

June 2021

From the CEO: A New Season

TETAF CEO CORNER



As we enter June, a new season begins. Our team will begin the summer months with a sharp focus on legislative items that need further attention, the potential for the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) and EMS to receive federal funds during the special legislative session, and concluding the maternal designation cycle in August.

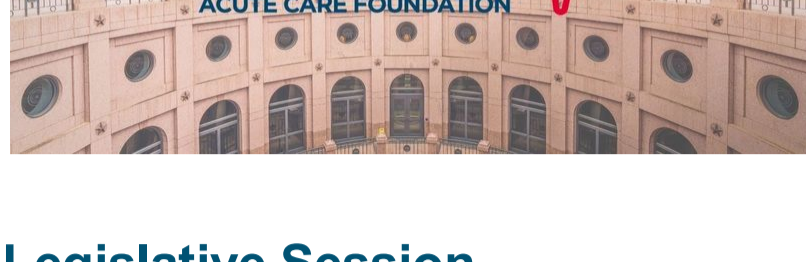
As May wrapped up, the 87th Legislative Session concluded. It was a different session that began with uncertainty of how it would be conducted and ended with wins that the TETAF Advocacy team had a role. However, the work is far from over as we will follow the implementation of legislation and continue advocating the needs of the trauma and emergency health care system as legislation heads to the governor's desk to be signed into law. Additionally, the TETAF Advocacy team will look for any possibilities for the trauma and emergency system to receive federal dollars during a special legislative session in the fall.

While we are proud of our survey team for their efforts as we close in on surveying 80% of the maternal hospitals designated in Texas, we are humbled that our hospital partners choose us for this important process that ensures quality care. The maternal designation cycle will end in August and it has taken a tremendous team effort to reach this point. In addition to our maternal surveys, our other service lines of trauma, stroke, and neonatal continue to be busy as our survey process looks more like it did prior to the pandemic.

Thank you for everything you do for Texas to have a strong trauma and emergency health care system.

Stay well,

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87th Legislative Session

The 87th Legislative Session ended on May 31. The TETAF Advocacy team worked hard to ensure concerns were heard by legislators and staff as we advocated for the best in trauma, stroke, maternal, and neonatal care. The TETAF team accomplished this through numerous meetings with legislators, submitting riders, sharing testimony virtually, and developing one-page handouts for Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) and stakeholders. Additionally, TETAF held 19 virtual meetings with stakeholders, shared 16 weekly updates, and many action item updates and legislative alerts to keep stakeholders informed throughout the legislative process.

Here is an overview of bills that are headed to the governor for signature:

Final Budget Update - Senate Bill (SB) 1 is headed to the governor for his signature. The TETAF Advocacy team worked diligently during the session to ensure level funding for the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) as well as funding for the Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF). This included providing virtual testimony, written testimony, and submitting riders. Funding was adopted to remove the proposed 5% reductions to the RACs and EMS, and \$5 million was adopted from the General Revenue (GR) Fund for the biennium.

Bills of Note

SB 437 by Sen. Cesar Blanco (D - El Paso) - This bill was approved with an amendment clarifying if no funds were appropriated, then the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) would not be required to fund out of existing funds. The bill also adds a Regional Advisory Council (RAC) representative to the PPE Advisory Committee. TETAF worked to ensure RAC representation on the PPE Advisory Committee.

SB 969 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R - Bryan) - This bill is regarding sharing information during a pandemic and also appointing a chief state epidemiologist. It requires the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to collect data and work with the RACs. TETAF will closely monitor the progress and seek collaboration from all 22 RACs on the implementation of this legislation.

SB 984 by Sen. Charles Schwertner (R - Georgetown) - This bill concerns state preparedness and response, including the collection of demographic data by RACs. Contingency funds are in consideration for use to support data collection by the RACs if this bill moves forward. TETAF submitted written testimony reinforcing the RACs efforts in the past year and emphasizing the need for funding. Along with SB 969 above, TETAF will closely monitor the implementation of this legislation and seek collaboration from all 22 RACs.

SB 1397 by Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D - McAllen) - This bill passed without any objection. TETAF was not supportive of this bill and worked throughout the legislative session to express concerns about singling out one Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and that it puts into statute RAC guidelines that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) currently has the authority to enforce through contract compliance.

SB 999 by Sen. Kelly Hancock (R- North Richland Hills)/Rep. Tom Oliverson (R - Houston) is the House sponsor for SB 999 - The bill died in the House however, the Senate version of the bill was amended onto **SB 790** and is primarily a study now.

HB 139 by Rep. Toni Rose (D - Dallas) - The bill extends the length of Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 6 months, instead of 12 as previously written, for eligible postpartum mothers. The six month extension is funded in the budget. TETAF and Texas Perinatal Services supported this bill.

HB 1164 by Rep. Tom Oliverson (R - Houston) - The bill requires the Health and Human Services Commissioner to work with the Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) to establish rules to develop patient safety practices regarding placenta accreta spectrum disorder and monitor through the maternal levels of care designations.

There will be a special legislative session in the fall that will be focused on restricting and federal funding. TETAF will be looking for any possibilities that the trauma and emergency health care system might be a recipient of those federal dollars.

TETAF will release its Advocacy Report this month.

