



July 2019

Revision of Trauma Rules Begins Aug. 19

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported at the June 26-28 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council meetings that a meeting is scheduled for Aug. 19 to begin revising the trauma rule again. The regulation has been in the process of being revised based on the resource document used during statewide meetings held in 2018. The draft rule revision should be posted on the DSHS website in August before the first meeting. DSHS expects the revision to be complete by the end of the year.

The revision will incorporate the recent legislative change allowing the use of telemedicine by certain rural hospitals to meet the physician trained in emergency medicine requirements.

TETAF will follow and continue to be diligent in providing input to the revisions. Several GETAC committee members including Neal Rutledge, M.D., the GETAC Stroke Committee chair, voiced concern to the state about the ongoing delays in rule revisions causing Texas to be behind in the most recent best practices and standards for stroke care.

Perinatal Advisory Committee Must Produce Report by Dec. 31

With the passage of [Senate Bill 749](#) by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), the Texas Perinatal Advisory Council has been directed to submit a report to the Texas Legislature by Dec. 31, that summarizes the department's review of neonatal care and a similar report due to the Texas Legislature by Dec. 31, 2020, on maternal care. To complete the neonatal report, the Texas Perinatal Advisory Council indicated at its June 25 meeting that a special meeting of the PAC likely will be held in late July to look at and prepare data for the report. Rulemaking as a result of SB 749 will not take place until after the neonatal report is completed, likely beginning in 2020.

TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services is closely following PAC activities and will provide input into the report as possible.

TETAF Board Reviews Legislative Session, Approves Audit

At its June 25 meeting, the TETAF Board had an in-depth discussion of the legislative session led by Advocacy Committee Chair Dr. Jeff Beeson with assistance from Ashley Morgan and Janiece Crenwelge with Erben & Yarbrough and Dinah Welsh, TETAF president/CEO. The legislative "wins" with regard to funding for the trauma system were discussed at length, including a full discussion of [House Bill 2048](#) by Rep. John Zerwas (R-Richmond), which repeals the Driver Responsibility Program and replaces the funding generated for the trauma system with several fees and fines. Also contained in HB 2048 were provisions to increase EMS and RAC funding by 1%, which will amount to a 50% increase for EMS and 100% increase for RACs in Account 5111 funds.

The supplemental appropriations bill, **Senate Bill 500** by Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), also was discussed. The bill includes \$17 million to trauma with \$2 million slated to Trauma Regional Advisory Councils and the remaining \$15 million divided among various eligible trauma hospitals. Timing of the distribution of these extra funds is not yet clear. The TETAF Board is making plans to convene a meeting with RAC leaders to brainstorm on how best to use extra funds to provide the biggest return on investment back to the Texas Legislature.

Dr. Craig Rhyne, TETAF treasurer and chair of the TETAF Finance Committee, reviewed the financials and introduced Pete Allman, auditor with Allman & Associates, a firm that works primarily with nonprofit organizations. The audit report for the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 2018, was presented, and Allman verified that financial information is accurate and that financial statements reported month to month are appropriate.

The next **TETAF Board meeting** is scheduled for **5 p.m. Sept. 24** at the Austin Wyndham Garden Hotel in conjunction with the Sept. 25-27 GETAC meetings.

TETAF Publishes Legislative Update

On June 18, TETAF distributed a comprehensive Legislative Update email newsletter. Printed copies also were distributed at the June 25 board meeting. You may access the newsletter [online](#).

For trauma and emergency healthcare advocates, repealing the Driver Responsibility Program and replacing the lost revenue was a significant legislative priority, and trauma and emergency advocates came together and worked to pass [House Bill 2048](#) which replaced the lost funding with new, stable revenue streams. Another big win was in the supplemental appropriations bill

where Trauma Regional Advisory Councils and hospitals received a total of \$17 million in one-time funding to recover from Hurricane Harvey.

