



**Capital Area Texas Regional Advisory Council**  
**Board of Director's Meeting**  
**February 23, 2023**  
**12:30 – 3:00pm**

**Minutes - DRAFT**

**I. Call to Order**

Ben Oakley called the meeting to order at 12:32pm.

**A. Roll Call of Board of Directors**

Mr. Oakley conducted the roll call of the Board of Directors. A quorum was present.

**B. Roll Call of CATRAC Chairs**

Diana Norris (represented by Tara Neeley), Rhonda Manor-Coombes, Dr. Emily Kidd, Dr. Gaurang Shah, Dr. Neal Rutledge, Dr. Rob Schutt, Dr. John Loyd

**II. Secretary's Report**

**A. Approve October 27th, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Wes Alexander and seconded by Samson Jesudass, MD to approve. None opposed and motion carried.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Financial Report**

Alesia Palmer, CATRAC Financial Controller, provided the membership with the financial report. The budget amendments were submitted February 17. Working on replenishing MMU supplies that have expired. The EMS pass through grants will be issued shortly. SB8 began in September. Accounting has received the second lump sum. As of January, there was a balance of \$629,000 in the operating account and \$377,000 in the general fund.

Alesia requested a motion to accept the financial report. Ken Strange made the motion to accept the financials as presented. The motion was seconded by James Green. Motion passed with none opposed. Josh Vandever made a motion to approve budget amendments. The motion was seconded by Wesley Alexander. Motion carried with none opposed.

**B. Financial Institution decisions**

Alesia discussed the decision to move the operating account from Johnson City Bank to Wells Fargo to be able to make ACH payments and have protection. CATRAC will be adopting a corporate resolution authorizing the corporate account.

James Green made a motion to open an account at Wells Fargo with authorization of corporate resolution. John Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

**C. Updated Single Audit Guideline**



Douglas presented the single audit guideline that was approved by this Board. There were a few items for the Board to review as we move forward with a 1333 process. Dr. Mark Escott made a motion to accept the single audit guideline changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Samson Jesudass.

#### **IV. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **V. Special Election**

##### **A. Baylor, Scott & White Senior Clinical Representative**

Per the CATRAC Bylaws, the RAC Chair appointed Dr. Sally Gillam. She was the CNO for St. David's South Austin and is now at Baylor Scott & White. She is a DNP and excited to have her perspective on the Board.

#### **VI. Chair Report**

Thanks to Ascension Seton Williamson for hosting us this quarter. Delivered Certificates of Appreciation to Dr. Rob Watson for serving as BSW representative, Terri Thompson for serving as the Burnet/Williamson County representative, Dr. Taylor Ratcliff for serving as the Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition Chair, and Dr. James Kempema for serving as the Trauma Workgroup chair.

#### **VII. Executive Director Report**

There is now a signed EMTF agreement with the OCMO office for Austin. Douglas has signed two CATRAC participation letters; Ascension Seton Austin for trauma designation and Ascension Seton Northwest for stroke designation. Signed one participation letter for Baylor Scott & White Lakeway for their stroke designation. Signed NDA with Tesla.

Completed inventory and fiscal audit. There were three minor findings. The HPP Program audit conducted July 11 is complete.

The RMOC was activated for Winter Storm Laura. RMOC assisted 6 hospitals.

Sobering center is now in EMResource.

The office lease is up end of June. Looking for new office space and "yard" space.

We continue to have a number of unpaid SMAs.

Alesia Palmer is the new controller. Rosemarie Veals has joined us as a staff accountant. Evelyn will be departing again. Kelly Isham is the HPP Program Manager/O coordinator. Adam Stocking is the new HPP L coordinator and Jay Fonville is the new HPP M Coordinator. Herman Iles was onboarded in December and is the HPP N coordinator. Branden Thorpe has joined us this week as the Emergency Operations Specialist supporting Daniel and managing assets. Phone tree is updated.



There were about 22 total applications for EMS Education. As of January, 130,000 total funds are available for EMS scholarship.

Dr. Shuford testified in front of the Finance Committee. DSHS put in exceptional items 6 talking about hospital systems and capacity for data collection at 2.8 million dollars.

Patient transfer portal for continued payment of Pulsara exception item is also in E16.

There are testimonies that support the funding of RACs 6.6 million. Dispersed if passed through all 22 RACS and help support some massive increase in requirements for us related to service line coordination. The only funds we receive are through trauma, which has been cut. This is an unfunded mandate.

Watching a variety of Bills. HB1147 coming out of Gervins-Hawkins office. STB training age to third grade. HB 1724 TDEM being given local health authority contact information. HB2009 school panic button. HB2233 6 hours of education on mental health training first responders. HB2470 watching adverse/employment action to a first responders for any mental health issues. SB799 EMS line of duty benefits. SB997 photographs of injuries and human remains with first responders. TETAF legislative action sheet.

## VIII. Committee Reports

### 1) Data Committee – Diana Norris

- a) Tara Neeley reported on Diana's behalf. A charter has been developed. There are a few service lines we are still waiting for desired metrics and working on one BAA agreement. Goal is to utilize data points that are already being reported. Crosswalk is completed. Next steps is for service line workgroups to discuss data definitions and narrow down the core data set.
- b) Needs: Funding for data integration solutions and interface capability.