Potential Changes for Level III Trauma Centers

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Trauma Systems Committee met on June 1. An important item of discussion during the meeting was the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 25, Section 157.125 Trauma Facility Designation Requirements. The stakeholder discussions regarding revisions began in 2011 and have been ongoing.

There is a recommendation that the Texas rules include a requirement for all Level III trauma centers to be surveyed exclusively by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This has not been endorsed by the ACS, but recommended by two chapters in Texas. There would not be a verification process offered by ACS for pediatric trauma Level III and Level IV or for Level IV trauma centers. Your feedback regarding this recommendation is important as we consider what is best for our trauma patients, for our hospitals, and the Texas Trauma System. This potential change will go to a vote of the GETAC Trauma Systems Committee on June 15.

TETAF provides a robust trauma survey process that includes detailed training for surveyors, consultations that are a coach-to-success process, and an affordable value to our hospital partners. TETAF believes each of these elements are important to the assurance of quality trauma care in Texas hospitals.

The rule revisions are in progress. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Office of EMS and Trauma, and its director, Jorie Klein, MSN, MPH, BSN, will consider all of your comments and recommendations regarding the ACS recommendations and all other rule revisions.

Please take the time to [submit your comments](#) and feedback before the June 15 meeting.

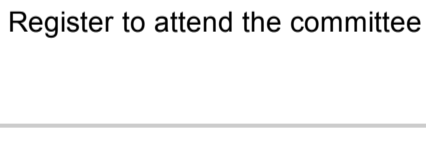
TETAF Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting



The next quarterly meeting of the TETAF Board of Directors will be held on **June 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. CST**. Register below to attend the meeting via Zoom.

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

TETAF Hospital Data Management Course Will be Virtual in June



The next TETAF Hospital Data Management Course will be virtual and take place on June 28 and 29.

View the agenda, course requirements, and register for the course by clicking on the button below.

[Register to attend the TETAF Hospital Data Management Course](#)

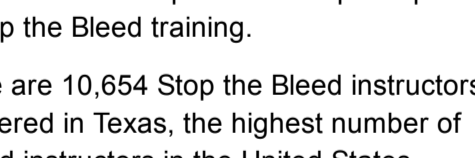
GETAC Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting will be held virtually on Friday, June 18.

Committee meetings will be held prior to the council meeting. Those include the GETAC EMS Committee meeting on June 10 at 2:00 p.m. CST, the GETAC Cardiac Care Committee meeting on June 10 at 4:00 p.m. CST, the GETAC Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee meeting on June 14 at 10:00 a.m. CST, and the GETAC Trauma Systems Committee meeting on June 15 at 3:00 p.m. CST.

Register to attend the committee and council meetings on the [GETAC webpage](#).

Trauma Facilities Receive Disbursement of Senate Bill 500 Funds

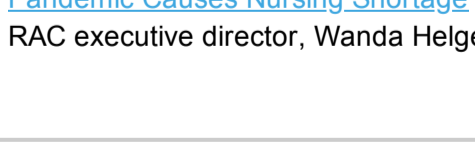


The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Office of EMS & Trauma Systems disbursed the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Uncompensated Trauma Care Fund distributions to trauma facilities during the week of May 17, 2021.

During the 86th Texas Legislature, Senate Bill (SB) 500 provided supplemental appropriations to the DSHS through the emergency stabilization fund for increasing trauma capacity and improving trauma response infrastructure.

Further information can be found on the [DSHS website](#).

Stop the Bleed Day in Texas



TETAF and the Stop the Bleed Texas Coalition worked together to ensure May 20 was recognized as Stop the Bleed Day in Texas.

Uncontrolled bleeding from an extremity is the #1 cause of preventable death in trauma. During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, House Bill (HB) 496 was passed which mandated bleeding control kits in every school and requiring all Texas public and charter school personnel to participate in Stop the Bleed training.

There are 10,654 Stop the Bleed instructors registered in Texas, the highest number of trained instructors in the United States. Check with your Regional Advisory Council (RAC) or visit the [Stop the Bleed Texas website](#) to find courses in your area.

In The TETAF Spotlight

We are proud to see these organizations and individuals in the spotlight for their efforts:

- [Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council - Trauma Service Area G Urges Eligible Blood Donors to Give During Chronically Severe Shortage](#)
- [Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council Hosts Waco Safety and Wellness Event](#)
- [Local Organizations Team Up During Bicycle Safety Month](#) (North Texas RAC mention)
- [Motorcycle Crash Survivor Reunites with EMS and Hospital](#)
- [Pandemic Causes Nursing Shortage](#) (Interview with TETAF board member/Border RAC executive director, Wanda Helgesen)

Mark Your Calendar

- National Safety Month**
- GETAC EMS Committee meeting - June 10 at 2:00 p.m.
- GETAC Cardiac Care Committee meeting - June 10 at 4:00 p.m.
- World Blood Donor Day** - June 14
- GETAC Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee meeting - June 14 at 10:00 a.m.
- GETAC Trauma Systems Committee meeting - June 15 at 3:00 p.m. CST.
- GETAC quarterly meeting** - June 18
- TETAF Board of Directors meeting** - June 22
- Perinatal Advisory Council** - June 23

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