



TETAF Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2020
Zoom Meeting
11:00 a.m.

Present: Scott Christopher, BBA, BSN, RN, LP
Nilda Garcia, M.D.
Angela Gentry, RN, MSN, TCRN
Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN
Lisa Hutchins, RN-NIC
Kenneth Mattox, M.D.
Kathy Perkins, RN, MBA
Edward Racht, M.D.
Ricky Reeves, EMT-P
Craig Rhyne, M.D.
Kate Schaefer, RN, CEN, NREMT
Danny Updike, RN, CCRN, EMT-LP
Dudley Wait, EMT-P
Peyton Ware, BBA
David Weisoly, D.O.

Absent: Jeff Beeson, D.O.
Eric Epley, CEM

TETAF Staff: Dinah Welsh, Brenda Putz, Carla Rider, and Erin Moore

TETAF Contractors: Doris Heinen, accountant; Kevin Reed, attorney; Brian Yarbrough and Ashley Morgan, contract lobbyists

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair. Dr. Rhyne welcomed those joining the meeting via Zoom. Dinah Welsh, TETAF President/CEO, did a roll call of the TETAF Board of Directors.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Welsh stated this year has been unprecedented for TETAF as it has been around the world. This year has brought many changes for TETAF including rescheduling surveys. She recognized the TETAF staff for their phenomenal work to ensure surveys could continue in a safe manner for all involved. Welsh introduced the lobby team with Erben & Yarbrough and highlighted their ability to stay on top of an unusual interim and finding opportunities to maintain funding in the upcoming legislative session.

- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Ricky Reeves, secretary, asked for approval of the TETAF Board of Directors August and September meeting minutes. Kathy Perkins motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Kenneth Mattox seconded the motion. The August and September board minutes were unanimously approved.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Kathy Perkins, treasurer, presented two reports, one to close out the previous fiscal year and then the first report for the new fiscal year. In the July/August report, Perkins stated that it was good news despite the challenges TETAF has faced. For the survey income, TETAF had less than originally budgeted, but considering the circumstances of the pandemic the revenue was good. When the budget was developed, TETAF hoped to do more surveys but despite the challenges TETAF ended up in a good position. An educational opportunity that was planned was cancelled. The total revenue was below projections by about \$123,000, but again considering the circumstances this was good. For gross profit, 37% was budgeted and 37% was the result in revenue. TETAF was below by about \$51,000, but expenses were also down due to virtual surveys and less travel among other items. Net operating income was better than budgeted. TETAF budgeted \$753,000 in cash and ended up with \$1,000,000. In the September and October financial update, TETAF budgeted for 63 surveys and did 44 which resulted in survey revenue being below projections. In expenses, TETAF budgeted about \$277,000 but only spent about \$200,000. Fixed expenses stayed, but because of fewer surveys those expenses went down. Total costs of sales is less than budgeted and profit margin is also below projections. Net profit and loss were expected to be \$165,000 and TETAF was at \$101,000. Cash was budgeted at about \$547,000 based on last year. Cash is in good shape considering. Perkins expects this same pattern to follow in the budget for the next couple of months. Ricky Reeves seconded Perkins motion as treasurer to accept the Treasurer's Report (July, August, September, and October financials). The financial report was approved unanimously.
- 5) **Advocacy Committee Report** – Wanda Helgesen, TETAF Advocacy Committee chair, stated that the committee has held some calls and due to needs related to the pandemic she has done her best to stay updated. Brian Yarbrough, TETAF lobby team, stated it is incredibly hard during this time to predict what the legislature will do during the session. The lobby team has held numerous conversations with legislators to develop the best understanding ahead of session and it has been challenging. The Capitol grounds are closed and the normal methods of going to the Capitol and talking to people cannot happen. There are still questions as to how procedures such as voting will take place. There are conversations regarding changing rules, doing some or all procedures virtual, and others but nothing is official for the House or Senate. Helgesen asked what is known about the potential new speaker. Yarbrough said the potential new speaker's history most recently was chairman of the State Affairs committee, which doesn't necessarily focus specifically on health or EMS needs. There is potential to educate on any health, EMS, or other needs. Dr. Rhyne added that during the pandemic the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) system has more visibility than ever, and more people are aware of what the RAC system does. He added it will be important to build on that visibility. Dr. Kenneth Mattox suggested that bullet points need to be made that worked via TETAF, Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC), and the RACs

