

January 2021

From the CEO: Onward to a New Year



One year ago, my message was "A Sharp Vision for 2020." None of us knew it would be an unprecedented year, but we never know what the future will hold. We take the lessons learned in 2020 and move forward to a new year that begins with lingering challenges from the past.

COVID-19 is still with us. Fortunately, our hospital partners, Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), and our TETAF staff developed plans in 2020 to guide us in the ongoing response. Our staff continues to monitor hot spots where COVID-19 cases are high and works with hospital partners and surveyors to ensure safe surveying procedures.

What is still unknown is how the upcoming legislative session will be conducted. The TETAF Advocacy Committee and team has held virtual meetings to develop the best plan that will allow us to be flexible. We know at the minimum the primary focus will be the state's budget, redistricting, and COVID-19. TETAF is prepared to advocate for trauma, stroke, and perinatal care and to emphasize the remarkable work that the RACs have done during the pandemic. We will provide legislative updates throughout the session.

I hope everyone has a healthy start to this new year. I know that together we can all ensure that Texas has a world-class healthcare system.

Stay well,

Dinah



TETAF Board of Directors Election Results

The TETAF Board of Directors will have two new members starting in 2021. During the December 16 General Assembly meeting, five nominees were elected to the 2021 TETAF Board of Directors with terms that will expire in 2023.

New to the TETAF Board of Directors is Diana Grimm-Mapp, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN. (shown top left). Additionally, Christine Reeves (shown top right) was nominated and unanimously elected as the chair of the General Assembly. The General Assembly chair also serves on the TETAF Board of Directors.

Grimm-Mapp is the program director for the UTMB Health System and a TETAF trauma surveyor. She is a member of Regional Advisory Council (RAC) R. Reeves is the executive director for RACs L and M.

Ed Racht, M.D., Ricky Reeves, EMT-P, Craig Rhyne, M.D., FACS, and Dudley Wait, EMT-P will return to the TETAF Board for another term.

TETAF would like to thank our departing board members Eric Epley, CEM and Peyton Ware, BBA for their years of commitment and service to the TETAF Board of Directors. To see a complete list of all members of the TETAF Board of Directors, please visit <https://tetaf.org/board-of-directors/>.

TETAF Bylaws Revised

The General Assembly also approved a revision to the TETAF Bylaws. This revision allows an elected board officer to continue serving out the officer term if he or she is not eligible to serve another board term.

The TETAF Bylaws can be viewed on the TETAF website.



87th Legislative Session

The 87th Texas Legislature begins on January 12. With one week to go, there is still much uncertainty in how the session will be conducted. The House will elect a new speaker on opening day and additionally, the House and Senate will pass rules for how they will operate. With COVID-19 still around, changes are anticipated. Also, the Capitol has been closed to the public for months during the pandemic but reopened on January 4 with limited public access. It is expected there will be continued

discussions on how best to ensure the safety of legislators, staff, and the public throughout the legislative session.

Since 2009, TETAF has held a Day at the Capitol to advocate trauma and perinatal needs. This year, we are working on virtual opportunities to meet with state leaders and will not have a gathering at the Capitol.

We will also once again host legislative work group Zoom meetings during the session. The first legislative work group call will be on Friday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m. If you are active in the trauma, emergency care, or perinatal areas you are invited to participate. You can [register for the first Zoom meeting here.](#)

TETAF will provide regular legislative updates throughout session.



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New Data Format Implemented in the EMS & Trauma Registries

The EMS & Trauma Registries implemented the NTDB 2020/ITDX data format in the Registry. The 2016 and 2017 formats have been retained for users who need that access.

Links to the data dictionary and sample files are posted on the [Hospital Resource webpage.](#)

Senate Bill 500 Update: Patient Tracking Wristband Project

Last month, the Statewide EMS/Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) launched a pilot patient wristband project utilizing funding from Senate Bill (SB) 500. There are [nine Regional Advisory Councils \(RACs\)](#) participating in this project. Data will be collected to determine the best way to launch the project statewide. The participating RACs will have a call in February to discuss what has been learned at that point in the project.

Perinatal Advisory Council Seeking Members

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission executive commissioner will appoint members to the Perinatal Advisory Council to serve a term ending Sept. 1, 2023.

To learn more about who the Council is seeking as members, please click [here.](#)

Applications are due by **11:59 p.m., January 15.**

[Application for the Perinatal Advisory Council](#)



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.

[What are Texas' Trauma Service Areas and How Do They Affect Shutdowns?](#) - KXAS-TV, NBC, Dallas

[I Can't HANDLE it Anymore: San Antonio Restaurant Owner Worries His Business is on the Line Amid COVID-19 Surge](#) - KSAT-TV, ABC, San Antonio

[D CEO's 2020 Excellence in Healthcare Awards](#) - D CEO Healthcare



Mark Your Calendar

[87th Texas Legislative Session](#) - January 12

[TETAF Board of Directors meeting](#) - February 1

[Texas TQIP](#) - February 16

[Texas Hospital Association virtual conference](#) - February 16-19

[Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council](#)

[\(GETAC\)](#) - February 19

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