

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council

Friday July 14, 2000, 9:00 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dr. Ed Racht, Chair. The members present included: Ed Racht, MD; F. E. Shaheen III, EMT-P; Peter Wolf, EMT-P; Maxie Bishop, Jr., LP; Lance Gutierrez, RN, LP; Gary D. Cheek, RN, EMT; John L. Simms; Mario Segura, RN; Frederick N. Hagedorn, MD; and Ronald Stewart, MD. The members absent included: Joan E. Shook, MD; Raymond P. Holloway; Judge Arlene N. Marshall; Rebecca Campuzano-Salcido; and Pattilou P. Dawkins.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Peter Wolf and seconded by Maxie Bishop to approve meeting minutes from March 23 & 24, 2000. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

Chair Report: Dr. Edward Racht welcomed everyone and introduced newly appointed GETAC member, Ronald M. Stewart, MD, who represents urban Trauma Facilities. He asked the members to agree on how the acronym of the Council's name would be pronounced; all agreed on AG-TAC. Dr. Racht then gave an overview of the results of the combined 6/8/00 EMS, Education, and Medical Directors Committees meeting, including the concept of a re-certification cafeteria plan which would give individual certificants a choice of five options. In concept, these options would include: (1) passing a re-certification test, (2) completing a required number of continuing education (CE) hours within specific categories (3) completing a refresher course, (4) being current in National Registry, or (5) being an employee of an EMS Provider that has demonstrated excellence in its processes for assuring quality patient care (the Platinum Option). All options should be comparable. Dr. Racht then asked all GETAC Standing Committee members to introduce themselves and thanked them for the work they had already accomplished. Dr. Racht asked for approval of the Council to amend the agenda to allow public comment on this concept following staff reports. No one opposed the idea.

Department Staff Reports: Richard Bays, Associate Commissioner for Health Care Quality and Standards, briefed the council on current Department issues including the status of the legislatively-mandated Regulatory Review process and planning for the upcoming 2001 Legislative Session, including exceptional items requests.

Kathryn Perkins, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Management (Bureau) reported on current Bureau priorities including: status of hiring the Assistant Chief for Trauma and the Emergency Health Care Systems Team Leader positions; distribution of FY01 EMS/trauma system funds; the Interim House Public Health Committee's rural EMS charge; and the next GETAC meeting which will be held in conjunction with the EMS Conference in November.

David Zane, Division Director of the Department's Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance (Injury) Program, reported on the federal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) funds project with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), new information posted to their website, and the status of the proposed Trauma Registry Rules. Sue Bryant, TxDOT Traffic Safety Director, indicated that TxDOT is very pleased with the work to date on the BAC project.

Public Comment: Public Comment was heard on the EMS re-certification cafeteria plan concept.

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Committee Reports:

EMS - Mr. Wolf reported that they worked on draft re-certification **Option 2** (Continuing Education) and **Option 4** (Refresher Course). For Option 2, the Committee is recommending a total of 192 continuing education hours over 4 years in thirteen categories (Patient assessment and management, Cardiac disorders, Pulmonary Disorders, Endocrine Disorders, Neurological Disorders, Other Medical Disorders, Behavioral Disorders, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Trauma, Protocols and Operations, and Other). There should be no more than 32 hours in any one specific category. For **Option 4**, the Committee is recommending that the name be changed from **Refresher Course** to **Recertification Course** and that the course be designed to mirror the National Registry curriculum.

Education- Mr. Bishop reported that they worked on draft re-certification **Option 1** (Re-certification Exam) and **Option 3** (National Registry). Regarding **Option 1** the committee recommends that this exam be a **state-of-the-art** recertification exam. **Option 3** basically would state that if a person is currently certified by the National Registry, they are eligible for re-certification by Texas.

Medical Directors - Dr. Hagedorn reported that they worked on draft re-certification **Option 5** (**Platinum EMS Provider Plan**). The Committee has asked for assistance from the EMS Physicians of Texas (EPT), to do the preliminary work in the development of this option. EPT will plan to meet multiple times prior to November in an effort to finalize a proposal for review by GETAC.

