



MINUTES FOR MAY 27, 2010

Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council Executive Board Meeting Minutes May 27, 2010 1 – 3 pm

CATRAC Office
4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd. Suite 200
Austin 78721

I. Call To Order / Introductions / Sign In

Jackie Gondeck called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm

II. Approval of minutes:

April 22, 2010 General Membership
Motion – Kenny Schnell
2nd - Kat Gann
A unanimous vote followed

III. Treasurer's Report

Kat shared that there were no variances to report for the last month.
Motion – Sylvan Mersiovsky
2nd – Dr. Harding
A unanimous vote followed

IV. Public Comments

Traci introduced Brenda Powell (CCRN for over 25 years) – Georgetown Base Educator

V. Chair Report – Jackie Gondeck

Jackie reported that recent trauma systems meetings yielded a suggestion that the level III and IV hospitals start reporting to the national trauma database while the TX state registry is being worked on. The data set can be requested free of charge, but does require some statistical analysis on the receiving end at the requesting trauma center. TQUIP (Trauma Quality Improvement Program) is the national program that compares your center to other trauma centers – allows for benchmarking against other similar hospitals – there is a ~\$10K fee for this service.

Jackie shared that there is an \$18B state deficit which will affect trauma care going forward. The recent ACS state visit noted areas for development and also complimented other functions of the state trauma system. Some of the notable comments related to the stability and availability of the trauma funding in the state.



Jackie attended the Trauma Systems meeting held in Dallas. They spent time looking at a statewide trauma process improvement plan – Jory Klein led this meeting. The state is going to adopt the CDCs field triage guidelines. The CATRAC should follow their lead. Dr. Brown recommended that the CATRAC draft a letter to the membership highlighting the adoption of these guidelines in this region and stressing that they are guidelines that are being adopted all across the country.

There was a TETAF Leadership Summit held on May 7th. Attended by Jackie Gondeck and Dave Reimer. Discussion there focused on how to keep the 3588 funds for trauma systems. The desired outcome was to develop some strategies to help explain to stakeholders and taxpayers about the red light funding and keep the red light funding legislation. They discussed a need for an emphasis on explaining where the funds go and how they are used and talking points will be created to use back in your region.

Jackie has been working on the required updates/maintenance on RAC documents needed per RAC regulations in case of a state “technical assistance” visit. She worked on multiple documents, but primarily focused on updating the Regional Trauma Systems Plan, which will now be called the “Emergency Health Care System Plan”. She provided a draft version to the board to review. Jackie noted that there are a few sections that are not complete yet and she asked for some supplemental information from the county representatives on the Board today at the meeting.

Jackie reported that the audits on uncompensated care were completed. The total amount available for hospitals has not been determined yet, because 6 hospitals were late getting their information turned in.

Scott Fernandes attended the RAC Chairs Meeting for Jackie

There was discussion on the uncompensated care and the recent audits for 3588. Scott added the following to his report

- ORCA – (TX Dept of Rural Affairs) did a presentation on their mission. ORCA manages rural affairs grants and disaster recovery assistance. They work closely with “Rural Critical Access Hospitals” and administer the TEXAS Flex program for funding EMS education and enhancement. They will be focusing on moving more hospitals in the state toward level IV status with their funding. They are planning to deliver a course called the “Rural Trauma Team” which goes to hospitals to help them develop trauma teams.
- HOTRAC did a presentation related to having some issues with the transport of mental health patients. They created a work group to address their issues. They wanted to make the rest of the RACs aware of this in case they were having the same issues so they can connect, share resources, and advocate for legislation (there are large costs associated with the transfers of mental health patients).
- The Emergency Medical Task Force Concept was also discussed at this meeting. Dave will share info on this later on today.



- EMS Committee Meeting - Scott attended this as well. There was no quorum so no formal actions could be taken. There was discussion regarding the education related to accreditation. There was also discussion about cardiac care and 12 lead capabilities to be on all ambulances. There was confusion about this as a mandate and this was clarified to point out that this is being put forward as a best practice and not a mandate.

They also discussed the CDC trauma field triage guidelines and the potential impacts to losing some of the 3588 funds. The lost funding will impact the RAC, trauma care in our region and trauma related services.

