

## MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

Friday, February 1, 2002, 9:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by Judge Arlene Marshall and seconded by Mario Segura, to approve meeting minutes from November 19, 2001. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

**Chair Report:** Dr. Ed Racht requested that the council members consider adding provisions to the current GETAC Procedural Rules in regards to times of meetings and a combined Standing Committee meetings process for discussion at the next meeting. He then announced appointments to the Standing Committees for the next year. Dr. Racht has received clarification on the concept of GETAC "position papers" from Texas Department of Health (TDH) attorneys. He stated that the council could use GETAC proclamation papers to send to the Texas Board of Health (BOH), unless asked to give position of any issues. Finally, Dr. Racht provided the council a summary of their work over the past two years.

**TDH Staff Reports:** Dennis Perrotta, Ph D, Chair, TDH Bioterrorism Workgroup, and Francesca Kupper, Project Director, TDH Bioterrorism Workgroup briefed the council on TDH/Texas strategies regarding terrorism response preparation.

Richard Bays, Associate Commissioner for Consumer Health Protection, briefed the council on current TDH issues including the announcement of new BOH chair, Mario R. Anzaldúa, MD and vice chair, George H McClesky, B.B.A.; hiring of the Chief Financial Officer, Machel Pharr; status of implementation of the Business Practices Evaluation Progress Report recommendations; and planning for the upcoming 2003 Legislative Session.

Kathryn Perkins, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Management, reported on the distribution of the FY02 911 and Tobacco funds; implementation of §157.34 (Re-certification), continued planning to implement NREMT for the initial EMS testing; draft revisions to §157.38 (Continuing Education); implementation of the ECA training project; and the status of the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Resource Center pilot program. Ms. Perkins also gave an update on the two Legislative Interim Studies regarding EMS availability and funding and on the progress of the Strategic Planning (a handout was provided).

Miguel Escobedo, MD, Chair, Commissioner's Council on Local Public Health, briefed GETAC on their council's recommendations for strengthening and improving the EMS/Trauma System infrastructure in Texas (handouts were provided).

David Zane, Director, Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance (Injury) Program, discussed the legislative interim charge on suicide prevention; the status of the TRAC-IT project; and the establishment of a work group to address EMS data issues. Mr. Zane also gave the council a handout of EMS/trauma registry reports.

## MEETING MINUTES

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council

Friday, February 1, 2002, 9:00a.m. – 1:15p.m.

Page 2

### **Standing Committee/Task Force Reports:**

**Combined EMS/Education/Medical Directors** – Dr. Racht reported that the committee members reviewed current §157.40 License Paramedic and recommended some changes related to CE accrual. Work continues on the development of the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP) with the pilot to begin in the next 6–10 months. Dr. Racht stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

**Trauma Systems** – Dr. Stewart reported that GETAC recommendations to the Texas Board of Health (BOH) regarding the problem of insurance payment denials when an injury patient tests positive for alcohol/drugs are still pending additional staff research. He stated that Eric Epley gave a brief report on the Diversion Task Force progress and that Donna George gave them an update on Texas Association of Trauma Regional Advisory Councils (TxTRAC) progress on the draft essential criteria for EMS/Trauma Systems and the issue of Level IV pre-transfer diagnostics. Dr. Stewart reported on the combined Trauma Systems/Pediatric workgroup meeting – work continues on design of a Texas pediatric categorization process. Dr. Stewart also stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

**Pediatric** – Mrs. Dawkins reported that the Committee discussed the current EMSC grant and possible issues to be addressed in future grant requests. She also reported on the combined Trauma Systems and Pediatric Committees meeting, stating that it had been very positive. The workgroup plans to meet with BEM staff to continue working on design of a Texas pediatric categorization process. Mrs. Dawkins stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

**Injury Prevention** - Mr. Segura reported that the Committee would support distribution of information on injury prevention programs such as Child Safety Seats, Stop Red Light Running, etc. by developing a manual that could be disbursed to the RACs and other interested entities. Mr. Segura stated that there are two subcommittees: Injury Prevention Manual Development, headed by Charla Mitchell and Recognition of Injury Prevention Programs, headed by Kate Martin. He also stated that there was some public comment on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and general comment.

**Diversion Task Force Report** – Mr. Epley reported that the diversion-tracking tool is starting to be used and they hope that it will be implemented by all hospitals statewide through the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to better evaluate the diversion problem and develop recommendations. He also stated that there have been reports of EMS services having to keep patients on their stretchers for several hours because of crowded ED conditions. Steve Janda, Assistant Chief, BEM is investigating this issue. There was much discussion between the council and Mr. Epley. He stated that he would be testifying at the Intergovernmental Relations Committee at legislation.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council

Friday, February 1, 2002, 9:00a.m. – 1:15p.m.

Page 3

**Rural Task Force Report** – Mr. Wolf reported the Task Force heard reports from various entities about current and potential funding opportunities for EMS (i.e. AHA defibrillator program, Office of Rural and Community Affairs EMS scholarship program, etc.). He also reported that there was discussion regarding the needs and future direction for EMS in Texas.

**Discussion of Reports/ Public Comment on Action Items:** GETAC members discussed the staff, Committee, and Task Force reports. Public comment was heard on the above issues, the majority of which was regarding diversion.

### **Action Items:**

*A motion was made by John Simms and seconded by Dr. Ronnie Stewart, to have the Diversion Task Force hold a meeting with key stakeholders to improve EMS/trauma systems. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

*A motion was made by F.E. Shaheen and seconded by Maxie Bishop, to recommend that the current rule §157.40, with changes approved by the EMS, Education, and Medical Directors Committees to allow the non-clinical professional development to supplant 60 hours of CE (instead of 50%) in the Preparatory (12 hours) and Additional "any category" (48 hours) content areas and approval by TDH legal review, be sent to the Texas Board of Health for proposal. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

*A motion was made by Maxie Bishop and seconded by Raymond Holloway, to recommend that the current draft §157.38, be sent to the Texas Board of Health for proposal and that recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board be addressed during the comment period. All council members were in favor; the motion passed.*

**General Public Comment:** Public comment was heard on EMS Regulation and Trauma/Emergency Health Care Systems in 2010 and other general issues.

### **Meeting Dates for 2002:**

May 30 & 31, 2002

August 22 & 23, 2002

November 2002 (in conjunction with the Texas EMS Conference)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.