



**TETAF Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2020**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Jeff Beeson, D.O.  
Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP  
Nilda Garcia, M.D.  
Angela Gentry, RN, MSN, TCRN  
Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN  
Kenneth Mattox, M.D.  
Kathy Perkins, RN, MBA  
Edward Racht, M.D.  
Ricky Reeves, EMT-P  
Craig Rhyne, M.D.  
Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT  
Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP  
Peyton Ware, BBA  
David Weisoly, D.O.

**Absent:** Eric Epley, CEM  
Lisa Hutchins, RN-NIC  
Dudley Wait, EMT-P

*TETAF Staff: Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz, Carla Rider, Kathy Clayton, and Erin Moore*  
*TETAF Contractors: Debbie Holt, accountant, Kevin Reed, attorney, and Brian Yarbrough, Ashley Morgan, and Janiece Williams, contract lobbyists*

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair. Dr. Rhyne welcomed those joining the meeting via Zoom.
- 2) **Approval of February 18, 2020 TETAF Board Minutes** – Ricky Reeves, TETAF Board secretary made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Rhyne seconded the motion. Dr. Rhyne asked if there was any objection or corrections. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- 3) **TETAF Financial Review** – Kathy Perkins, treasurer, stated that the net change in cash, working capital, gross margin, operating expenses, and net income were all better than budgeted through the end of March 2020. Survey expenses and admin expenses were less than budgeted. TETAF has not hired a position that was budgeted, it was put on hold due to pandemic. Revenue in the first three months of 2020 was above what was budgeted. There were two negatives in expected revenue, one was TQIP and two hospital data management courses that have not happened. Perkins noted the pause in

surveying due to COVID-19 will result in a decreased revenue. She added that much of the revenue will come in later as surveys are rescheduled. 36 surveys had been delayed and of those 20 had been rescheduled. The total for the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meetings in February was \$17,264. The Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) provided AV which saved \$24,000. TETAF is awaiting reimbursement of \$7,500 from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Perkins added that TETAF is in a good position and will face some challenging months but because the organization is in a better position than anticipated it will help. Perkins motioned to approve the finance report and Peyton Ware seconded the motion. There were no objections to the report, and it was approved unanimously.

- 4) **TETAF Committee Appointments** – Dr. Rhyme provided an update on appointments to TETAF's five committees (Advocacy, Education, Governance, Finance/Audit, and Survey Verification). The chairs of each committee have been named and members of the TETAF Board of Directors have been assigned to committees. Wanda Helgesen is chair of the TETAF Advocacy Committee and is joined by Eric Epley, Ricky Reeves, and David Weisoly as committee members. Helgesen stated she is reviewing the applications from those interested in serving on the Advocacy Committee and is reviewing details that include location in the state and service line. Dr. Rhyme gave a deadline of June 2 to have the committee members named. Scott Christopher is chair of the TETAF Education Committee and is joined by Dr. Ken Mattox as a committee member. Christopher stated there are about 10 to 11 people who expressed interest in serving on the Education Committee. Those interested come from a mix of backgrounds that include maternal and trauma, but no EMS representation. Christopher added that due to COVID-19 adjustments to how TETAF delivers education may need to be made. Dudley Wait is chair of the TETAF Governance Committee and is joined by Angela Gentry, Dr. Ed Racht, and Danny Updike as committee members. Wait was not present for the until the next meeting. Kathy Perkins is chair of the TETAF Finance Committee and is joined by Peyton Ware as a committee member. Perkins said the committee meets monthly and has only missed one meeting through the pandemic. Perkins stated she has submitted her recommendations for committee members and is awaiting the appointments to other committees to see any of her recommendations are appointed to other committees. Dr. Jeff Beeson is chair of the TETAF Survey Verification Committee and is joined by Lisa Hutchins, Dr. Nilda Garcia, and Kate Schaefer as committee members. Dr. Beeson said they are looking for anyone who would like to join the Survey Verification Committee.
- 5) **State Legislative Update** – Dinah Welsh introduced TETAF's contact lobby team. Ashley Morgan, TETAF contract lobbyist from Erben and Yarbrough, provided the update. Morgan stated there are normally meetings and hearings regarding the interim charges, but the meetings are not happening due to COVID-19. There are task forces and workgroups who are meeting by phone and video conference but none relating to the interim charges. Morgan stated they are monitoring the situation to see what interim reports will be provided. The instructions for the Legislative Appropriation Requests (LAR) will be out in June. Morgan added that Senator Jane Nelson has instructed state agencies they will do zero based budgeting and any exceptional items will be reviewed. There is a new House Appropriations Chair, Representative Giovanni Capriglione.

