



2023

CATRAC ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT US



CATRAC is recognized by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to serve our 11-county region, also known as Trauma Service Area O (TSA-O). Our primary objective is to reduce the incidence of trauma, acute illness, and injury through education, data collection/analysis, disaster preparedness, and performance improvement. CATRAC began its efforts in trauma planning in 1989 as a volunteer group and was incorporated into a non-profit organization in 1993.

CATRAC is comprised of representatives from hospitals, EMS agencies, fire departments, first responders, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare and emergency preparedness related agencies.

Mission

To facilitate coordination amongst trauma and emergency healthcare providers within TSA-O to ensure the most efficient, consistent, and expedient care of each patient, by developing and maintaining integrated quality processes in patient care, transportation, education, and prevention.

Vision

We will be the model regional trauma, disaster, and emergency healthcare system in the United States that results in the lowest risk-adjusted mortality for emergency healthcare conditions.



Purpose

Coordinate regional medical assets during disasters and planned events

Decrease morbidity and/or mortality that result from injury and illness

Assist member organizations in achieving the highest level of health care and emergency preparedness

Improve public awareness of the methods of accessing the trauma and health care system and preventing injury

Provide ongoing education regarding regional health care issues

A letter from the CATRAC Chair

It is with great pleasure and a sense of profound responsibility that I address you in this letter for our annual report. As Chairman of the Board of CATRAC, words can simply not express how proud I am of this organization, our dedicated staff, and all of our stakeholders and partner agencies for the amazing work they do each and every day.

As we reflect on the past year, we cannot help but recognize the unprecedented challenges that have confronted our communities, agencies and healthcare systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our resilience, resourcefulness, and commitment to our mission. Despite these challenges, we have continued to successfully advance the state of healthcare and emergency preparedness, while decreasing morbidity and mortality that result from injury and/or illness.

As an organization, CATRAC has undergone substantial changes to better serve our communities. We have restructured the organization at all levels, modified our bylaws, implemented new technologies and re-evaluated every component of the organization to ensure we are supporting our stakeholders in the best ways possible. However, we also recognize that our work is far from over. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to objectively advancing healthcare and emergency preparedness throughout the region, and strengthening our partnerships to better serve everyone.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our incredible team of devoted staff, board members, volunteers, supporters, partners and stakeholders for their unwavering support and collaboration. Your contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission and making a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals and families in our region.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission!

Ben Oakley
CATRAC Chair



Welcome from the Executive Director

First, I would like to thank the regional stakeholders, Board of Directors, and staff who have worked tirelessly over the last couple of years to provide high quality care for the patients in our region. Your work at every level contributes to furthering high quality healthcare in our region. Future efforts are built upon those successes, and, for that, I thank all of you!

As CATRAC sets a strategic course for 2024 and beyond, the leadership and the Board of Directors have taken time to develop a comprehensive strategy to address key focus areas. With a commitment to enhancing and improving regional healthcare system performance through data-driven methodologies, CATRAC is prepared to embark on initiatives aimed at optimizing clinical outcomes, injury prevention & education, regional communication, organizational growth & partnerships, and emergency preparedness & response capabilities.

In alignment with our vision, CATRAC has identified three overarching priorities for 2024:

Regional Navigation of Care: Acknowledging the complex healthcare landscape, growing population, and the need for seamless coordination of care, CATRAC is dedicated to enhancing regional navigation of care. Through the development of multi-agency coordination and load-balancing capabilities, CATRAC will begin the exploration of a multi-year initiative to provide services that streamline patient placement, optimize resource sharing, and improve access to critical healthcare services across the region.

Financial Diversity: Sustainable growth and funding diversification are essential to fulfilling CATRAC's long-term mission and advancing its strategic objectives. To this end, CATRAC is committed to broadening its funding sources and exploring innovative revenue streams. By cultivating strategic partnerships with businesses, philanthropic organizations, and government agencies, CATRAC intends to illustrate the value of its regional services and the financial resources necessary to support its initiatives and expand its impact.

Promoting Recognition: CATRAC understands the importance of establishing a strong identity to enhance its visibility and credibility within the community. By allocating resources to strategic endeavors, fostering relationships, and leveraging digital platforms, CATRAC intends to amplify its presence among stakeholders, including member organizations, public safety entities, governmental officials, private businesses, and the public.

These priorities underscore CATRAC's commitment to fostering collaboration innovation, and excellence in our regional healthcare system. By focusing on these overarching priorities, CATRAC is dedicated to advance our mission and serve as a trusted leader in regional healthcare coordination within the counties we serve.



