



**TETAF Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 13, 2019**  
**Zoom conference call**  
**3:00 p.m.**

<b>Present:</b>	Dudley Wait Ricky Reeves Eric Epley Danny Updike Kathy Perkins Angela Gentry Craig Rhyne Darrell Pile Edward Racht Jeff Beeson	<b>Absent:</b>	Kenneth Mattox Donald Jenkins Peyton Ware Scott Christopher Nilda Garcia Wanda Helgesen Lori Robb
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*TETAF Staff: Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz, Carla Rider, Kathy Clayton, and Erin Moore*

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Dr. Edward Racht, chair.
- 2) **TETAF Out-of-State Surveyor Pilot** – Kathy Perkins, Survey Committee chair, briefed the board on the committee’s discussion and action regarding a pilot program to train Arkansas neonatologists to survey Texas facilities. TETAF is critically short of neonatologists for surveying NICU facilities. This is partially due to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requirement that MEDNAX physicians cannot survey another MEDNAX facility. The Survey committee discussed potential solutions along with recruiting neonatologists from outside of Texas, including re-implementing aggressive in-state recruiting efforts. The committee discussed contacting neonatal organizations and having Dr. Nilda Garcia draft language for a letter to send to all neonatologists in Texas. Mrs. Perkins explained that TETAF does not want to use professional surveyors. The committee also discussed potential barriers for using out-of-state surveyors, which included increased costs and competition. The committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Directors to implement the pilot program and to re-implement recruiting in Texas

immediately. Kathy Perkins motioned for the board to approve a pilot program to train out-of-state neonatologists to survey NICU facilities. Dr. Craig Rhyne seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no objections and no abstentions.

3) **TETAF Discussion Items**

- a. **TETAF Board of Director Nominations** – TETAF President and CEO Dinah Welsh provided an update to the board on the nominations. As of the meeting, there were 13 nominations for board members and today is the last day for nominations. TETAF’s Governance Committee will meet to review the nominations prior to the Board of Directors meeting on December 12. TETAF Communications Director Erin Moore read the list of names and the experience each of the candidates can bring as a board member.
  - b. **SB 500 Funding** – Mrs. Welsh briefed the board members on the discussions between the RACs and DSHS regarding the use of funds from SB 500. She explained that one of the options, the RAC Data Collaborative did not qualify according to the legislation. She updated the board on the RAC discussions of a statewide project and regional projects, that include implementing a trauma patient armband identification project. The DSHS is currently finalizing the scope of work for the use of funding.
  - c. **Texas Perinatal Advisory Council** – Dr. Racht briefed board members regarding the latest on concerns of conflict of interest by Dr. Eugene Toy and his roles with the Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Dr. Racht explained the concern is a potential unfair decision-making process because of Dr. Toy’s representation with PAC and ACOG that would exclude TETAF. However, Dr. Racht explained that he is also concerned that TETAF needs a sincere strategy should we move forward with addressing the concern with the PAC. Mrs. Welsh added that six new PAC members will be appointed soon, and some are TETAF surveyors.
  - d. **Possible TETAF Sponsorship of Future GETAC Meetings** – Eric Epley and Mrs. Welsh had a discussion with Jane Guerrero regarding an opportunity to bid on sponsoring GETAC meetings. Mrs. Welsh stated this is in TETAF’s budget and she and Mr. Epley are awaiting more details regarding what the sponsorship will entail, including costs and resources.
- 4) **Next TETAF Board Meeting – December 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Drury San Antonio Riverwalk** – TETAF Survey Coordinator Kathy Clayton explained that she is working with a consultant to determine if there is any additional space for room reservations at the Drury should anyone who has not booked need a room.
- 5) **TETAF General Assembly Meeting – December 12, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Drury San Antonio Riverwalk**
- 6) **Adjournment** – The meeting ended at 4:23 p.m.