

NOVEMBER 2020

From the CEO: A Time for Thankfulness



Here we are only weeks away from Thanksgiving and while it has been a year that has challenged all of us, there are many reasons to give thanks. We are incredibly thankful to continue doing the work of our mission through surveys, education, and advocacy. Technology has played an important role in much of those efforts and while it may not always cooperate, we are indebted to the opportunities it provides.

This time last year, we were talking about interim charges and we were meeting to discuss Senate Bill (SB) 500 funding. Then months later in February, we had a timeline that outlined the work we would do in 2020 to prepare for the legislative session. The timeline and our approach has completely changed, but we are working hard to have the best strategy.

We are grateful to be busy and know that we are not alone. The Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) continue to persevere, especially those experiencing another spike in COVID-19 cases. We will certainly advocate how your response makes a tremendous difference during a time of urgent healthcare needs.

From all of us at TETAF, we are thankful for all of you and the work you do for Texas to have a strong healthcare system.

Stay well,
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TETAF Board of Directors Meeting



The final quarterly meeting in 2020 for the TETAF Board of Directors will be held virtually on Thursday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m. CST.

[Register to attend the virtual TETAF Board of Directors meeting](#)



Nominations for the 2021 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 20**. The General Assembly will vote on nominations during its December 16 virtual meeting at 1:00 p.m.

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](#)



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GETAC Update

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) held the GETAC Annual Retreat on Friday, October 23. Among the items discussed were Senate Bill (SB) 500 funds for Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), the Trauma Designation Rules, and the Stroke Designation Rules.

SB 500 funds are available to the RACs for FY21 for a uniform statewide project, regional efforts related to emergency management, and COVID-19 response if needed.

The Trauma Rule Guidance document is being developed for the Trauma Resource document which will be available to stakeholders by February 2021. The document will go through the review process and then go before the Texas Health and Human Services Executive Council in May 2022 with an effective rule date of August 2022.

The Stroke Designation Rule process is on target for an October 2021 effective rule date. There will be a review of the resource document during the November GETAC meeting.

GETAC's fourth quarter meeting will be held virtually November 20. Quarterly meetings in 2021 are slated for February 19, June 25, and also in September and November with dates to be determined.

In The TETAF Spot light

SPECIAL EDITION: In the Spotlight

The TETAF In the Spotlight section normally features a mix of great news from Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), hospital partners, our board members, and more. In a year with a pandemic, there is no doubt it takes everyone pulling together to get through the challenges and uncertainty.

This month, we focus on the RACs. They have been in the spotlight often in recent weeks for their ongoing response during the pandemic.

[Houston NPR: COVID-19 Spikes Push El Paso Hospitals to Their Limit](#)

[KSAT-TV: Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council Leading Effort to Transfer El Paso ICU Patients to Major Cities](#)

[KIII-TV: Corpus Christi Hospitals Say They're Prepared for a Potential Overflow of COVID-19 Patients](#)

[The Daily Sentinel: Nacogdoches Memorial Near COVID-19 Cap, County Adds Fatality](#)

[KFDA-TV: Over 250 Additional Medical Workers to the Panhandle and South Plains this Sunday](#)

[FOX 14: How the Border Regional Advisory Council Provides Support to El Paso Hospitals](#)

[KTRK-TV: Houston has Plan in Place to Avoid Massive Spike in COVID-19 Hospitalizations](#)

[Sachse News: Dallas County Reports Two COVID-Related Deaths, Over 1,500 Cases This Weekend](#)

Ransomware Activity Target the Healthcare and Public Health Sector



The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued an alert this week regarding cybercriminals targeting the Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) Sector and infecting systems with malware for financial gain.

Read more on the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency website](#).



Mark Your Calendar

[Texas TQIP Collaborative Meeting](#) - November 20

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

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

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