



**Capital Area of Texas Regional Advisory Council  
General Membership (Virtual)  
May 27, 2021  
1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)**

Dial in #: 469-480-8158 | Conference ID: 746 568 275#

**Minutes - FINAL**

**I. Call to Order**

Ben Oakley called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.  
Last virtual membership meeting –St. David’s in person next time

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

**A. Roll Call of Executive Board**

Scooter Green, Ben Oakley, Terri Thompson, Jim Jewell, Josh Vandever, Ken Strange, Rodney Mersiovsky, Wesley Alexander, Mike Knipstein, Dr. Marc Trust, Sarah Leach, Dr. Ernest Gonzalez, Kimberly Barker

**B. Introductions of General Membership and Guests**

Dr. Samson Jesudass, Chief Clinical Officer Ascension Texas, joining after discussion with Melissa. Chris Puglia from Dell Seton Medical Center representing Katie Foarde. Bill Wiles, Christus Santa Rosa EM Coordinator for entire region joining after invite.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. March 25, 2021: General Membership**

The minutes from the March 25, 2021, General Membership meeting were presented. A motion was made by Dr. Gonzalez and seconded by Mike Knipstein. No one opposed, minutes were approved.

**IV. Public Comments**

Rhonda Coombes, Scott & White Lakeway, level 3 status pursued, more to come by end of year

**V. Treasurer & Financial Report**

**FY21 TSA–O HPP Regional Projects**

- Mass Fatality Trailer Upgrades
- AMBUS Upgrade/Refurbishment
- 150 - Patient Room Tents for ACS
- 12 - Patient Monitors for ACS
- 3 – HAM Radio Jump-Kit Upgrades
- 30 - APX 4000 Radios (replace hospital radios)
- 125 – Handheld Electrostatic Sprayers for EMS (decon)
- 13 -1 Gallon Electrostatic Sprayers
- 125 – Gallons of Vital Oxide for Sprayers
- 100 – MaxAir Hoods to replace Expired HCID Equipment

#### FY21 TSA-L HPP Regional Projects

- HCID PAPR Filters for Hospitals  
30 Cases – PAPR Cartridges  
48 Cases – ILC Dover Cartridges
- 8 – Hospital Room UV-C Sterilizers
- 15 – Negative Pressure Converter Machines for Hospital Rooms
- 17 – Cases of Body Bags for Hospitals
- 39 – MedSleds for Hospitals & 5 Infant Inserts
- 1 – HAM Radio for Hospital

#### FY21 TSA-M HPP Regional Projects

- HCID PAPR Filters for Hospitals  
42 Cases – PAPR Cartridges  
24 Cases – ILC Dover Cartridges
- 2 – Hospital Room UV-C Sterilizers
- 14 – Negative Pressure Converter Machines for Hospital Rooms
- 17 – Cases of Body Bags for Hospitals
- 5 – Portable Handwashing Stations for Hospitals
- 21 – Handheld Electrostatic Sprayers for Hospitals
- 43 – Cots for Hospitals

#### FY21 TSA-N HPP Regional Projects

- Reprogramming/Maintenance on Hospital Radios
- Maintenance on Hospital Radio Antenna Systems
- 7 – Video Laryngoscopes for EMS
- 6 – Portable Ventilators for EMS w/Carry Cases
- 4 Packs – Handheld 2-Way Radios for Internal Hospital Communications During Disasters

#### EMTF - Supply Purchases

- Replacing MMU Expired Medical equipment & Purchasing Needed Equipment  
EMTF Coordinator is working with MMU team and MD
- Staff Shelters for MMU
- Looking into Upgrading LED fixtures in MMU

#### SB500 Funds

- Total Grant \$175,160
- One-Time Grant
- Statewide Wristband Project \$26,707 (2 years of wristbands purchased)
- Vehicle Purchases to Support EMTF & RAC  
Ford F550  
Ford F350  
Chevrolet Traverse

#### Opportunities for Regional Projects – Contact CATRAC Staff with suggestions

- RAC I & RAC II Contractual: \$91,859.11
  - Regional Education & Training (Complete by August 31, 2021)
  - Equipment & Training Supplies (Purchased by July 1, 2021)
  - Communication Systems

### LPG & EMS County

- FY21 Local Project Grant (LPG)
  - May 1, 2021- August 31, 2021
  - \$29,525
  
- FY21 EMS County (Alignment Funding)
  - \$183,416 (May 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)
  - \$183,416 (September 12, 2020 – June 30, 2021)
  - Packets Due – May 31, 2021