Board of Directors



Ben Oakley, MPA, LP
Chair
Blanco County EMS



Ira Wood, MD
Vice Chair- Hospital
CPRMC



Josh Vandever, BAAS, LP
Vice Chair- Prehospital
Fayette County EMS



John Hamilton, LP, FP-C
Secretary
CareFlite



Mike Knipstein, EMT-P
Treasurer
Williamson County EMS

Samson Jesudass, MD
Ascension Seton

Jim Persons, LP
Burnet / Williamson Counties

Ken Mitchell, MD
HCA St. David's

James Green, FP-C
Caldwell / Bastrop Counties

Sally Gillam, DNP
Baylor Scott & White

Ken Strange, EMT-P
Hays / Blanco Counties

Dawn Handley M.Ed., LPC
Independent Facilities

Rodney Mersiovsky, EMT-P
Lee / Fayette Counties

Mark Escott, MD
HPP Coalition Chair

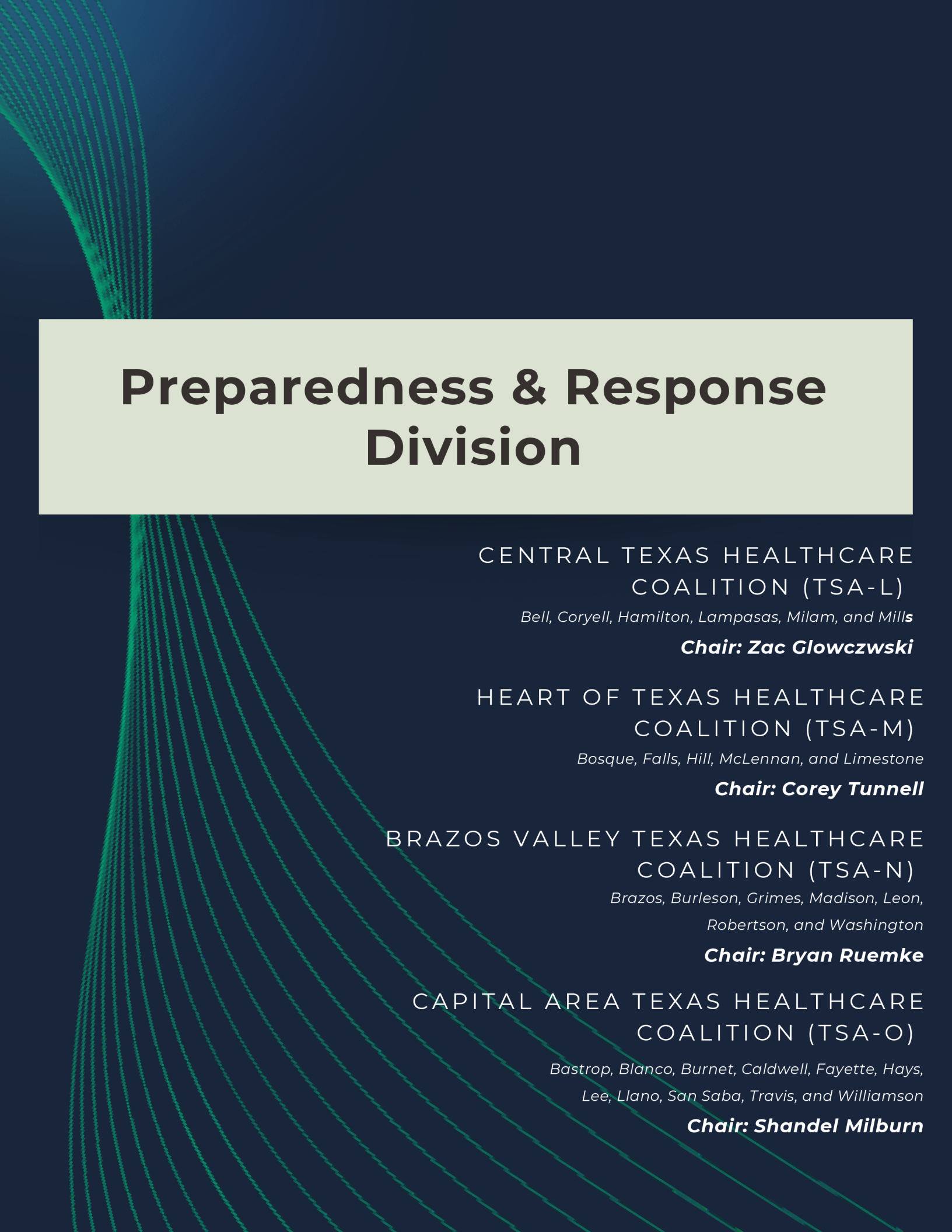
Wes Alexander, EMT-P
San Saba / Llano Counties

Justin Soulier, MHA, RN
Air Medical Providers

Robert Luckritz, LP
Travis County

2023 County Disbursements

County	EMS County Pass-Thru Funding Pg. 23	EMS Scholarship Funding Pg. 26	EMTF Deployment Reimbursements Pg. 12
Bastrop	\$16,064	\$81,019	\$0
Blanco	\$10,643	\$9,547	\$0
Burnet	\$16,139	\$0	\$0
Caldwell	\$9,330	\$65,999	\$0
Fayette	\$14,322	\$16,000	\$0
Hays	\$17,341	\$151,997	\$237,747
Lee	\$9,561	\$0	\$0
Llano	\$14,307	\$8,000	\$72,318
San Saba	\$16,378	\$0	\$0
Travis	\$60,942	\$16,000	\$255,158
Williamson	\$35,005	\$8,000	\$0



Preparedness & Response Division

CENTRAL TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-L)

Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, and Mills

Chair: Zac Glowczwski

HEART OF TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-M)

Bosque, Falls, Hill, McLennan, and Limestone

Chair: Corey Tunnell

BRAZOS VALLEY TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-N)

*Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Leon,
Robertson, and Washington*

Chair: Bryan Ruemke

CAPITAL AREA TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-O)

*Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays,
Lee, Llano, San Saba, Travis, and Williamson*

Chair: Shandel Milburn

Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC)

Preparedness & Response Division



Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC)

Known as 7-RMOC Austin/Central Texas, the RMOC serves as the healthcare coordination center during disasters or catastrophic incidents. The RMOC can be activated by any local jurisdiction or the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to assist hospitals, healthcare systems, public health, and emergency medical services with healthcare response and coordination.

The RMOC also provides a single source for local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Emergency Managers (EMs), TDEM, and other entities to coordinate planning and response activities with area ESF-8 partners, such as mental health, dialysis, and home health agencies.

