

NOVEMBER 2019

From the CEO: Senate Interim Charges



Five months have passed since the 86th Texas legislative session ended, but the break was short-lived as lawmakers work during the interim to prepare for the next legislative session. Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick released the Senate's [2019 Interim Legislative Charges](#) and there are several items TETAF will focus its efforts on and they include:

- **Heart Health:** Analyze the prevalence and cost impact of heart disease to state health care programs. Provide recommendations to increase program collaboration and reduce the long-term costs associated with heart disease, stroke, and related risk factors. Identify and recommend ways to address the impact of heart disease on women's health.
- **Rural Health:** Examine and determine ways to improve health care delivery in rural and medically underserved areas of the state. Determine whether additional funding provided during the 86th Legislative Session has helped to ensure more accessible and quality health care in rural areas.

The Senate will also monitor implementation of legislation passed during the 86th Legislature, which includes maternal mortality, infant health initiatives, and women's health programs.

As always, TETAF will provide regular legislative updates to keep you aware of discussions taking place at the Capitol.

Regards,
Dinah

Senate Bill 500 Funding Discussions

TETAF and the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) leaders held a series of meetings via Zoom (two in September and five in October) to determine how best to maximize the \$2 million in "emergency" funds appropriated to RACs from Senate Bill (SB) 500.

Two surveys were sent to RAC leaders as part of this process. The first survey collected ideas from the RACs and the second survey gave RAC leaders the opportunity to rate those responses.

Ideas were narrowed based on seven factors that include patient/community improvement, measurability, sustainability, legislative optics, feasibility, rural impact, and cost. Based on those results, RAC leaders presented a draft proposal to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) during a call on October 28.

RAC leaders are finalizing a draft proposed budget that will be submitted to DSHS, while DSHS is drafting a Statement of Work (SOW). The contract agreement will be finalized this month.

Infectious Disease Response Units (IDRU) Operational Statewide



All eight Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) regions now have active Infectious Disease Response Unit (IDRU) pre-hospital teams. Additionally, all but one region has a hospital augmentation team.

These teams support the needs of the regional health care systems with the care, transport, and/or transfer of patients with a high consequence infectious disease [HCID]. The pre-hospital team consists of a group supervisor, medical incident support team (MIST), a physician, paramedics and EMTs, and HAZMAT technicians. The hospital augmentation team is similar, but does not include HAZMAT technicians and instead has registered nurses and logistics specialists.

ALL IDRU team members, at a minimum, attend the Texas EMTF IDRU Didactic training.



Texas Education Agency Approves Stop the Bleed Course

The Texas Education Agency approved a Stop the Bleed course from the American College of Surgeons as mandated by House Bill 496. The course is free and it teaches how to properly use a Stop the Bleed kit in the event someone is injured.

HB 496 also mandated for Stop the Bleed kits to be placed on every school campus in Texas by January 1, 2020.

Stop the Bleed instructors can find the Texas Education Agency approved slides on the [bleedingcontrol.org](#) website in the [instructor portal](#).

Dr. Ronny Stewart, the ACS COT medical director and STRAC chair, played an integral role in HB 496 and the approval of the new kits.

[Stop the Bleed Course Information](#)

Focused on Trauma Care

TETAF is proud of the focus Texas has on providing the best trauma care every day. There are many days those efforts make the news.

For example, a [Texas Department of Public Safety \(DPS\) trooper in New Waverly recently came to the aid of an accident victim](#) using a tourniquet to stop bleeding.

Additionally, the [Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council \(STRAC\)](#) was [mentioned in the Rivard Report for its efforts in the Stop the Bleed program](#).

Do you have a story to share? We want to hear from hospitals, RACs, and EMS providers. Send it to TETAF's Erin Moore at emoore@tetaf.org.



TETAF December Board Meeting

The final TETAF Board of Directors meeting for 2019 will be held Thursday, December 12 at the Drury Plaza Hotel on the Riverwalk in San Antonio.

Continental breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Nominations for the TETAF Board of Directors

The TETAF Governance Committee is accepting nominations for the 2020 TETAF Board of Directors and we ask that you please take a moment to submit nominations by clicking on the button below. Nominations are due **NOVEMBER 13**. The General Assembly will vote on nominations during its December 12 meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Drury Plaza Hotel on the Riverwalk in San Antonio.

Members elected to the TETAF Board will have oversight of the foundation possessing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to support the mission and purposes of TETAF. Every effort shall be made to recruit and nominate individuals who will result in a multi-disciplinary board with diversity of geography and experience.

TETAF's mission is to strengthen regional healthcare delivery systems through collaboration, advocacy, and education. Leaders should reflect our mission and have demonstrated expertise in EMS, trauma, stroke, neonatal, and maternal care from across Texas.

[Submit a Nomination](#)

Next Perinatal Forum: November 21



Texas Perinatal Services

A Program of the
Texas EMS Trauma &
Acute Care Foundation

TETAF's Texas Perinatal Services (TPS) hosts its next Perinatal Forum on Thursday, November 21 at 1 p.m.

The topic will be, "Tips for Level III Neonatal and Maternal Verification Survey." If you have not previously joined one of the educational online forums that are exclusive to TETAF/TPS hospitals, contact Carla Rider to register.



Upcoming Events

Did you know that you can share your organization's trauma and emergency health care related events on the TETAF website? Visit our calendar of events page to [submit your event](#).

November 12 - [Perinatal Advisory Council \(PAC\) meeting](#).

November 23-25 - [Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council \(GETAC\) meeting - Fort Worth](#)

November 24-27 - [Texas EMS Conference](#)

December 12 - TETAF Board meeting and General Assembly meeting

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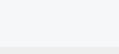
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