## **VI. Chair Report**

### **A. New Executive Director Announcement**

- Douglas Havron to begin June 27<sup>th</sup> after completion of relocation
  - Background: Registered nurse, long time paramedic. Many years in Healthcare Emergency Management, Director of Preparedness of Houston RAC, Private Emergency Management, JAVARE looking at ways we leverage technology and do data transformation in EM Space and Healthcare Quality
  - Looking to really work with staff to understand rolls, strengths, and opportunities to make sure we are supporting our membership and our community in best way possible
  - Contacting other RACS, TDEM, DHCS Staff, meeting with everyone in person to discuss what CATRAC has done for you and what we can do for you. Look to future for short/long term goals, using data and matrix to evaluate our performance as an organization

## **VII. Executive Director Report**

### **A. COVID Response Update**

- ◆ TSA-0 currently has 104 COVID positive patients in hospitals
- ◆ Regional Infusion Center ended operations May 4<sup>th</sup> – total of 1076 infusions given during run time
- ◆ PPE Distribution still ongoing with operations winding down with State Mission Assignment ending June 30<sup>th</sup>. Trying to get out as much PPE as possible, 35,000,000 PPE distributed since start, with 156 pallets remaining. We do not have storage space, encouraging medical providers to take as much as possible.
- ◆ Working with hospitals to distribute State provided durable medical equipment for COVID Response to be delivered to the Expo for pickup

## **VIII. Board Updates**

### **A. Appointment of Lead Pediatric Facility Board Member**

Cassie Campbell was recommended and has agreed to take on the role, motion made by Ken Strange and seconded by Rhonda Manor-Coombes to officially appoint Cassie to the position until term expires. No opposition, motion carried

### **B. Perinatal Board Member**

New requirement from DSHS to have a Perinatal Representative on the Board. Melissa has been coordinating with the Perinatal Committee on the requirements of the position so that a recommendation can be made.

**C. CATRAC Bylaws – Expanding CATRAC Board**

Perinatal Representation on Board must be worked into our Bylaws since it is now a contractual requirement by DSHS. Also have a need to balance out our Board and to incorporate representatives of each of our healthcare systems. To be compliant we need to present a proposed bylaw revision at the July 22<sup>nd</sup> General Membership Meeting and then vote on and adopt the bylaws at the October Executive Board Meeting. In preparation any feedback needs to be presented before the June 24<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting to work out the language and write them up to be presented at the July General Membership meeting.

**IX. Discussion: Preventing Hospital System Saturation**

Patient diversion due to a staffing situation causing a large hospital saturation. Patient acuity is up, staff turnover has been high, healthcare and nursing shortages, compounded by real estate market, and cost of living. Need to get together a Workgroup of agency experts to discuss a solution to the Hospital System Saturation by decompressing facilities while focusing on patient care. Does not have to be an active RAC member to participate. Contact [administrator@catrac.org](mailto:administrator@catrac.org) with any suggestions of who should be included in his workgroup. Note from Melissa: EMC Resource needs to be utilized to monitor the system to help alleviate the saturation and help decide where patients can be transported.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee –** Working on Virtual Miniseries Conference to be held August 25, 26, 27. Seeking presenters on disaster management, trauma, stroke, perinatal or other specialty will be welcomed. Looking at June 10<sup>th</sup> deadline to finalize speakers, email [mmieth@catrac.org](mailto:mmieth@catrac.org) for suggestions of speakers

**B. Pre-Hospital –**

- Last meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>, still seeking a co-chair with no nominations thus far. Please encourage team mates to apply for position.
- Common Badging to mirror Travis County Medical Society badging system to be compatible with St. David's and Ascension Systems. Working with BSW to make sure compatibility with them.
- CATRAC has acquired SIM AOS, SIM Baby along with the training that goes with them, procedures for check out being made.
- Statewide Wristband Project – enough bands acquired for entire region. Pilot to begin now, Workgroup Chairs are working on a Charter, and creating measures. Hospital Networks along with EMS Urban Agencies to be involved in the pilot, further invites to go out next week. Patrick Murphy updated that plans are to have a draft chartered in place by next Friday and get with Melissa on the next series of meetings.
- Whole Blood, Arcadian and Starflight live with Whole Blood. Plan to use one grant to purchase equipment for other systems to utilize Whole Blood. Other systems also looking to purchase Education Equipment. Austin Travis County System goal to have a 2-unit pilot by end of June, the outflow positions should have blood within a week or two.