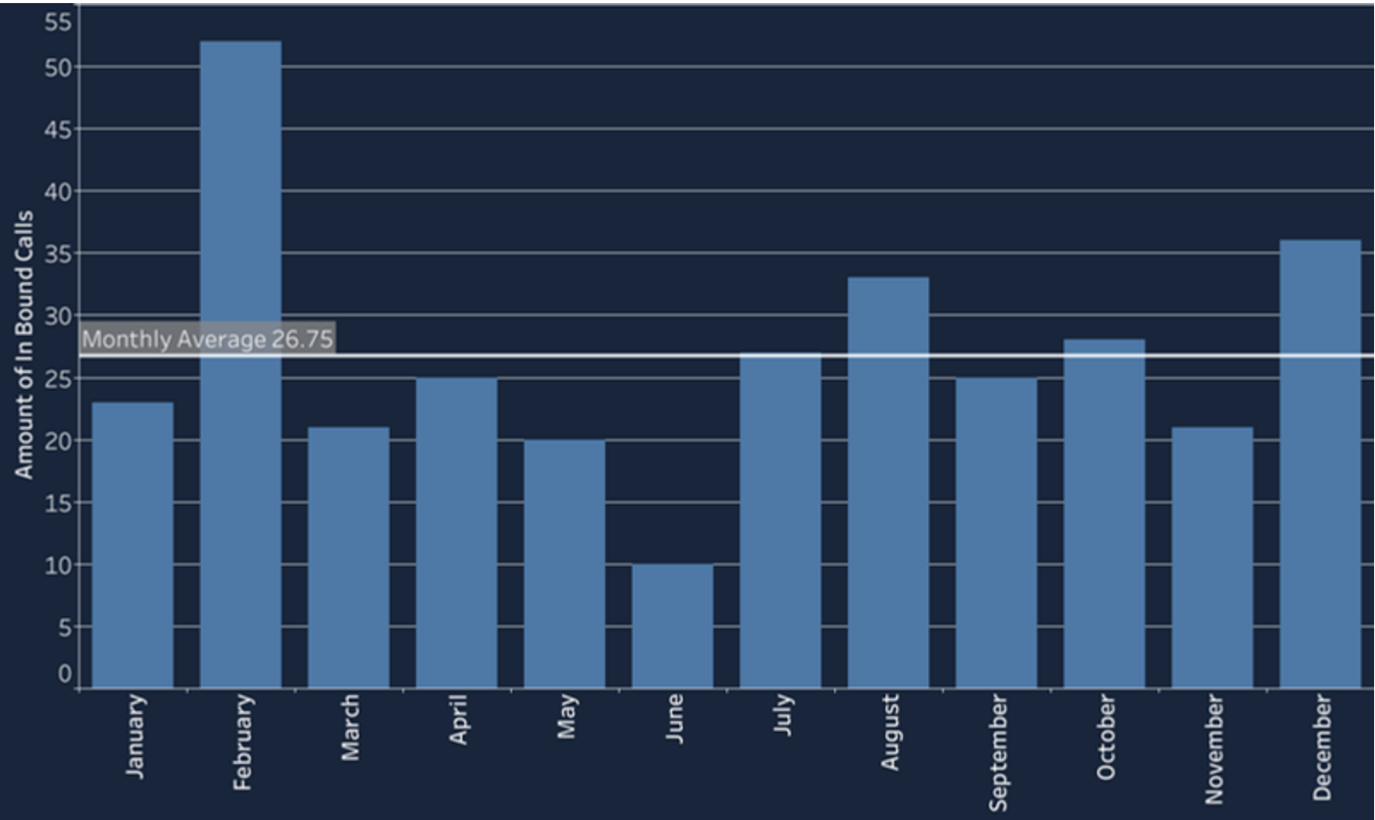
Duty Officer

Preparedness & Response Division

Duty Officer (On-Call 24/7).

The Duty Officer (DO) serves as the principal point of contact for CATRAC after-hours. The DO is responsible for the following:

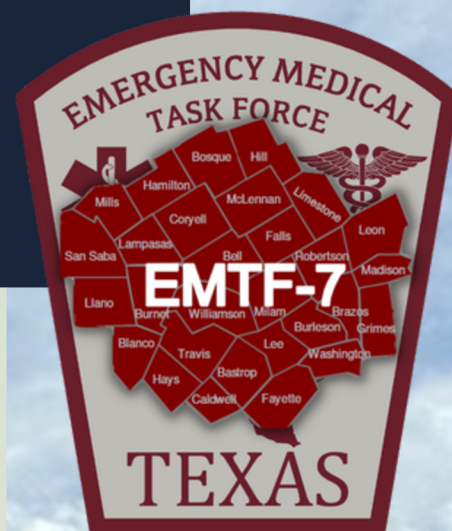
- Monitors and answers the On-Call Duty Officer phone for the receipt and dissemination of emergency public information and warnings.
- Conducts and coordinates initial assessment and notification of threats that may have direct or indirect impacts to the emergency healthcare system in the TSA L, M, N, and O regions
- Serves as the 24-hour point of contact for EMTF-7 mobilization requests.



EMTF Deployments

Preparedness & Response Division

The Emergency Medical Task Force was developed to create a statewide network of regionally based, rapid response medical teams. The goal is to provide a well-coordinated, rapid, professional medical response to large regional or state incidents. EMTF-7 is supported by the stakeholders throughout TSAs L, M, N, & O.



