participants who attend all the seminars. The conference will offer education on the latest in women's health, obstetric and neonatal nursing by experts in the field. In addition, attendees will see up-to-date technology from an array of exhibitors.

Educational topics include breast-feeding, maternal mortality and morbidity, postpartum hemorrhage and depression, S.A.N.E. Nursing, essential oils and the Modified Early Warning System (MEWS). All breakout sessions include topics for L&D, mother/baby, nursery/neonatal, antepartum and advanced practice registered nurses.

The Pre-conference includes an advanced fetal monitoring course and a session on breastfeeding management.

More information and registration are available [online](#).



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