



**East Texas Gulf Coast
Regional Trauma Advisory Council**
P.O. Box 1015
6931 Masters
Manvel, TX 77578-1015
281-519-8780 Fax 281-489-0024
www.rac-r.com

**General Assembly Minutes
10/13/20**

Meeting called to order at 0900. Minutes from June 9, 2020 were reviewed. Motion to approve by Tommy Leigh and seconded by Vicki Tarnow. Motion carried.

Administration/Finance:

- **Review Financial reports:** Lucille provided an update with expenditure of all funds for the FY 20 grant period. FY 21 RAD Admin grant has been received. EMS County Grant ending 7/31/21 has been received. Letters to providers will be sent by the close of this week. Once documentation has been received, checks will be distributed. RAC Systems funds will be distributed quarterly. LPG grant has not been received. SP500 money awaiting word from the state regarding wrist bands. Motion to approve the finance report by Tommy Leigh and seconded by Wendell Wiley. Motion carried

Chair Report: Jeff Thibodeaux provided an update.

- The RAC office remains functional and is there to assist you with your needs.
- PPE is being distributed through SETRAC. If you need PPE, contact SETRAC.
- GETAC Chair Meeting held last week.
 - Governor's waiver will stay in place until declaration lifted.
 - Mental health needs for EMS Workforce with ongoing meetings to offer support to the workforce.
 - Designation- Current designated facilities- Trauma, Neonatal and Stroke facilities. Given the Pandemic, several facilities have postponed surveys however most have been rescheduled. Consideration of virtual survey's and if interested, guidelines will be sent to the facility for review. If need and extension, administrator will need to submit request for extension. Maternal designation will be close to 50 by end of the month. Deadline for designation is 8/31/21.
 - State Rules for various areas are still under review. Some will move forward for discussion at the November GETAC meeting. Working on rule resource document to guide facilities to be successful in designation. Questionnaire will be sent to the RAC's to assess the Texas Trauma System. Questionnaire is based of American College of Surgeons.
- AP500 Ionization units will be distributed soon to EMS services. Committee members will be contacting services for transfer equipment documents.



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- To move forward with STB training, please refer to the STB website for specific guidelines regarding holding these courses during the pandemic along with equipment cleaning.
- Need to continue with RAC Committee meetings. Jeff stated you can utilize the Go-to-Meeting account to set up your meetings. Contact Jeff or the RAC office if you need the information.

DSHS State EMS Director: Joe Schmider attended the meeting and noted the unique situation of our region with the Pandemic and the back to back hurricanes. Changes continue to evolve with EMS operations although many state employees have returned to the office with a few days telecommuting.

- Cost of PPE has dramatically increased. Keep communication lines open between all entities and work together. Texas DSHS alone has spent \$1.2 billion response to the cost of the pandemic. Still unclear when the governor will lift further restrictions.
- 1200 new certified licensed EMS providers since March. DSHS and GETAC will not move to 100% virtual education in EMS student training. Students will be required to have patient contact during your training. National Registry is allowing testing from home with computer camera and has been successful.
- Virtual EMS inspections have been instituted to keep services on the road. This has saved tens of thousands of dollars in travel expenses by moving to virtual inspections however want to ensure that personal contact is still present.
- Going forward concern regarding the impact to budget due to drop in business. State data shows a 17% drop in runs and these statistics are similar to national statistics.
- The new legislative session begins in January and will be challenging to see how the session will impact pre-hospital care.
- Mental health in the healthcare environment is challenging and is negatively impacting how the workforce interacts with patients. The number of patient complaints is high and relates to how the patient was treated by the provider. Working to develop a confidential line to confidentially speak to a professional for advice.
- DSHS holds a weekly Coronavirus call on Tuesday at 4pm. All are welcome to participate and can call 800-289-0462, passcode 818884. The call discusses state and national information.
- EMS Conference is virtual this year. Majority of lectures will be taped and will have the ability to review through April to earn CE's.



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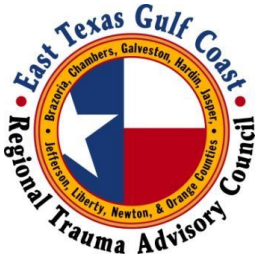
- Update on the EMS rules is underway with Joe working on the first draft with their legal department. Once completed, will begin sharing with stakeholders for comments.
- If you need to contact Joe for an emergency, he offered his cell number. Call Mobile 512-484-5470.

DSHS EMS Trauma System Director: Jorie Klein provided an update.

- Virtual survey guidelines have been developed for any upcoming surveys. Tried to maintain the integrity and agenda of the survey. These guidelines have been shared with the RAC chairs with recommendation to disseminate to stakeholders. The tours are being accomplished utilizing an I-pad
- Trauma Guideline document underdevelopment and should be shared at the GETAC retreat at the end of October. It will then be discussed at the November GETAC meeting. Helps the hospital understand the rule and implications. The document will contain four columns with the rule and documented evidence that the hospital meets the rule.
- The impact of COVID will not be fully understood until the end of 2021. Financial challenges are real to all with concerns for job security. We need to be the safety net for one another as we move forward.
- Hospital volumes have declined as a result of COVID. May use 2019 volume as guideline for 2020 distribution.
- Open communication and dialog not only in the state also with the neighboring states.
- Trauma Rules- are close to completion. The resource document will help guide facilities to meet the rules and show evidence meeting the rule.

DSHS EMS East Group/Consumer Protection Division: Jennifer Hays assumed this role in January. Involved with EMS since 1997 mostly in Jefferson County. The area covers part of Galveston Island to the Louisiana state line and up to Jasper county. She does not cover Brazoria County. You can contact Jennifer at 409-223-3191 (mobile) or 409-730-1838 (office). You can also contact her via email at: Jennifer.Hays@dshs.texas.gov

Neonatal ICU Update: Kelli Huebel commented the PACS met recently with no conclusions. The group discussed re: Level III neonates and interpretation of definition of gestational age. Plan for upcoming RAC Neonatal Committee meeting in the next week through go to meeting format.



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Open Forum:

- Next meeting scheduled for December and are hoping for an in-person meeting.
- Code word is SAINTS and must be emailed to the RAC office with your name, agency.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Welch and seconded by Daniel Diaz. Meeting adjourned 1038.

Respectfully submitted,

**Diana Grimm-Mapp, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN
Secretary, RAC-R**