



TETAF Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 2021
Zoom Meeting
3:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Jeff Beeson, D.O.
Edward Racht, M.D.

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

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

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Craig Rhyne, M.D., chair.
- 2) **TETAF Update** – Dinah Welsh shared that it has been a busy summer for TETAF. Fewer surveys are being rescheduled due to COVID-19, but there are still some surveys that have been rescheduled. The Texas Legislature finished its second special legislative session with a third special session to convene in about two weeks. The TETAF Advocacy Committee is focused on requests for federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. The team has been working on the budget for the next fiscal year.
- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Ricky Reeves, secretary of the TETAF Board of Directors, motioned to approve the June 2021 meeting minutes and Christine Reeves seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.

4) **Treasurer's Report** – Kathy Perkins, treasurer, provided reports on TETAF's financial status from the previous fiscal year through July and on the upcoming fiscal year budget. During the Finance Report, Perkins stated a loss was projected; however, 225 surveys were completed which was more than the 211 budgeted. The year-to-date expenses were under budget by \$160,900 due to less travel. This resulted in the gross margin being greater by \$136,000. The year-to-date net income was \$297,000 greater than budgeted. May through July were good months. Perkins stated the only area of concern is the negative cash due to surveys that were not completed during the time frame anticipated. Perkins anticipates for this to improve. Perkins motioned to approve the Finance Report and Christine Reeves seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the Finance Report. Perkins presented the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (FY). Perkins stated during the FY 2020-2021, 220 surveys were projected, and 239 surveys were completed by the end of August. She credited the survey team for its great work. For the FY 2021-2022, 135 surveys are projected. Brenda Putz, vice president of operations, explained that the surveys for the maternal cycle were completed in June and the second cycle for neonatal is beginning. Putz explained that the state gave hospitals extended expiration dates of four and five years which affects TETAF's budget due to a lower number of perinatal surveys. Putz also stated that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is making changes to contingency surveys. Dr. Kenneth Mattox asked about the \$150,000 in excess money over budget and inquired about suggestions for ways to use this money. Perkins stated that nothing could be done with the money at this time. Scott Christopher inquired if TETAF was seeing any hospitals that needed to be resurveyed due to a change in ownership. Putz stated it has slowed, but there were several a few years ago. Perkins continued the proposed budget discussion explaining that revenue will drop by about \$700,000 due to fewer surveys, but the costs to perform surveys is also reduced since there will be fewer surveys. The net revenue is projected to be minus \$247,000. Perkins stated the staff has significantly reduced operating expenses. Additionally, a RN position that has been planned is not in the budget. Survey fees were raised by approximately 20% overall. Dinah Welsh explained the staffing changes that have been made in the past year and that the accounting duties are now handled in-house instead of contracting those duties. Perkins stated the Finance Committee is discussing cash reserves and how much should be needed. Dr. Mattox asked if the board should discuss increased budget items from the state during a special session. Dinah Welsh stated that the TETAF Advocacy Committee has not gone to the legislature to request funding for TETAF but is working on funding requests for federal funding for the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Perkins responded with an additional question inquiring if there was anything else TETAF could do for revenue. Welsh stated that TETAF submitted a proposal this year to conduct trauma surveys in Georgia, but TETAF was not selected. She stated there could be potential to survey in other states. Wanda Helgesen recommended that the board should continue to think about potential opportunities. Perkins motioned to approve the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget and Dr. David Weisoly seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the FY 2021-2022 budget.

- 5) **Advocacy Committee Report** – Wanda Helgesen, chair of the TETAF Advocacy Committee, introduced Brian Yarbrough of Erben and Yarbrough. Yarbrough stated that during the third special legislative session, there will be opportunity to request funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The TETAF Advocacy Committee met last week to determine what is the appropriate ask, including the potential for any uncompensated funds, disaster funds, and data registry.
- 6) **TETAF Survey Service Line Report** – Brenda Putz, TETAF vice president of operations, stated that the trauma survey service line continues to experience a few post-COVID issues with survey scheduling. TETAF is working with those hospitals and encouraging them to move forward to meet the survey deadline. TETAF does have virtual survey options but encourages in-person surveys as long as they meet COVID protocol guidelines. The stroke surveys continue to be only a few. The new stroke rules will make a shift to Acute Stroke Ready designation that will result in some changes in the process that will ultimately be a benefit to hospitals and patients. Putz stated the second neonatal cycle is going well. TETAF continues to quality assure survey reports. There are a handful of maternal contingency surveys taking place. Putz wants to promote more of our consultation surveys, especially for surveys that need additional support. Putz stated that TETAF is proud for exceeding projections for surveys. Putz stated that the survey scheduling team and business administrator team has worked hard to improve customer service and survey coordination. TETAF continues to get high satisfaction rates from customers in the 97-98% range. In education, TETAF completed another virtual Hospital Data Management Course (HDMC) during the summer and has another one scheduled in November. Putz stated that TETAF also completed a Trauma Activation Billing Course that was offered virtually with more than 125 in attendance. TETAF also sponsored continuing education for Regional Advisory Council (RAC) H. Putz shared that TETAF will conduct a trauma surveyor training tomorrow with eight surgeons and five nurses. Dr. Mattox congratulated TETAF for its great work in the survey service lines. He added that COVID centers are appearing in Houston. He stated it would be wise to discuss a potential survey option for COVID long-haulers. Dr. Rhyme stated there must be regulations and rules to survey against that would be a single standard to measure the centers. Scott Christopher agreed there may be opportunity there. Kevin Reed, TETAF attorney, mentioned there may also be an opportunity in future legislative sessions to discuss centralized transfer, especially in rural areas. Dr. Rhyme mentioned some rural hospitals in West Texas have done a tremendous job of stepping up their clinical capabilities in the past year to meet the health care needs of rural residents.
- 7) **Texas Intermittent Auscultation Collaborative Report** – Brenda Putz shared that TETAF and Texas Perinatal Services continues its work on a grant funded project from the Yellow Chair Foundation with the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement and Primary Maternity Care to bring intermittent auscultation education and development to Texas hospitals. There is some interest from Texas hospitals. The collaborative received an extension on the project deadline due to COVID.
- 8) **Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program Collaborative (Texas TQIP) Report** – Lori Robb, Texas TQIP co-administrator, shared that Texas TQIP did not meet in August for the third quarter. The Texas TQIP coordinator remains vacant and needs to be filled to

help manage duties. Robb expressed the need for this role to be continued. Wanda Helgesen stated if it was any other year in the budget, it might be easier to fund the coordinator role. Dinah Welsh also stated it is not a good year in the budget but emphasized it is an important role to fill.

- 9) **Scheduled TETAF Meetings** – Dinah Welsh stated that the goal is to meet in-person in San Antonio on December 16 for the final TETAF Board of Directors meeting and TETAF General Assembly meeting in 2021. Welsh stated the last in-person meeting was February 2020.
- 10) **Open Discussion** – There was no open discussion.
- 11) **Adjournment** – Dr. Kenneth Mattox motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Scott Christopher seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.