

SEPTEMBER 2020

From the CEO: The Labor of Moving Forward During a Pandemic



There is no such thing as a summer slowdown, especially when your organization is fortunate to be back on track in the midst of a pandemic. Here we are with Labor Day approaching and that's exactly what the TETAF team has been doing, laboring. The team has worked to reschedule the remainder of the postponed surveys and continues to work on possible alternatives for surveying should any areas of our state experience an uptick in COVID-19 cases that would result in our staff and surveyors not being allowed into hospitals. One of the many lessons learned during this pandemic is to always be prepared for the unexpected.

Surveys continue to move forward in all of our survey service lines. Through all of the hard work by our team working to ensure hospitals are surveyed before their designation expirations, I am proud to share that our team has captured 65% of the maternal market in a very short time. This is a great accomplishment in a competitive service line.

There is still uncertainty as to how the legislative session will be conducted in January. As the House committees continue their request for information process on the interim charges, the TETAF Advocacy team continues to have conversations with our stakeholders and legislators to prepare for the session.

We continue to think about all of you who are responding to the trauma and emergency health needs of Texans during a pandemic and also during Hurricane Laura. There is no doubt this has been a challenging year and we thank you for all that you are doing.

Stay well,
Dinah



TEXAS Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

GETAC Update

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) held its quarterly meeting in August virtually. TETAF submitted its stakeholder update report to the council.

GETAC's fourth quarter meeting will be **November 20** with committee meetings held prior to that from October 1 to November 13. More details about these meetings will be announced soon and the agenda for the November meeting will be posted on the [GETAC website](#).

Quarterly meetings in 2021 are slated for February, June, September, and November.

REMINDER: Public Input Needed for Interim Charges

The deadline to provide input to the Texas House Appropriations Committee on several interim charges is **September 30**. Those charges include:

- **Interim Charge #3:** Review the ability of hospital finance methods, including trauma funding, graduate medical education payments, and supplemental hospital programs, to support all hospitals in Texas (including rural and children's hospitals), and the potential impact from state and federal budgetary changes.
- **Interim Charge #5:** Examine state investments in the health and brain development of babies and toddlers, including Early Childhood Intervention and other early childhood programs for children in the first three years. Evaluate opportunities to boost child outcomes and achieve longer-term savings.

Anyone who would like to provide input must submit the feedback. Feedback must be submitted in a Word or PDF document no longer than five pages to appropriations@house.texas.gov. Include your name, organization, mailing address, and phone number in the email. All comments received will be posted on the Texas House, Texas Legislature, and Texas Legislative Information System websites.



TORCH Fall Conference Goes Virtual

The 2020 Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH) Fall Conference is now virtual. The conference will take place on the same dates, September 23-25.

View the full conference agenda [here](#). Further details about the conference are available on the [TORCH website](#).

Texas EMS Conference Announces Virtual



Conference Details

There is still time to register for the 35th Texas EMS Conference that will take place **November 23-25**. The conference will be virtual for the first time and will include access to 22 hours of continuing education and more than 100 lectures. Attendees will have access to those lectures through April 30, 2021. The virtual conference will also feature a virtual exhibit hall.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit the [Texas EMS Conference website](#).

In the Spotlight

Whether it is the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), our hospital partners, or news about other trauma, stroke, or perinatal organizations, we want to make it easier for you to know what is happening around our state.



[Memorial Hermann Katy Earns Level 3 Trauma Designation](#)

[El Paso Surgeon Appointed Chair of State Advisory Council](#)

[Houston's Trauma Centers See Uptick in Cases](#)

[Between March and July](#)

[UT Health Tyler receives Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award](#)



Mark Your Calendar

[National Neonatal Nurses Week](#) - September 14-20

[Nursing Professional Development Week](#) - September 14-18

[Perinatal Advisory Council \(PAC\) Meeting \(Virtual\)](#) - September 15

[TORCH Fall Conference \(Virtual\)](#) - September 23-25

[Emergency Nurses Week](#) - October 11-17

[GETAC meeting \(Virtual\)](#) - November 20

[Texas EMS Conference \(Virtual\)](#) - November 23-25

CONTACT US

info@tetaf.org | 512-524-2892
3400 Enfield Road | Austin, TX 78703 US

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