

DECEMBER 2020

From the CEO: Countdown to a New Year



There is no question that 2020 is a year for the history books. When we held our first TETAF Board of Directors meeting this year, we discussed strategy, our calendar, and planning like many organizations do for a new year. Weeks later, the pandemic changed everything for all of us. For our organization, maintaining the focus on our mission and purpose keeps us on track during an unprecedented time.

In a year that has tested all of us, there have been many positives for TETAF this year that include:

- The TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services team developed a plan, that includes a modified survey agenda, to continue surveys safely in hospitals during the pandemic.
- The TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services team also developed an alternate plan to customize the survey process with a hybrid (virtual and on-site) survey method to adapt to the unique circumstances during a year that challenged us financially.
- Staff and operations were maintained for that year that challenged us financially.
- TETAF added to the perinatal expertise of the TETAF Board of Directors with two perinatal leaders.
- TETAF's advocacy team and legislators secured Account 5111 funding for the biennium which allocated 1% more of the Account 5111 funding for EMS providers and Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).
- The Texas Perinatal Services team was invited to participate in the perinatal rule revisions.
- TETAF president and CEO, Dinah Welsh, attended the Trauma Center Association of America's (TCAA) Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. as a new member of TCAA's advocacy committee and advocated for trauma care on a national level.
- Texas Perinatal Services maintained its commitment to perinatal quality improvement as a sponsor of the 2020 Texas Collaborative for Maternal Mothers and Babies Summit.
- Texas Perinatal Services exceeded its goal of contracts for maternal care surveys.
- A virtual meeting of the TETAF Board of Directors was conducted for the first time.
- Texas Perinatal Services' maternal team captured more than 70% of the market in a short period.
- TETAF added a new team member, Kerri Reeves, as survey coordinator/executive assistant.
- Ramon Napoles joined the TETAF team as a survey coordinator.
- The Hospital Data Management Course was successfully conducted virtually for the first time.
- A new Surveyor Portal launches next week to make processes more efficient for surveyors.

And these are only some of the accomplishments from this year. It takes our staff, surveyors, hospital partners, Board of Directors, RACs, and stakeholders all working together to ensure a world class trauma, stroke, maternal, and neonatal healthcare systems. I am grateful for everyone's dedication during this challenging year.

I wish health and happiness for all of you during the holiday season. I look forward to what we can accomplish in 2021.

Stay well,
Dinah



A Special Thank You to Our Hospital Partners and Surveyors

TETAF would like to extend a special thank you to our hospital partners and to our surveyors. We appreciate their commitment to ensuring safety precautions and compliance as TETAF developed a solid plan that allows on-site surveys to safely be conducted in hospitals.

Thank you for your dedication to quality healthcare at all times, especially during an unconventional year.



Texas Department of State Health Services

GETAC Update

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) virtually conducted its quarterly meeting on Friday, November 20. Among the items discussed was the Stroke Committee's recommendation to approve the Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Section 157.133, Requirements for Stroke Facility Designation, rule revision resource document and the Statewide EMS/Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) wristband project. (For more details about the wristband project, please scroll to the next article.)

To view the meeting, please click [here](#).

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

Senate Bill 500 Update: Patient Tracking Wristband Project

The Statewide EMS/Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) is launching a pilot patient wristband project this week utilizing funding from Senate Bill (SB) 500. The Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) participating in the pilot project are Border RAC, North Texas RAC, North Central Texas Trauma RAC, Central Texas RAC, Heart of Texas RAC, Southwest Texas RAC, Texas J RAC, Coastal Bend RAC, and Concho Valley RAC. Data will be collected and more information will be forthcoming.



87th Legislative Session

The 87th Texas Legislature will gavel in on January 12, 2021. Legislators have begun filing legislative bills and TETAF is monitoring bills of note and will do this throughout the session.

With the legislative session starting in just over a month now is the time to reach out to your legislators to make sure they know you and the entity you represent. Don't know who your legislator is? Check out [Who Represents Me? \(texas.gov\)](http://www.texas.gov). Not sure what to say or how to talk to your legislator? Contact [Dinah!](#)

TETAF Hospital Data Management Course

Thank you to all who participated in the first ever virtual TETAF Hospital Data Management Course (HDMC). It was a full course and so well received that another virtual course is being discussed for the future.



ACS Releases Acute Pain Management Guidelines

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Quality Programs released the *Best Practices Guidelines for Acute Pain Management in Trauma Patients*.

Click on the image to the right to view the guidelines or view them anytime on the [TETAF Resources webpage](#).



In the Spotlight

Whether it is the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) or our hospital partners, we are proud to see these organizations and individuals in the spotlight for their efforts in trauma care.

[As Hospitalizations Soar, El Paso Brings in New Mobile Morgues](#) - *The New York Times*

[First Patient Receiving Treatment in Pilot Program to Help El Paso Combat COVID-19](#) - *El Paso Times*

[Commentary: Love, Support During COVID Keep Community Going](#) - *San Antonio Express News*



Mark Your Calendar

TETAF Board of Directors meeting - December 10

Texas Hospital Association virtual conference - February 16-19

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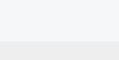
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