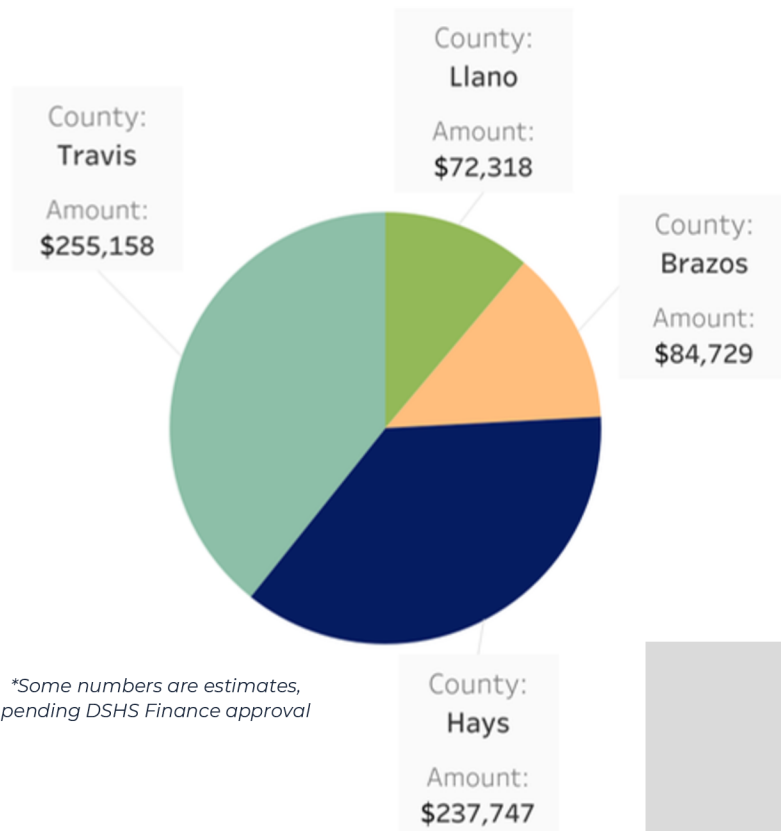
EMTF Components

- Ambulance Staging Management Team (ASMT)
- Ambulance Strike Teams (AST)
- Air Medical Strike Teams (AMST)
- AMBUS
- Infectious Disease Response Unit (IDRU)
- Medical Incident Support Teams (MIST)
- Mobile Medical Unit (MMU)
- Registered Nurse Strike Teams (RNST)
- Tactical Medical Unit Support
- Texas Mass Fatality Operations Response Team (TMORT)
- Wildland Fire Medical Support Team

Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) -7

Preparedness & Response Division

SMA Reimbursements by County



91 DAYS

EMTF-7 in Activation



Healthcare Coalition (HCC)

Preparedness & Response Division

The HCC serves as a multi-disciplinary coordinating group to facilitate collaboration and cooperation throughout the region to ensure partners have the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency and planned public health and medical events. Together the HCCs provide coordinated planning, education, training, and a regional approach to healthcare response in a disaster. And in times of response, coordinates through the Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC).

Hazards Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)

CATRAC is responsible for developing a regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) analysis for TSAs L, M, N, and O. The HVA provides the region with a common understanding about hazard risks to prioritize issues.

Top Hazards and Vulnerabilities Identified in 2023:

- Severe weather
- Mass Casualty/Fatality Incidents
- Technological / Information Systems Failure
- High Consequence Infectious Disease

Purpose

Strategic planning

Identification of gaps and mitigation strategies

Operational planning and response
Information sharing for improved situational awareness

Resource coordination and management



Training/Exercises/Tabletops

Preparedness & Response Division



CATRAC strives to continuously improve healthcare systems within our region through its trainings and exercises. Our staff is constantly locating and developing training to assist the region in achieving their goals of preparedness, response, and recovery. Training, drills, and exercises help identify and assess how well a health care delivery system region is prepared to respond to an emergency. These activities also develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities of a HCC member's workforce.

2023 Exercise Activities

11

MCI Drills

4

**Functional
Medical Surge
Exercises**

4

**Pediatric/Burn
Surge
Tabletop
Exercises**

9

**Communication
Drills**

1

**Amateur Radio
Drill**

Emergency Healthcare Systems (EHS) Committee

TRAUMA & EHS COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Taylor Ratcliff

CARDIAC WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Robert Schutt

PEDIATRIC WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Kate Remick

Vice Chair: Dr. Sanya Desai

PERINATAL WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. John Loyd

Vice Chair: Dr. Charlie Jaynes

STROKE WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Gaurang Shah

TRAUMA WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Marc Trust

Emergency Healthcare Systems (EHS)

CATRAC is dedicated to the provision of quality healthcare for the community and the surrounding region. It provides accessible, comprehensive, compassionate, high-quality healthcare to all disaster, and emergency healthcare patients regardless of age, race, religion, sex, nationality, ability to pay, diagnosis or prognosis, to assure that all patients receive the optimal level of care.

23 Trauma designated centers

15 Stroke designated centers

16 Maternal designated centers

16 Neonatal designated centers

CATRAC Members

25

EMS
Agencies
(including
FRO)

4

Air Medical
Agencies

15

Fire
Departments

47

Hospitals

8

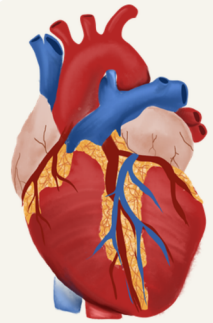
Rehabilitation
Centers

Workgroup Projects

Emergency Healthcare Systems Committee

CARDIAC WORKGROUP

- Developing regional Cardiac Arrest Center/STEMI Center Recognition criteria
- Annual review of Cardiac System Plan



PEDIATRIC WORKGROUP

- National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative (NPRQI) dashboards
- Pediatric Surge Capability Survey



PERINATAL WORKGROUP

- Placenta Acreta Spectrum Disorder hospital plans
- QA/PI review
- Finalized initial data metrics to review