- CATRAC Mission Lifeline Meeting for 12 Lead Transmission Project, no common way to upload 12 leads and stay within HIPPA Rules. Suggested to go see how the STRAT conducted the MedCom.
- Regional Resource Guide Updates completed by May 7<sup>th</sup>. MCI Plan update needs to be updated with suggestions by May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Next meeting June 24<sup>th</sup>.

**C. Perinatal Committee –**

- Statewide Neonatal Temperature Project – data being gathered to look at improving rates of euthermia in term and neonatal patients. Enrollment currently covers 45-90% babies born in Texas covered by the project. Largest quality improvement project within neonatal in the State of Texas
- Blood Imaging Project in planning stages through the RAC PCR Alliance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rounds of NICU DSHS Level Care Designation Surveys - Recommendations have been made and will be taken to the team. A debriefing session to be put together to talk through hospital and transporting team experiences and challenges for transporting of infants and Mothers
- RAC PCR Alliance meets quarterly to talk over issues related to designation and how we can better support the CDC recognized quality improvement body for Perinatal in the State of Texas

**D. Injury Prevention**

- Due to Covid and lack of activity related to training and injury prevention programs over the last year have not met and currently working on meeting dates and future plans
- One of the Co-Chairs, Kevin Rick has stepped down from the position

**E. Stroke Committee – Next meeting June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**F. Trauma Systems & Operations Committee**

- **Trauma System plan Updates** due tomorrow – Plan almost complete to come to the Executive Board in June and General Membership in July

**G. LPG Workgroup** \$29,525 funds need to be spent by August 31. Can be spend on a Regional Project, or to help support EMS Agencies with patient care or training.

- Looking into Purchasing Cold Blood Project Equipment, several recommendations made
- Needs assessment survey to be sent out to the Pre-Hospital agencies to be brought back to the workgroup to help determine and develop the spending plan to be brought to the State for final approval

**XI. Common Badging**

- Policy and Procedures writeup to be sent out to hospitals next week to help move the project forward

**XII. COVID-19 Public Health Update**

Ebola Outbreak in Congo has since been declared no longer a concern. Ebola Response Plan had been reviewed for the region at the time

**XIII. Healthcare Coalitions TSA's L, M, N, O**

- Statewide Burn Annex – Submitting June 30th
- COVID Response AAR – Working on Draft
- Focusing on starting exercises and reviewing plans going into FY22

- **Emergency Medical Taskforce-7 (EMTF-7)**  
Working on scheduling a Webinar for Hurricane Season for team members to refresh on what they need in their go bag and what to expect and bring in new members. To be pushed out in the next week or two
- Wet Weather Response – Teams on standby due to rain, with some teams sent to College Station, San Antonio flooding which ended up more as an exercise than a response

#### **XIV. DSHS/HHSC Update**

- 157.122 TSA Rules – in RCO
- 157.133 Stroke Rules – in RCO
- Opened Trauma Rules  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 9a-12p GETAC Trauma System Committee  
June 15<sup>th</sup> 3p-5:30 GETAC Trauma System Committee  
June 18<sup>th</sup> GETAC Council Meeting
- Neonatal Rules – Preparing for RCO

**GETAC Meeting Dates** – Highly recommend getting involved as very informative

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter GETAC Council Meeting (Virtual)**  
Friday, June 18, 2021 @ 10 am
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter GETAC Meeting (Virtual)**  
September 17, 2021
- **GETAC Retreat Meeting**  
October 2021
- **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter GETAC Meeting**  
November 20-22, 2021  
(Held in conjunction with the Texas EMS Conference)
- **GETAC Trauma Systems Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 @ 9am

GETAC meeting info: <https://dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/governor.shtm#Meetings>

#### **XV. TETAF and Legislative Updates**

- Amounts listed in meeting invite were preliminary, our writers for the budget for RAC Funding did get pushed through will add \$400,000 back into the EMS side
- Writer for EMTF put the program into the budget, which is now funded by Federal Funds, but this will give them additional State Funds. Got pushed through and it will be \$5,000,000 for 2 years.  
Additional funding for equipment will save the HPP Healthcare Coalition budget from paying for costs of repairs to equipment
- SB 437 – Passed affecting RAC B, establishes a MedCom but is not funded

#### **XVI. Hospitals Update**

No further updates offered



**XVII. Other Business**

Sending out CATRAC Quarterly Newsletter tomorrow

**XVIII. Next Meeting/Adjourn**

Ken Strange motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike Knipstein  
The meeting adjourned at 2:24pm.

Next Meeting:

Executive Board: June 24, 2021, in person at the RAC

General Membership Meeting: July 22, 2021 in person at the St. David's MOB

Committee Meetings: As per committee Chair/Co-Chairs