

Minutes
Pediatric Committee Meeting
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Wyndham Garden Hotel
3401 S. IH 35, Austin, TX 78741
Wednesday, June 26, 2019
10:30 A.M.

Sally K. Snow, RN, Chair, called the meeting to order and called roll at 10:34am. Those present were Sally Snow, Belinda Waters, Charles Jaquith, Verne Walker, Jenny Oliver, Cassie Richardson & Jeff Mills. Absent members were Lillian Liao, Gabe Marsh, Saranya Srinivasan (reported to the chair she was resigning) and Ron Mlcak.

GETAC Vision and Mission Statements were read by the Chair

GETAC Vision:

A unified, comprehensive, and effective Emergency Healthcare System.

GETAC Mission:

To promote, develop, and advance an accountable, patient-centered Trauma and Emergency Healthcare System.

February 27th, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Remaining GETAC pediatric committee meetings scheduled for 2019 are;

September 25, 2019 Austin, Wyndham Garden Hotel

November 23, 2019 will be held in Fort Worth, in conjunction with [Texas EMS Conference](#).

Committee liaison reports were presented as follows:

- A. Air Medical and Specialty Transport - Dr. Lillian Liao was not present. There was no report.
- B. EMS-Verne Walker reported there were no pediatric issues
- C. EMS Education-Charles Jaquith reported no pediatric issues
- D. Injury Prevention and Public Education-Jenny Oliver reported drowning registry update with nothing new. Discussed legislation affecting injury prevention.
- E. EMS Medical Directors-Dr. Saranya Srinivasan not present, no report
- F. Stroke- -Jeff Mills reported Pediatric Stroke education on today's agenda
- G. Trauma Systems-Belinda Waters reported committee discussion on increased workplace violence and loss of level IV trauma centers and predictable increase in deaths. Discussion regarding patients transferred for ophthalmology, hand and maxillofacial services. Trauma Systems committee to review transfer data and guideline statement for time to transfer.
- H. Regional Advisory Council chairs-Ron Mlcak not present but Belinda reported on the survey sent to RAC chairs regarding child abuse screening tools, guidelines, child abuse physicians and peds committees.
- I. Disaster planning-Crissie Richardson reported, no pediatric issues

EMSC State Partnership Update

Fatma Diouf, EMS for Children State Partnership Program Manager reported. She presented a PowerPoint overview of the State Partnership goals and activities. She discussed the EMSC performance measures initiated in 2004 and an update on where Texas stands on each. She discussed the

challenge in Texas related to the size of the state (268,597 square miles). It was noted that Texas receives the same amount of funding from HRSA (\$130,000) that every other state and territory (Delaware and Rhode Island) receives. The grant funds 1 FT and 2 PT staff with a large structure to support including 744 EMS agencies and ~504 hospitals.

- She updated the group on the VPRP (Voluntary Pediatric Readiness Program-facilities). The only comparable state is California with 415 hospitals. They have a well-established hospital recognition program known as EDAP (Emergency Departments Approved for Pediatrics). Facility recognition is a performance measure with a goal of 25% of Texas hospitals recognized by 2022. In order to reach that goal, Texas would have to recognize 42 hospitals per year. There is a VPRP task force working hard to develop a process that includes the application process and timeline and training facilitators to accomplish this goal. Pilot facilities have been identified. There was emphasis placed on the goal to help hospitals achieve readiness.
- The Friendswood VFD and Friendswood PD were recognized on EMS for Children day as the EMS Crew of the Year.
- Voluntary EMS Readiness Program has surveyed more agencies and recognized them at the Gold level. San Antonio and Victoria FD's have been recognized.
- Fatma discussed the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) role in EMS (another EMSC performance measure). The 2018 NEDARC EMS survey results found that Texas surveyed 303 agencies as a "representative sample" (less than 1/2 responded) and found 66 agencies (22%) indicated they have a PECC. 48% were not interested and 52% have or are interested or plan to add a PECC. Fatma discussed the role of the EMS PECC.