Workgroup Projects

Emergency Healthcare Systems Committee

TRAUMA WORKGROUP

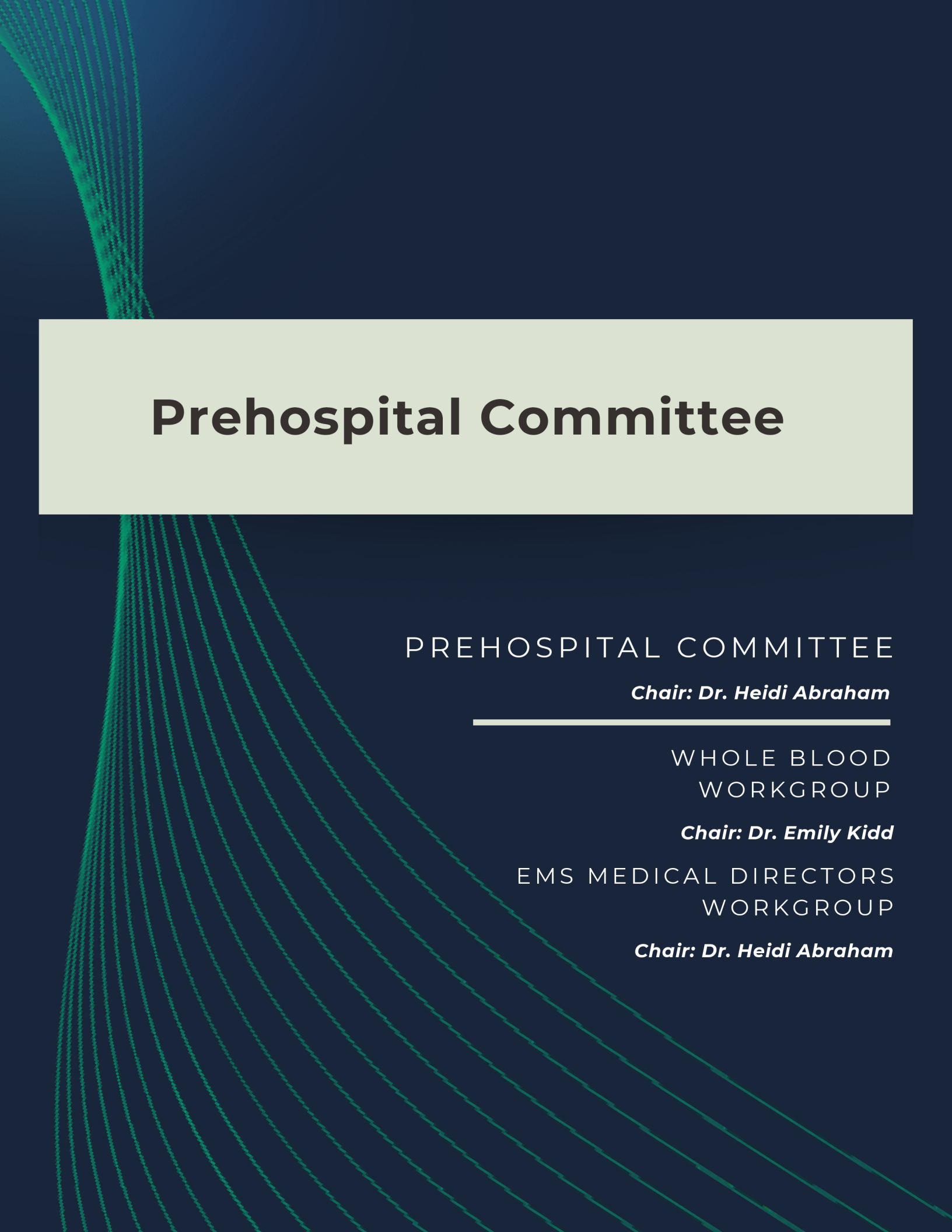
- Standardizing regional trauma activation criteria
- Review of new trauma rules and regional impact
- Assist trauma centers with uncompensated trauma care funds
- Whole blood patient administration



STROKE WORKGROUP

- EMResource LVO lab availability and notification
- Stroke transport guideline
- Incorporation of pediatric stroke guidelines
- Regional stroke best practices discussions



The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient. On the left side, there is an abstract graphic consisting of numerous thin, curved green lines that originate from the top left and fan out towards the bottom right, creating a sense of motion and depth.

Prehospital Committee

PREHOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Heidi Abraham

WHOLE BLOOD
WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Emily Kidd

EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS
WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Heidi Abraham

Committee & Workgroup Projects

Prehospital Committee

PREHOSPITAL COMMITTEE

- Field Triage Criteria
- Pulsara implementation
- EMS-ED Handoff process & wall times
- Prehospital System Plan



WHOLE BLOOD WORKGROUP

- Onboarding EMS agencies
- Increasing hospital participation
- Developing whole blood rotation process
- Collaborate with regional blood providers



EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS WORKGROUP

- Review of care guidelines
- Implemented SB 1876 and HB 624
- Transport of sexually assaulted patient



Whole Blood Program

Prehospital Committee

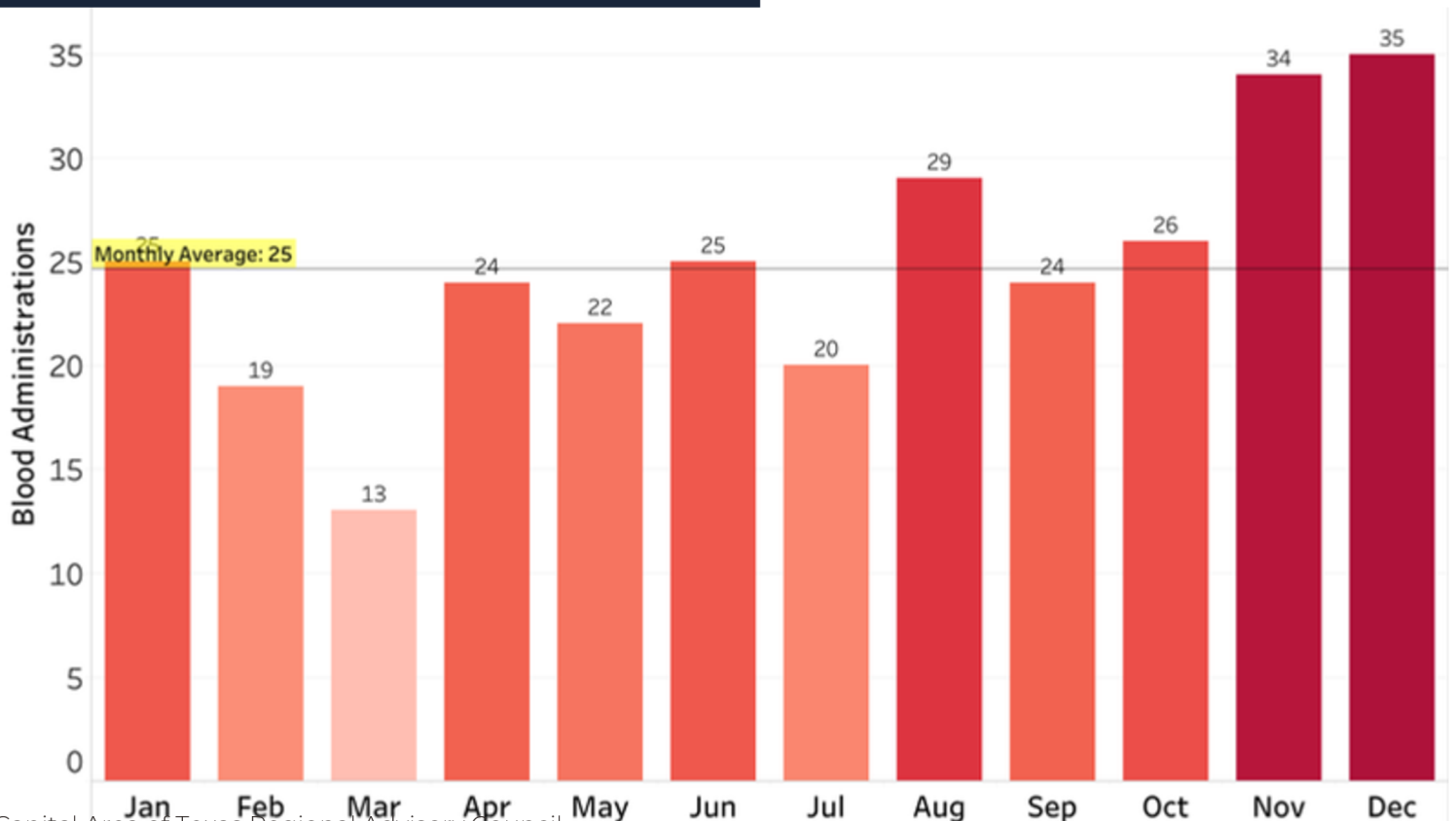
350+ Units of Whole Blood administered in 2023