Morgan says this is an appointment and there could be a change. The budget is a concern for the next session. Comptroller Glenn Hegar has provided budget updates and sales tax revenues are down and instead of \$9.3 billion in the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) there will be \$8.5 billion. A more detailed update will be given in June. Morgan stated there has not been any word on DSHS needing to make cuts. COVID-19 is expected to be the big focus as is the selection of a new House Speaker and new committee chairs, plus how next session will operate due to COVID-19.

Redistricting will also take considerable focus during the session. Dinah Welsh added that thankfully TETAF's advocacy team got significant wins during the last session since this session has many unknowns. Welsh also recognized and thanked the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) for their efforts during the pandemic and added they have been mentioned many times for their work during DSHS calls and press conferences.

- 6) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh stated that TETAF staff have been working remotely since mid-March due to COVID-19. Surveys were postponed and no surveys took place during the month of April. Surveys have started again and Welsh thanked the efforts of the hospitals, surveyors, and TETAF staff for rescheduling surveys that were postponed. She stated that changes have been made for conducting surveys including following the highest safety protocols and having fewer people gathered during the survey process. Welsh added that she was named to the Trauma Center Association of America's Advocacy Committee. Welsh said she is working with them on federal issues, including Mission Zero and trauma grants. She said discussion on these has been detoured, but this is a good opportunity for TETAF to be involved at the federal level in the trauma, EMS, and disaster sectors. Welsh said she looks forward to getting committees back on track. Brenda Putz, TETAF vice president of operations, stated that following the stay at home executive orders surveys were cancelled starting in March and all of April and surveys were resumed in May. The survey agenda was changed to provide additional precautions and keep a distance, but still have the ability to enter the hospital safely, conduct the opening conference, medical record review, and closing conference safely. Surveyors were instructed on TETAF's expectations and to follow the hospital's requests for safety. Putz added that hospitals are asked if they want to continue with the survey. In May, eight out of nine hospitals wanted to move forward with conducting surveys. Putz said Carla Rider and Kathy Clayton have been diligent about reaching out to hospitals that are scheduled. It is up to surveyors if they choose to go out in the field during this time and there have only been a few instances of surveyors needing to be replaced. TETAF has been careful about not jeopardizing designation expiration. Some surveyors have agreed to double up on surveys to get caught up on surveys. Putz said the state will do a three-month extension on some surveys but will not do a blanket extension for all. TETAF has met all expectations for surveys and budgets during this time. Putz recognized Rider for her efforts on maternal surveys. TETAF had 85 maternal surveys projected for the first designation cycle and the 92<sup>nd</sup> survey was recently scheduled. The TETAF survey team has taken advantage of the down time to review quality assurance in the survey agendas for each service line and revised the pre-survey questionnaires. TETAF plans to train additional trauma surveyors and maternal surveyors.

- 7) **Closing Matters and Next Meeting Agenda** – Dinah Welsh shared that the August 18, 2020 TETAF Board of Directors meeting may likely be held by Zoom once again. DSHS is still in discussion on plans for the August GETAC meetings. Garrett Hall from Texas TQIP shared that their next meeting will be on Friday, May 22 at 12:00 p.m.
- 8) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.