

February 2021

From the CEO: A Fast February



In the blink of an eye, here we are in the second month of 2021. There is no doubt it will feel like a fast February because not only is it a shorter month, it's also a very busy month for TETAF.

The 87th Texas Legislative Session began just a few weeks ago. The TETAF Advocacy team is focused on our legislative priorities, and holding meetings with stakeholders and legislators. We are also closely monitoring bills as they are filed. TETAF is surveying the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) once again to gather input on the latest details in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other needs. Additionally, in past years TETAF has hosted a Day at the Capitol, but due to COVID-19 we are planning a more personalized strategy in place of holding this event.

It is good to see our staff and surveyors busy traveling to hospitals for surveys. Our team continues to work with hospital partners and surveyors to ensure our COVID-19 Safety Plan is implemented. We are also working with our hospital partners in areas where there is still a higher response to COVID-19 cases.

February is also a busier month for events, especially for Texas Perinatal Services. We are proud to once again be a sponsor of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB) Summit, which will be virtual this year. Additionally, Texas Perinatal Services has partnered with the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement to bring the SPEAK UP Champions© Implicit and Explicit Bias LIVE Virtual Conference. The focus of this conference is providing quality equitable care and reducing health disparities.

Our first quarterly meeting of the TETAF Board of Directors in 2021 will be February 16. TETAF will continue to host our meetings via Zoom for now. We will follow our same scheduling pattern by holding board meetings the same week as the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting, which is February 19. Also that week, the Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) will host its first meeting of the year, also on February 16.

We are thankful to once again have a busier calendar and look forward to everything we can accomplish for trauma, stroke, maternal, and neonatal care during this time.

Stay well,

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87th Legislative Session

The 87th Texas Legislature gavelled in on January 12. This session is off to an unusual start due to COVID-19 and legislators not convening as frequently on the House and Senate floors. On opening day, the House elected Representative Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) as Speaker.

The Senate was first to release its committee assignments and committees have started meeting. Among the Senate committee meetings we will closely monitor are the [Finance Committee](#) and the [Health and Human Services Committee](#).

Last week, the House announced its committee appointments and among those TETAF is closely following are the [Appropriations Committee](#), [Public Health](#), and [State Affairs](#).

Our Legislative Workgroup calls have been well-attended the past few weeks. In addition to discussing what is happening during the legislative session, [TETAF's Legislative Priorities](#) have also been discussed. We thank everyone who has participated and joined our discussions. If you are active in the trauma, emergency care, or perinatal areas you are invited to participate. The calls are every Friday at 10 a.m. You can [register for the calls here](#).

TETAF will provide regular legislative updates throughout session.

New Appointments to the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council

Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed James M. "Mike" DeLoach of Littlefield and appointed Della Johnson of Mesquite to the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) for terms set to expire on January 1, 2026.

DeLoach is owner of West Texas EMS Resources and serves as the Lamb County judge. He is chair of South Plains EMS, a board member of the South Plains Association of Governments, and is a board member of the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) B. He is also a volunteer paramedic for Littlefield EMS.

Johnson is a trauma service manager with Parkland Health and Hospital System. Her certifications include CPR, ACLS, PALS, BDLS, ABLS, CEN, and she is an instructor for Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN).

To learn more about these GETAC members, please [click here](#). The next GETAC meeting is schedule for February 19.

TETAF Releases its 2020 Annual Report

TETAF is now releasing an Annual Report that will replace our previous Impact Reports. The 2020 TETAF Annual Report details the many accomplishments during the past year.

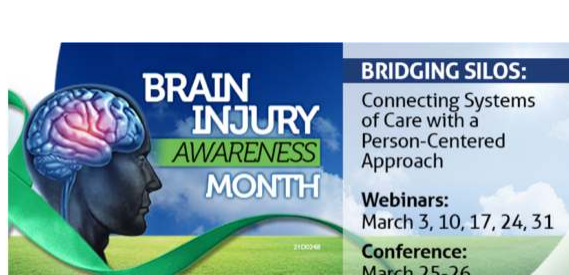
This year, our report is available to view, download, and share directly from the TETAF website. We welcome you to visit our homepage and [view our 2020 Annual Report](#).



2021 Texas EMS Conference in Austin

The 2021 Texas EMS Conference is scheduled for November 21-24 at the Austin Convention Center. Organizers are currently seeking presenters for the conference. For more information, please visit the [latest update from the Texas EMS Conference team](#).

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month



According to the CDC, the number of traumatic brain injury (TBI) visits to the emergency department, hospitalizations, and deaths increased by 53% from 2006 to 2014.

In recognition of Brain Injury Awareness month in March, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission will offer a free webinar series and conference. [Learn more about the topics and register by clicking here.](#)



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.

- [Methodist Stone Oak Becomes an Advanced Trauma Center](#)
- [Buses at East Texas Hospitals Indicate Help has Arrived](#)
- [Local RAC Resources Could be on the Move](#)



Mark Your Calendar

- [TETAF Board of Directors quarterly meeting](#) - February 16
- [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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