10 EMS Agencies Participating

19 Hospitals Participating

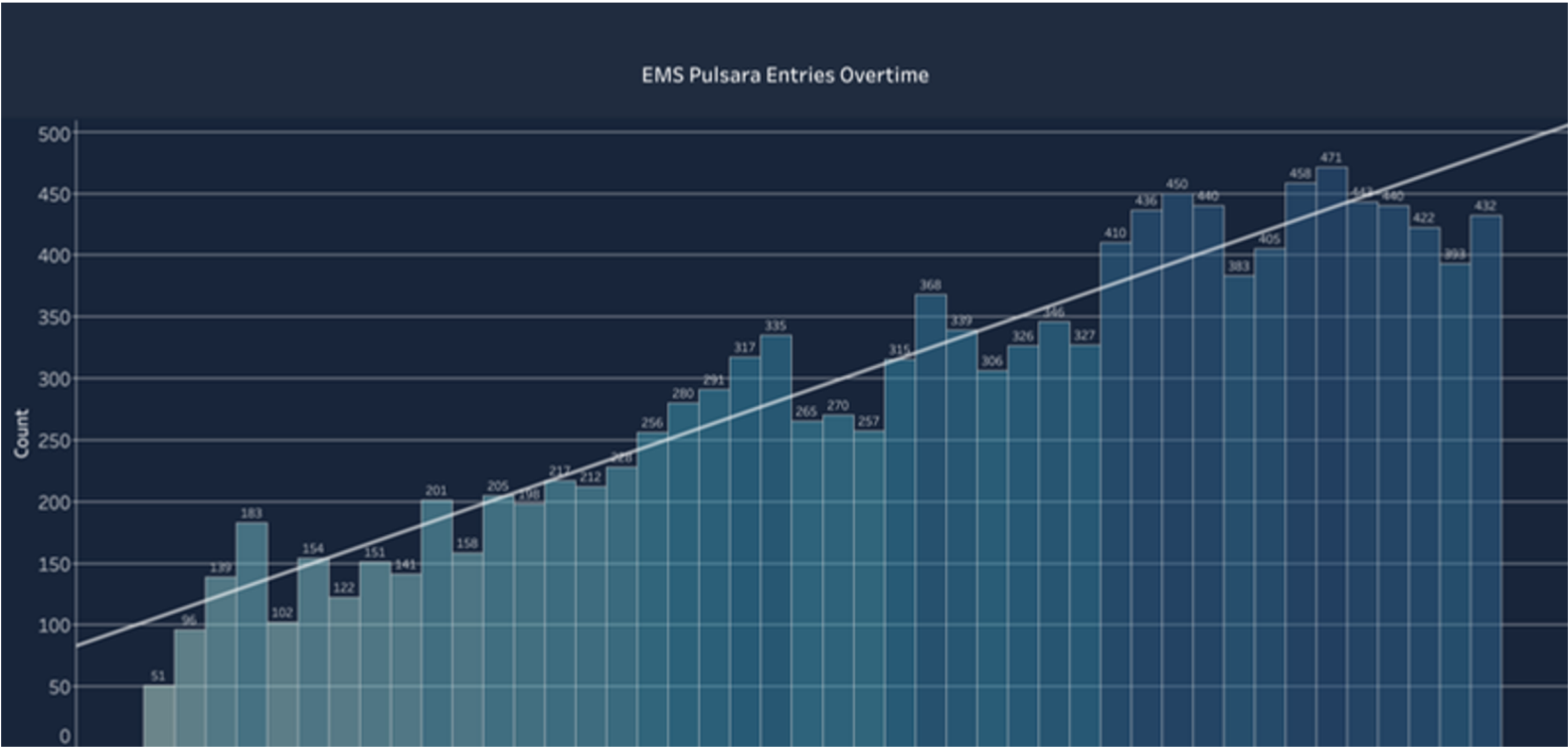
CATRAC leads a regional process improvement initiative to make Low Titer Type-O Whole Blood (LTOWB) available for EMS Providers throughout the continuum of care from point of injury to definitive care.

This program promotes the ability for EMS to provide life-saving whole blood to all patients with life-threatening hemorrhage at the earliest possible time of intervention.