Trauma Systems - Mr. Gutierrez reported that they discussed concerns that have been raised about the need for increased uniformity in the way RACs operate and decided to begin looking at this issue in more depth. They asked the Texas Association of Trauma RACs to provide them with information/input. Other issues discussed included: Medicaid Disproportionate Share Program funding; newly adopted General and Basic Trauma Facility criteria; the need for increased confidentiality protection for RAC data and system quality improvement processes; and the increasing problem with insurance payment denials when an injury patient tests positive for alcohol/drugs.

Injury Prevention - Mr. Segura reported that they began establishing a mission, goals and objectives. A consensus was reached on the following activities: 1. organize Injury Prevention projects into a packet for their November meeting and to post on the Bureau's website if possible; 2. generate ideas for discussion on how to best educate the public, access needed resources, and gather more data to better establish goals.

Discussion of Reports: GETAC members discussed the staff and Committee reports.

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Department Recommendations for Rule Action: Jim Arnold, Assistant Bureau Chief, requested that GETAC recommend that the Texas Board of Health propose new rule, 157.49 - Emergency Medical Dispatch and revised rule, 157.32- EMS Education for public comment.

David Zane, Injury Program, reviewed the public comments that had been received on the proposed Injury Reporting Rules and staff recommendations for changes to the proposal. He requested that GETAC recommend that the Texas Board of Health adopt these rules.

Public Comment on Action Items:

Public comment was heard regarding the rule recommendations.

Action Items:

a) A motion was made by John Simms and seconded by Maxie Bishop to recommend that the Texas Board of Health propose new rule 157.49 Emergency Medical Dispatch, as recommended by Bureau Staff. The motion was amended by Peter Wolf to include written and skills testing. All council members were in favor of the amendment and motion; the motion passed.

b) A motion was made by Dr. Ronald Stewart and seconded by Gary Cheek to recommend that the Texas Board of Health propose new rule 157.32 EMS Education, as recommended by Bureau Staff. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

c) A motion was made by Gary Cheek and seconded by Maxie Bishop to recommend that the Texas Board of Health adopt the final Injury Reporting Rules as recommended by staff. The motion was amended by Dr. Ronald Stewart to change reporting the requirements from 24 to 48 hours admission. All council members were in favor of the amendment and motion; the motion passed.

d - 1) A motion was made by F. E. Shaheen and seconded by Peter Wolf to formally accept and continue to develop the Acafeteria re-certification plan.® The motion was amended by John Simms, to reword the motion to say AThe Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council fomally accepts the re-certification plan with 5 Options.® All council members were in favor of the amendment and the motion; the motion passed.

d - 2) A motion was made by F. E. Shaheen and seconded by Peter Wolf to request the Bureau of Emergency Management to draft rule language incorporating the current draft of the five option (Acafeteria®) re-certification plan. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

d - 3) A motion was made by Gary Cheek and seconded by F. E. Shaheen to establish a task force to establish an appropriate definition for what types of Continuing Education should be allowable. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.

d - 4) Dr. Racht appointed the following task forces and chairs:

Continuing Education Task Force- F. E. Shaheen, Chair

Rural EMS Task Force- Peter Wolf, Chair

Air Medical Task Force- Gary Cheek, Chair

Alcohol Reimbursement Task Force- Ronald Steward, MD, Chair

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Chair's Update for Board of Health Meeting on July 25, 2000:

Dr. Racht informed the Council that he will be providing an update on their progress regarding EMS re-certification to the Regulatory Committee of the Texas Board of Health on July 25th. He invited members to attend.

Stakeholder Organizations Presentations: Nine Stakeholder Organizations presented information on their organizations:

EMS Association of Texas, Inc - Ron Haussecker,

EMS Educators Association of Texas - Neil Coker,

EMS Physicians of Texas - David Persse, MD, FACEP

Mothers= Against Drunk Driving - Rena Dietrich, Chapter Administrator,

State Firemen's - Fire Marshals' Association - Lisa Ivie Miller, Legislative Consultant

Texas College of Emergency Physicians - Robert Greenberg, MD, FACEP

Texas Fire Chiefs= Association - Leon Charpentier,

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - Dr. Camille Pridgen

Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum - Maggie Crawford, RN.

General Public Comment: Public Comment was heard on a number of issues.

Meeting Dates for 2001 Set:

February 15 & 16, 2001

May 10 & 11, 2001

August 23 & 24, 2001

November 18 & 19, 2001(w/EMS Conference)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.