### 2) Education/IP Committee – Rhonda Manor-Coombes

- a) Coming up with a symposium in 2024.
- b) Monthly Stop the Bleed classes.
- c) Submitted information to the Data Committee. The Committee would like to review data on tourniquet use, Narcan use, and firearm injuries.
- d) IP project topics mentioned were drowning and firearm safety. Rhonda would like to work on a project that is supported through data.
- e) Looking to incorporate a lot of CATRAC assets into community trainings.

### 3) Prehospital Committee – Dr. Heidi Abraham

- a) Dr. Kidd reported on behalf of Dr. Abraham. The main topic was discussing Pulsara. Corey demonstrated how communication would work for EMS and hospital. The main functions the Committee is looking into are MCI and patient tracking. There is a significant amount of interest with EMS, some with hospitals. Due out is to discuss with EHS for further discussion.

### 4) Whole Blood Workgroup – Dr. Emily Kidd

- a) ATCEMS, STAR Flight, and Acadian are administering blood in the field.
- b) MOU has been finalized after stakeholder input, Douglas and We are Blood input.
- c) No unmet needs.

### 5) EHS Committee – Dr. Taylor Ratcliff

- a) Douglas reported on behalf of Ratcliff. Seeking feedback from partners about regional quality initiatives. Field surgical team process, Transfer, rad images, facility and monitoring of prehospital blood programs, general updates. Dr. Ratcliff wants this Committee to focus on the patient and patient outcomes. Start to have a PI component quarterly.
  - b) No unmet needs.
- 6) Cardiac WG – Dr. Robert Schutt**
- a) The Workgroup is developing the cardiac portion of EHS plan. Will transition the field guide into the EHS plan for the region.
  - b) Cardiac Workgroup is charged with assessing regional improvement regarding STEMI care. Super challenging with lack of data.
  - c) Reviewing how we are activating STEMIs and transmitting EKGs in this region. Would like to move forward with using a unified software as a regional communication and patient tracking platform, I.E Pulsara.
    - i) Dr. Ratcliff and Dr. Abraham must come together on a joint recommendation and let that recommendation be brought to the Board.
    - ii) A Pulsara Task Force will be developed.
- 7) Perinatal WG – Dr. John Loyd**
- a) Ongoing NAT project working through TCHMB. 70% of babies in Texas are represented.
  - b) Dr. Jaynes presented on the PASD challenges for hospitals. Rules for maternal and neonatal designation are in various stages of commentary and rule revisions.
  - c) No unmet needs.
- 8) Stroke WG – Dr. Neal Rutledge/Dr. Gaurang Shah**
- a) The workgroup has agreed on stroke triage and transport terminology. This terminology was passed in the EHS Committee.
  - b) Hospitals cannot use a vendor for data recording. There are many data requirements for the RAC. We cannot improve patient outcomes without sharing data.
  - c) Dr. Shah looks forward to working with everyone and is excited to make great strides moving forward.
  - d) Ben thanked Dr. Rutledge for all that he had done for stroke care since 1995.
- 9) Trauma WG – (vacant)**
- a) No report
- 10) Health Care Coalition – Dr. Mark Escott**
- a) The Coalition has an airport exercise at ABIA on April 19. Planning radiation exercise for this year. General discussions regarding MCI and how the RAC provides support.

## **IX. Regional Data Registry Funding / Expenditure**

The Board took action over a year ago to explore a registry system in our own region. Douglas is asking the membership to speak to elected officials about funding RACs and funding data specific activities. CATRAC cannot fulfil the statutory obligation of improving the quality of care without measuring it. If RACs do not get funding from the



legislature, then this proposal would be a reoccurring cost. This funding would pay for a technology system with State level requirements for security, as well as hiring an FTE. Option 6: staff recommendation. Weighted based off hospital designation. Hosp 75%, EMS 25%.

There are a few vendors but will open for bid. Sally Gillam was very supportive of this proposal. Dr. Escott's concern is the charge for the volunteer FD. He believes it should be close to 0. Dr. Escott made a motion to move forward with option 6 with the modification of not charging VFD that are non-transport. Air Medical providers should pay the same amount as ground EMS agencies. Dr. Samson Jesudass, MD seconded the motion. Motion carries with 12 accept and 1 reject.

## **X. Open Discussion**

A memo was issued in September stating the expectation to move forward with wristbands effective 1/1 of this year.

Elizabeth Rosales would like to push out the message to not place the Texas Wristband on the right arm.

Bill Leggio informed the group that the founder of National Registry passed away this week and to take a moment to reflect on the growth and birth of our profession.

Douglas thanked everyone for driving North and congrats to Josh and Ben for their newborns.

## **XI. Review Action Items**

### **A. Board Meeting Minutes**

Completed; no further comments made

### **B. Treasurer's Report**

Completed; Authorization of Corporate Resolution

## **XII. Next Meeting**

April 20, 2023 at Williamson County EMS

## **XIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:52pm.