during the pandemic. Helgesen added that the RACs have been asked to do things they have never done before, and they have become subject matter experts in many areas. Dr. Rhyne added that Kate Schaefer coordinated a RAC leadership call for the panhandle region so they could collaborate. Helgesen added that the TETAF Legislative Priorities are broad enough to cover all needs. Yarbrough asked for everyone to share as much as possible regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic so they can be well-informed. Janiece Williams, TETAF lobby team, asked if the RACs could help identify what the state has asked of them it would be helpful. Helgesen added there is so much beyond what the state has asked the RACs to do that the RACs have stepped up to respond to all calls. Perkins added to Helgesen's statement that the RACs have for many years do well-beyond what the state asks, and it should be documented. Ed Racht asked if a bullet point in the TETAF Legislative Priorities should be modified to focus on the broader scope of the trauma system. Welsh asked if the TETAF Legislative Priorities could be approved as written with understanding there could be modifications. Helgesen motioned to approve the document and Racht seconded the motion. The document was unanimously approved as a living document that is subject to change. Welsh added that TETAF will survey the RACs once more to get new information from them to use during the legislative session.

- 6) **TETAF Governance Committee Update** – Dudley Wait, vice chair, reminded everyone that the General Assembly meeting is next week. He reminded everyone that both General Assembly representatives from each RAC needs to register for the meeting to ensure there will be a quorum. Wait added that the General Assembly chair, Eric Epley, is completing his three-year term as stated in the TETAF Bylaws. The General Assembly will elect a new chair at the meeting. The Governance Committee has reviewed the TETAF Bylaws to determine if the General Assembly will need to vote on any changes. The suggested revision would allow an elected board officer to continue serving out the officer term if he or she is not eligible to serve another board term. This will be recommended to the General Assembly for approval. Wait motioned that the board approves the Governance Committee's recommendation for a bylaws change. Dr. Mattox seconded the motion and the recommendation was approved. Wait added all five board members who are up for re-election have chosen to seek another term. He added the slate of nominations to the board was once again remarkable. The Governance Committee is working to narrow down a smaller slate for recommendation from the 19 nominated to ensure those who are nominated are individuals who have participated in TETAF or TETAF-related activities previously.
- 7) **TETAF Survey Verification Committee Update** – Brenda Putz, vice president of operations, provided an update on surveys. For the first quarter, 67 surveys were scheduled and 14 had to be postponed. COVID-19 was the biggest factor. Two hospitals experienced a cyber-attack that resulted in the need to reschedule. Most of those surveys have been rescheduled. TETAF is working to ensure a safe environment for all during in-person surveys. Many hospitals have been downgraded in the maternal survey process, similar to what happened in neonatal a few years ago. TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services is working with those hospitals to support them in the appeals process. TETAF

created additional steps to the surveying process to ensure safe surveys, including a Surveyor Screening Tool. Another item is a ranking system of the hospitals to determine if a virtual survey is needed. The survey agendas have been adjusted to include more social distancing and reducing the number of people involved in the survey process. Surveyors in El Paso and Lubbock are furloughed from doing on-site surveys until the end of the year for safety reasons. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has provided more guidance on conducting virtual surveys. TETAF is conducting some hybrid surveys with partial virtual and partial on-site and the process has been well-received by hospitals. DSHS has been observing TETAF's virtual survey process. The survey team is working with stakeholders on stroke rule revisions. Dr. Mattox asked if the delay in surveys has any financial impact. Putz added that the postponed surveys are being rescheduled so it shifts the revenue to different months.

- 8) **Texas TQIP Update** – Dinah Welsh provided an overview of the Texas TQIP update since Garrett Hall, Texas TQIP coordinator had a meeting conflict. Texas TQIP has been meeting and been busy with the National TQIP meeting. Welsh reminded everyone that TETAF is a sponsor of the Texas TQIP collaborative.
- 9) **Closing Matters and Next Meeting Agenda** – Dr. Rhyne stated the next TETAF Board meeting will be for a strategic planning meeting in January and the date will be announced soon. The quarterly TETAF Board of Directors meeting will be during the week of the GETAC meeting and the date will be announced soon. It will be a virtual meeting.
- 10) **Adjournment** – Dr. Rhyne stated the TETAF Board of Directors stands adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.