Sally Snow provided the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center update. The Pediatric Quality Improvement Collaborative continues including hospitals in Texas. The collaborative has been extended to April of 2020. The Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Collaborative (PECC) ended March 31, 2019 and established best practices for initiating PECC's in the EMS world. Sally commented on the resolution passed by the pediatric council of NASEMSO supporting the inclusion of PECC's for all EMS agencies (attached).

Sally Snow called for feedback from efforts in Texas School Districts and other entities by members around Stop the Bleed training for faculty, staff and volunteers. It was noted that HB 496 passed the legislature calling for STB training and bleeding control kits in all public and charter schools in Texas. Several RAC representatives reported on their activities including a report that RAC L has trained 10,000 people. There is work to do to educate school administrators on the need for this education. Some reported that administrators have declined interest in the training. It was noted that HB 496 specifically calls for the ACS BCON course and the TEA has until Oct. 20, 2019 to come up with approved courses. The bill also included chest seal training. ACS is aware and working on chest seals and mylar blankets.

Belinda Waters reported on the committee's child abuse screening tool task force. The TF met in Feb. following the peds committee and decided to survey RACs on the presence of screening tools, screening guidelines, the presence of child abuse pediatricians and pediatric committees in the RAC. Dr. Mitchell recommended all ED's use a screening tool and the peds committee plans to recommend one. The survey went out and resulted in responses from 9 RACs and receipt of two additional screening tools. Multiple RAC representatives commented that they did not receive the survey. It was resent. The Task Force will meet immediately following the peds committee meeting today.

Christi Reeves reported on the status of pending trauma data and reports to impact pediatric outcomes. Two data requests from the Texas EMS and Trauma Registry are still outstanding. Sally will follow up with the Council for results. Christi attended the May 28th meeting of the Data Management task force in San Antonio. The task force adopted standard age ranges for pediatrics.

Sally Snow reported that data to accomplish the agenda item related to the ASC report on county level differences in pediatric mortality after MVC's <https://www.facs.org/media/press-releases/2018/mokdad102318> next steps is dependent on the outcome of the data request pending council resolution.

A discussion followed related to recommendations to the Council on the Texas EMS and Trauma Strategic Plan. Recommendations discussed are as follows:

- IT- promotion of participation in a Health Information Exchange
 - QI - standardized data metrics for nursing care
 - Smart Goals e.g. reduce mortality by X%
 - RN Strike Teams - "how are they credentialed, who is responsible legally for them when they are deployed?"
- Sally will take these recommendations to the strategic planning retreat of the Council in October.

Note: Wanda Helgesen, Border RAC chair and member of the Disaster Committee recommended that if the peds committee wishes, they should participate in the development of specific education recommendations and pediatric competencies for RN Strike Teams and forward those recommendations to the GETAC.

Sally identified the TETAF summary of recently passed legislation available and highlighted the impact on pediatric care including the STB information and the governor's veto of the legislation passed to require all child passengers remain rear-facing until the age of 2 years.

Dr. Greenburg was present to review potential initiatives that instill a culture of safety for pediatric caregivers and the public with a focus on operations and safe driving practices. Specifically discussed was the example of the rule that requires transfers be accomplished within two hours of arrival to a hospital. The question discussed was...."is it really necessary to transfer some patients in the middle of the night, potentially placing the patients and others at risk, or could the transfer wait until the next morning?" Does the rule need to be amended or modified in some way to address safety? Other questions discussed included the need to for a common sense approach to transport methods e.g. is a helicopter or even an ambulance really necessary.

The committee was reminded that applications for GETAC committees will be open the whole month of September.

For Information only Sally informed the committee that Draft measure specifications developed by the National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA) are now available and open for comment through Wednesday July 17, 2019 at 6:00PM ET. The draft revised measure specifications and a link to the public comment survey can be found on NEMSQA's website at <http://www.nemsqa.org/measure-development-process/>

There was no time remaining to discuss initiatives, programs and potential research that might improve pediatric emergency healthcare in Texas

There was no General Public Comment

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon by Sally K. Snow, RN, Chair