

JULY 2020

From the CEO: Safely Surveying



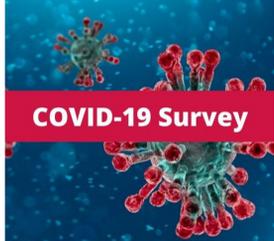
June was our second month to return to surveying in hospitals since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Our staff has been busy with surveys already scheduled for June and working to reschedule surveys for hospitals that postponed in the spring. I am pleased to say the return has been successful. The survey agenda was modified to accommodate for social distancing practices and to minimize the number of people meeting. As we have done in the past, we continue to monitor the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. Our team is already discussing additional ways to continue surveys should there be any closures that would prevent us from going in the hospitals. Our surveyors and staff are following all universal precautions and we can't express it enough how much we appreciate the work they are doing during this time.

As interim committee hearings remain delayed due to the pandemic, TETAF continues to have discussions with legislators and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). This will undoubtedly be a challenging session and we are already working to express our needs in trauma, emergency, stroke, neonatal, and maternal care systems in Texas.

This brings me to our recent COVID-19 survey. If you have not taken the survey, we would appreciate less than five minutes of your time to help us have a greater understanding of the needs in your service line and region in Texas. The link can be [found here](#). If you have completed the survey, thank you for input.

We appreciate all of you who have been working tirelessly through the pandemic. We are here to advocate your needs or assist in other ways through this time.

Stay well,
Dinah



TETAF COVID-19 Impact Survey

Many of your organizations have faced significant changes during the pandemic. TETAF and Texas Perinatal Services continue to advocate your needs on the political and regulatory forefront. Your input provided to our COVID-19 Impact Survey will help strengthen these efforts as we advocate for the many systems of care TETAF/TPS represents.

Please take 3 to 5 minutes to complete this brief survey so we may better understand the challenges and the successes you are experiencing during this unprecedented time.

[Take the TETAF COVID-19 Impact Survey](#)

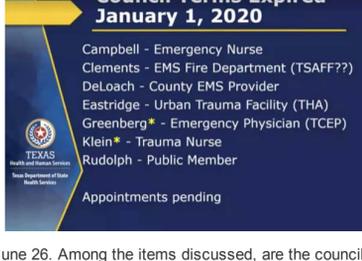
DSHS Names Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Director



The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has announced that Jorie Klein, MSN, MPH, BSN, will become the new director of the EMS/Trauma Systems section. Klein takes over the position vacated by Jane Guerrero who retired on March 31, 2020.

Klein is one of the state's most impassioned and experienced trauma system champions, serving as a founder of TETAF and board chair for many years. She has most recently served as the senior director of trauma, emergency department, urgent care, and disaster management at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

She will begin her new role on August 3, 2020.



GETAC Council Meeting Update

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) hosted a virtual council meeting on Friday,

June 26. Among the items discussed, are the council member terms that expired on January 1, 2020. This includes replacing Jorie Klein who will become the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems director. Appointments are pending by the governor.

Agendas for the next two GETAC meetings have been posted on the [GETAC website](#). The EMS Education Committee will be on Friday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m. and the Injury Prevention and Public Education Committee meeting will be Friday, July 24 at 9:00 a.m.

Additionally, the GETAC meetings scheduled for August in Austin will now be a virtual meeting on Friday, August 21. More details will be announced soon.

Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum

Due to COVID-19, the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum (TTCF) Board meeting scheduled for Monday, August 17 will be a virtual meeting. The TTCF General Membership meeting for Tuesday, August 18 has been cancelled.

Additionally, the TTDEC course for Tuesday, August 17 will be virtual.

Further details will be provided on the [TTCF website](#).



RAC G Facility is the First Pediatric Ready Facility in Texas

In 2013, the National Pediatric Readiness Project survey involved more than 300 emergency departments in Texas. The survey indicated that variability exists in the ability of emergency departments to provide basic care for children.

The Texas EMS for Children Program recognizes that every emergency department must be equipped for the basic evaluation and stabilization of a pediatric emergency, which led to the establishment of the Voluntary Pediatric Readiness Program (VPRP). The goal is for children and families to benefit from the availability of at least one emergency department in their community that is equipped to stabilize and/or manage common emergencies for children.

[Christus Trinity Clinic - Jacksonville](#) in RAC G was a participant in the pilot and has been recognized through the VPRP as the first Pediatric Ready Facility in the state.

Telemedicine in Rural Hospitals

The Health Facility Compliance Guidance Letter from the Texas Health and Human Services provides instruction to hospitals located in counties with a population of less than 30,000 on the use of telemedicine medical services to satisfy a Level IV trauma facility designation requirement.

[View the Health Facility Compliance Guidance Letter](#)

COVID-19 Response by the Regional Advisory Councils

The Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) across Texas have all responded to needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to routine needs. Here is a glimpse of the work by some of the RACs:

[Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council \(STRAC\) - San Antonio face mask efforts](#)

[Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council \(CBRAC\) - Joint Project with Corpus Christi Fire Department for a new Mass Casualty Evacuation Ambulance](#)

Texas EMS Conference Early Bird Rate



The 35th Texas EMS Conference is still scheduled for November 22-25 in Fort Worth.

The Early Bird Rate ends on July 31.

[Register for the Texas EMS Conference](#)

Trends and Racial Disparities in Maternal Mortality & Morbidity

SPEAK UP
Implicit and Explicit Bias Training

Save the Date
February 22, 2021

The University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas



SPEAK UP Conference Rescheduled

The rescheduled date for the "SPEAKUP Implicit and Explicit Bias Education" conference is **February 22, 2021** at UTMB in Galveston.

This is an incredible educational opportunity for any health care professionals, especially those who support and care for women before, during, and after pregnancy or care for newborns.

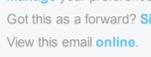
According to the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force in Texas, [Black women are more likely to experience pregnancy-related death than any other race or ethnicity](#). This training is a day-long, interactive implicit bias workshop that outlines strategies to help individuals and groups dismantle racism, provide quality equitable care, and reduce perinatal health disparities.

Registration information will be announced soon.

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