- Legislative points:
SB 1611/HB 413 will mandate a provision to have collective bargaining rights related to employer and employee relations. Gives rights to employees of state/gov't agencies to bargain and have a say in labor issues. Can organize and have direct input in labor dialog.

There was discussion among the Board related to the accreditation requirements taking effect in 2012 and the needed affiliations/education to obtain accreditation. Scott feels like over time, especially the rural areas, will struggle with the accreditation process when the new requirements take effect.

VI. GETAC Update

See above. Many of the planned meetings got cancelled. In part due to the death of Jack Colley, Chief of Texas Emergency Preparedness.

VII. DSHS Update

There was no one from DSHS present to give a report. There is a hiring freeze at DSHS right now; however they did recently get approval to hire two more people to work on Stroke designations. TETAF will be doing the level III stroke surveys in the future (early 2011). DSHS is facing budget cuts.

VIII. Trauma Center Update

Dr. Brown reported the following:

The Annual Trauma Conference is next week downtown. Dr. Brown reported that they have about same number registered as last year. This year it is being held at the new AT&T conference center.

2nd Annual Trauma Systems day on August 6th (hosted by S. Texas Chapter of ACS COT) – Dr. Brown will share registration information when it becomes available.

Out of RAC transfers- in the last 6 months some patients have come back to UMCB that were transferred out of our RAC. He has followed up with the physicians involved to try and educate and limit the number of patients that are transferred out of our RAC when they can be cared for at in-RAC trauma centers. The PI Committee is working on a simplified tool that can be used to report out of RAC transfers for tracking and follow-up if needed to raise awareness about the services available in our own RAC region. The next meeting of the PI Committee is June 8th at 0900.



Deb Brown reported the following:

Dr. Nilda Garcia will start at DCMC on July 1st as the new Trauma Medical Director. Dr. Schlechter will become the Associate Trauma Medical Director at that point in time.

IX. Director's Update

Dave attended the hurricane conference last week – Dave will email an update out to the Board members. Discussion included WebEOC and the patient tracking plan for the state.

GETAC - There was discussion of the concept of an Emergency Medical Task Force at the conference. Dave shared an informational handout with the Board. The state is looking for a deployable response capability that can be used locally and regionally and is scalable for larger state incidents. There was general discussion about this concept.

Dave is working on the new OASPR budget right now. DSHS has given the RACs a very short turn-around time to submit these to the state. Juliette asked if the board could see the budget so they can get a sense of what is being requested for the region. Dave stated that he would be glad to do that later in the meeting (**note – meeting time ran long – ran out of time).

X. County Rep Updates

There were no new county updates to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

I. TETAF

See above

II. Non Lead Facility

There is a vacancy on the board for the Non Lead Facility position. Linda Galvan and Traci Forister are both interested in this position. The Board voted to elect Traci into this position.

III. Board Members Affidavit Follow up

Dave will send out the link to the membership for those who haven't done it yet.

IV. Trauma Registry

There is a work group meeting on June 18th.

V. Other

Scott will chair the next Board meeting since Jackie will be out of town.

NEW BUSINESS:

I. Proposals / Requests

None were made



II. Committee updates

Education Committee - Kat Gann

The Education Committee met this week. They are working on mission statement to more clearly define their role in the CATRAC. Additionally they are working on formalizing the process for education requests. They are discussing the option of having an educational email list that would be invite only.

They discussed committee goals 1) making the education committee pay for itself, 2) raise awareness about the committee's role, 3) want to be more proactive with planning ahead on how to spend grant funds so when the budgets are due with a short timeline, they are ready with projects/programs to submit.

Scott let the Board know about an NAMSE 3-day course coming up in Sweetwater, TX.

Tom Partin pointed out that there are documents on the website that are out-dated. Jackie has been working on updating some of them. Scott pointed out that there are other parts of the website that could be more current as well.

III. Discussion / Scuttlebutt

There was general discussion about the CATRAC staffing needs vs. work load and necessary tasks. Dave is working on drafting a job description to add another staff member to assist with getting the work done. There will be further discussion on this at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Harding would like to have a joint Stroke & Stemi conference sometime in the future.

IV. Next Meeting Update –

- Executive Board: June 24, 2010 CATRAC

V. Adjourn

Jackie adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.

Handouts: per packet