GETAC Expanding; Applications Being Accepted

As a result of [House Bill 1869](#) by Rep. Stephanie Klick, RN (R-Fort Worth), the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council is growing to 19 members from its current 15. The legislation adds two registered nurses — one to be appointed from a list of names recommended by a statewide professional association of emergency nurses and the second required to have trauma expertise. The other two additions include a representative of a stand-alone EMS agency and another for a paramedic.

Qualified trauma/emergency nurses and EMS personnel are encouraged to apply. Applications should be submitted to the Governor's Appointment Office. Applications and information about the process are available [online](#). TETAF is available to assist potential applicants and to answer questions. Please contact [Dinah Welsh](#), president/CEO, for assistance.

New Communications Director Begins July 11

Erin Moore will join the TETAF staff on July 11 as Director of Communications. For the past three years, she has been Marketing Communications Director for Quicklight Media in Austin. A comprehensive hiring process over a span of several months led to her hiring as the first communications director for TETAF. Moore will lead all communication efforts for TETAF which includes all external communications, legislative advocacy communications, and serving as an ambassador for the foundation as needed.



“It is important for our foundation to have someone who is more than an exceptional communicator, but also an individual who is a proactive, diligent leader,” said Dinah Welsh, TETAF president and chief executive officer. “Finding the right person to join our team involved dozens of candidate interviews and then multiple interviews with the finalists. I believe we have selected a communications director who brings top-notch skills and compliments our experienced TETAF team.”

A native of Denton and a fifth-generation Texan, Moore received a bachelor of arts degree in broadcast journalism from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She has worked as a reporter, anchor, producer and bureau chief for television stations in Lubbock, Waco, Tyler/Longview and Texarkana/Shreveport, La.

She worked as a public relations/new media specialist for Central Texas Medical Center in San Marcos before moving to Austin in 2011 where she worked as a media relations coordinator for the Austin Independent School District. She was an account executive with Elizabeth Christian & Associates Public Relations, and then spent two years as the team lead/communications specialist with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. Prior to joining

Quicklight Media, she was public relations manager for Western Governors University Texas.

July Forum to Feature Maternal Surveyor

Texas Perinatal Services hosts its next Perinatal Forum **Monday, July 15**, at **1 p.m.** This month, TPS contracted hospitals will get insights from physician and maternal care surveyor Nathan Drever, M.D. If you haven't yet attended one of our forums, you are missing out on great education and sharing opportunities. To take advantage of this exclusive customer webinar, contact [Carla Rider](#) for registration information.

Level 1 & 2 Maternal Survey Process Topic of TORCH Webinars

Director of Perinatal Services Carla Rider is the featured speaker at webinars being offered this month to members of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH). The sessions focus specifically on the maternal care designation rules and verification process for Level 1 and 2 hospitals.

July 26, Noon:

Texas Maternal Verification Survey for Level I and II Facilities: Tips for Maternal Program Managers in Navigating the Process

This session is ideal for hospital program managers.

On July 8, the topic was **TETAF Maternal Verification Process: What Level I and II Hospital Leadership Teams Need to Know**. This session was geared to hospital CEOs, CNOs and leadership teams.

All TORCH Level 1 and 2 hospitals are encouraged to take part in the free lunch and learn sessions. To register, contact [Carrie Ruiz](#) at TORCH.

TPS Bringing One-Day Perinatal Quality Improvement Conference to Dallas

TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services has partnered with the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement to bring the institute's renowned quality improvement conference to Texas.

The "Implementing Perinatal Quality Improvement Conference" will be held **Oct. 11** at Texas Health Dallas. Presenters include the Institute's founder and president, Debra Bingham, who led our June Perinatal Forum. TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services hospitals can use registration code TETAFTPSCLIENT to save \$50 off regular registration fees. The code expires **Sept.**

5. View the [agenda and register](#).



Connect with Us on Social Media

[TETAF FACEBOOK](#)

[TETAF TWITTER](#)

[TPS FACEBOOK](#)

[LinkedIn](#)