Pulsara Overview

Prehospital Committee



Approved by the Board of Directors following approval by the regional stakeholders, CATRAC staff began an implementation project plan to facilitate the full-time use of Pulsara for all EMS (emergency and scheduled) transport patients every day. A Task Force was identified of representatives from prehospital and hospital partners to ensure a plan to success.

In TSA-O, Fire Departments and EMS agencies begin the patient channel through use of the Texas Wristband number. Using Pulsara, the Texas Wristband number, along with vital patient information, is loaded into Pulsara and the receiving hospital is notified when the patient is enroute. Once patient care is transitioned to the receiving hospital, the hospital is then able to communicate with prehospital providers to follow-up with any additional questions via instant messaging or video calls.

EMS County Assistance Funding

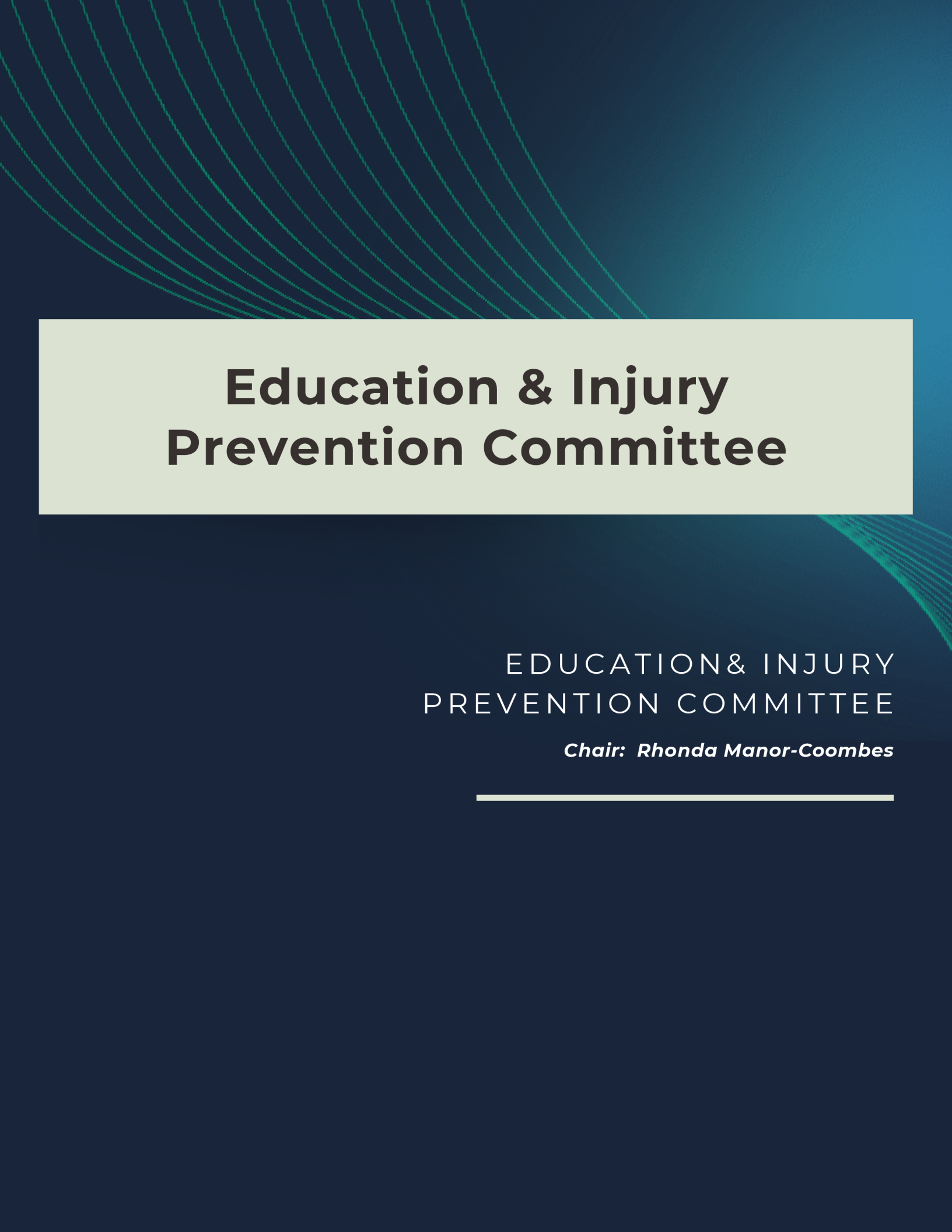
Prehospital Committee

In 2023, CATRAC dispersed \$220,032 on behalf of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to EMS agencies in TSA-O. EMS County Assistance funding is to assist in the enhancement and delivery of patient care in the EMS and trauma care system. Licensed EMS Providers that provide 911 and/or emergency transfers may be eligible for funding.

Eligibility criteria is further defined in Texas Administrative Code 157.130 and includes, but is not limited to:

- Active participation in the RAC in which the agency operates
- Utilization of the RAC regional guidelines regarding patient destination and transportation

County	
Travis	\$ 60,942
Williamson	\$ 35,005
Hays	\$ 17,341
San Saba	\$ 16,378
Burnet	\$ 16,139
Bastrop	\$ 16,064
Fayette	\$ 14,322
Llano	\$ 14,307
Blanco	\$ 10,643
Lee	\$ 9,561
Caldwell	\$ 9,330
Grand Total	\$ 220,032



Education & Injury Prevention Committee

EDUCATION & INJURY
PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Rhonda Manor-Coombes

Stop the Bleed

Education & Injury Prevention

45

**New Stop the Bleed
instructors through Train-
the-Trainer program
statewide**

800+

**Lay people trained
in Stop the Bleed in
2023**

95%

**Students feel confident
in responding in an
emergency from the
skills taught by CATRAC**

We were happy to pilot the first Stop the Bleed Train the Trainer event in 2024! We happily hosted 8 training sessions and have certified at least 45 new Stop the Bleed instructors in Texas.

Our Emergency Health Systems Program Manager was selected as the Chair for the Stop the Bleed Texas Coalition - Education & Training Workgroup. Since then, Rachel has been striving to standardize a statewide process to collect training data to identify which areas in the state of Texas are lacking this life-saving training.

We are very excited that Rachel has also been recently elected as the Texas Stop the Bleed Coalition Chair for 2024!



EMS Scholarships (SB8)

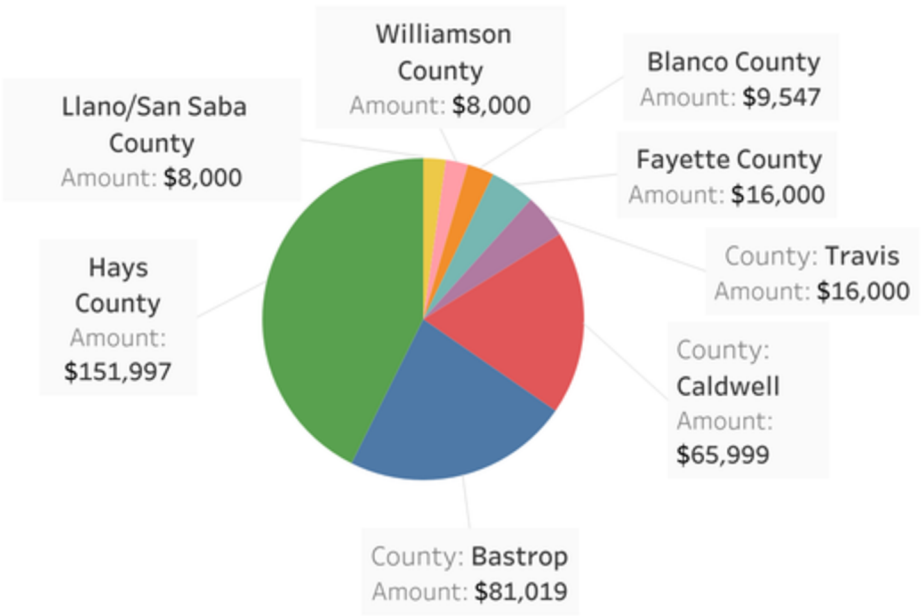
Education & Injury Prevention

From the 87th Texas Legislature, the Senate Bill 8 was established to provide funding for recruitment and retention of EMS personnel. CATRAC was granted \$994,708.67 to assist with the education and retention of EMS personnel through training, instruction, and outreach. In accordance with Senate Bill 8, 75% of the funding is intended for rural counties. Scholarship recipients agree to coordinate with an EMS Sponsor Agency to establish contingent employment upon completion of an approved EMS provider course, a passing rate of the National Registry exam within 90 days of class completion, and completion of all DSHS requirements for certification.

Once certified, the Scholarship recipients become a volunteer/employee for the EMS Sponsor Agency and begins volunteering/working a minimum of 96 hours per month. Graduates must commit at least one year providing EMS services in an ambulance for EMT, and two years for AEMT and Paramedic.

\$356,562

In Scholarships awarded in 2023



Education Symposium

Education & Injury Prevention

We are happy to announce that the CATRAC Education/Injury Prevention Committee is hosting the first ever CATRAC Symposium! The purpose of the Symposium is to bring together healthcare professionals in the CATRAC region to promote collaboration and innovation. CEs will be provided for attendees.

The Symposium will be held on July 26, 2024. Tickets will be available on the CATRAC website. Vendor applications are now live. Presentation topics range from prehospital use of Ketamine for respiratory distress, LVO stroke and its mimics, prehospital burn management, aortic dissection, stroke potpourri and more!

We would like to personally thank our partners at Williamson County EMS for offering to host this event.





Data Committee

DATA COMMITTEE

Chair: Diana Norris

Data Committee Projects

Data Committee

DATA COMMITTEE

- Establishing Regional Data Repository
- Regional data submission requirements



TIMELINE

July 28, 2022, the CATRAC Board of Directors voted to establish a regional registry. The Data Committee began establishing data housing requirements.

April 20, 2023, the CATRAC Executive Director and Data Committee Chair discussed the posted request for proposal for a regional data registry at the General Assembly meeting.

CATRAC signed an agreement with ESO and began moving forward with Business Associate Agreements with our stakeholders.

Texas Administrative Code §157.123 increase the expectation of RACs, as defined in RAC Self-Assessment Tool

February 23, 2023, the CATRAC Board of Directors voted to fund the Regional Data Registry project through a special dues assessment of the members.

CATRAC Committees and Workgroups provided the Data Committee with specific clinical metrics to be measured by the regional registry.

Our Team



Douglas Havron

RN, BSN, MS

Executive Director / CEO



Melissa Hamaker

Director of Operations



Alesia Palmer

MBA, MAcc

Financial Controller



Daniel Sturdevant

BS, AAS, LP, EMS-I

EMTF-7 Coordinator



Rachel Lindsay

EMT-P, NEMBA

**Emergency Healthcare
Systems (EHS) Program
Manager**



Kelly Isham

LP

**HCC Program Manager
HCC-O Coordinator**

Our Team



Nancy Roller

Executive Assistant



Branden Thorpe

**Emergency Operations
Specialist**



Sarah Mamo

Staff Accountant



**Jasmine Castaneda
de Morales**

Data Analyst



Kat Knight

**Emergency
Healthcare Systems
(EHS) Program
Administrator**



Rayse Richardson

EMT-P

SB8 EMS Recruitment



Adam Stocking

HCC-L Coordinator



Briana Pizarro

MBA

HCC-M Coordinator



Herman Iles

HCC-N Coordinator

CATRAC Requests

CATRAC implemented a request form to expedite any stakeholder requests, ensure accountability, and track priorities.

Please submit your request here: catrac.org/request/



CATRAC Request Form

Requestor Name

Requestor Title

Requestor Email

Requestor Phone

Requestor Agency

Request Type

--None--
 ▼

Submit



512-926-6184



administrator@catrac.org



www.catrach.org



1120 Toro Grande Blvd. Cedar Park, TX 78613

