

**Minutes**  
**Pediatric Committee Meeting**  
**Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)**

Thursday, November 12, 2020  
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

1:00 P.M. the meeting was called to order by Chair Belinda Waters. Roll called and quorum present.

Belinda thanked Jeff Mills and Gabe Marsh for their service to the committee. They will be rolling off the committee in 2021.

The GETAC Vision and Mission was reviewed by Belinda Waters.

Motion by Dr. Ron Mlcak to approve minutes from the August 2020 meeting with a second from Karen Rhodes. The minutes were approved.

GETAC Chair Comments

Dr. Tyroch in attendance, no comments.

Dr. Vezzetti is liaison from the GETAC council was in attendance and had no comments.

Cassie Campbell liaison from the GETAC council not in attendance.

GETAC Pediatric Committee Meeting Schedule

Belinda reviewed the GETAC meeting schedule for 2021. The next Council meeting will be held February 19, 2021. This meeting will be virtual. The next Pediatric Committee meeting will be held prior to that meeting.

June 25, 2021-GETAC Council meeting will likely be virtual

September 2021 and November 2021 have not had specific dates scheduled as of today.

Committee Liaison Assignments and Reports

- Air Medical - Gabe Marsh, not in attendance, no report
- EMS - Verne Walker, not in attendance, no report
- EMS Education - Charles Jaquith, still working on new skills sheets and pediatrics is a large part
- Injury Prevention - Christi Thornhill, still working on safe storage of firearms. Working on revision of child passenger safety document for upcoming legislative session. Concerns that the parental rights group will push back against the child passenger safety laws. Discussion of difficulty maintaining or starting child passenger programs in hospitals. Safe driving practices discussed.
- EMS Medical Directors - Erin Lincoln, Working on specific wording for endorsement of pediatric readiness EMS project.
- Stroke - Jeff Mills, not in attendance, no report
- Trauma Systems - Belinda Waters, Reminder at last meeting the committee approved adoption of the TQIP Best Practice Guideline on Abuse. Trauma Rules update – Delay to COVID. Decision to break rules into 3 groups and trauma rules will be last and go to Executive Council in November 2021. Concerns voiced regarding additional duties for TPMs at Level III and IV Trauma Centers. Motion approved to make recommendation for GETAC Council to request DSHS revise rules to retain full volume tiered FTE requirements for TPM and registrars at Level III and IV Trauma Centers. Decision to review current status of ACS May 2010 survey that was done on the state trauma system. Discussion regarding RACs and increased inclusivity and visibility due to adding maternal, pediatric and neonatal members. Injury Prevention and Outreach Education Committee discussed their revision of their Safe Firearm Storage position paper.
- RAC Chairs - Ron Mlcak, did not know about meeting, no report
- Disaster - Crissie Richardson, no meeting this quarter
- Cardiac - Karen Rhodes, not in attendance, no report

Belinda reminded committee liaisons to approach the microphone on behalf of the Pediatric Committee at their assigned meeting to determine if there are any pediatric issues that the Pediatric Committee can offer assistance.

#### EMSC State Partnership Update

Fatma Diouf had her last day last week. There has been no mention of a timeline for replacing her at this time. Sally Snow reported they have not started reviewing or conducting interviews to replace her, but they have hired a temporary person to help with the upcoming EMS assessment that starts in January 2021. It is important for our state to have good participation. They will be reaching out to the local RAC's to ensure good participation.

#### Voluntary Pediatric (facilities) Readiness Program

The pilot program launched in November 2019. There were about 6 hospitals interested in the pilot. History of most facilities focusing on adult care, pushback in having another mandated verification program, so made this a volunteer program at no cost and utilization of criteria from the Pediatric Readiness national guidelines. 3 Levels aligned with the EMS readiness program. Have not started piloting the last 2 levels. 1 facility recognized as Pediatric Ready in June 2020, Sally and Belinda were the facilitators/surveyors. Next – some revision due to applicant and surveyor feedback, launch next level for Pediatric Champion facilities. Sally reported that there is information that 2 more facilities are going to apply for pilot assessments. There is also an ED physician that works with multiple facilities that wants all of those facilities to go through the pediatric readiness program. Those of us on the advisory council will be working with those potential additional hospitals so we can assess our process and get more feedback. Again congratulated Mother Francis Jacksonville on their great review and setting the bar high. Sally also commented on the cool window cling they are able to display on their facility.

#### Voluntary Pediatric EMS Readiness Program

EMS recognition programs. Currently 14 agencies recognized in Texas since 2016. 13 agencies are at the Gold Level, 1 agency is at the Bronze Level. The next thing to review will be adjusting the levels and plan to tie in performance measures.

#### EIIC Update

##### Pediatric Quality Improvement Collaborative (PRQC)

A National Pediatric Readiness assessment was done for all EDs in 2013 to look at the readiness of EDs to provide care to children and gaps were identified. From January 2018 through June 2020, the PRQC project brought together 146 hospitals across 17 states to work on strategies to improve pediatric emergency care. Train the trainer program was used with trainers from large comprehensive medical centers and children's hospitals working with smaller hospitals on their teams. Development of scorecards for system processes with specific quality measures for the 4 bundles: Wt in kg, intake/triage/abnormal vital signs, interfacility transfers, pediatric disaster preparedness. Working on quality measures for some specific clinical conditions: blunt head trauma, seizures, resp. distress and vomiting. Next – increasing EMS-C Program Manager's role in the PRQC. The National HRSA EMS-C Program planned to survey our state partnership, but due to COVID it was postponed. In September we had a 4-hour Texas EMSC Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting and representatives from HRSA EMS-C did participate, this allowed us to highlight the areas we have worked on. Sally added that they focused on the uniqueness of Texas in the meeting with the HRSA representatives. Joe discussed the impact of the size of the state on the number of EMS agencies, vehicles, and providers. Sally reported the NPRP survey is coming up in 2021-Can't start too early in making hospitals aware that the assessment will be coming up soon.

##### Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Collaborative (PECC)

Started reaching out to PECCs in 2019 needs assessment done with 66 PECCs and 21 responded, 49 in latest EMS assessment. Presentations done at GETAC and several RACs to help understanding of how useful a PECC can be. Next - continue to work on education/support

kits. Forming a PECC workgroup, connecting PECCs with regional Pediatric committees and targeted PECC recruitment. We plan to have a presentation in February by Mike Ryan from Duncanville Fire Dept, who is their PECC and their programming included social workers which can make a huge difference in the pediatric community. Very forward thinking ideas. A great opportunity to educate other agencies and the state in how to provide full circle care for pediatric patients and their families. **Belinda will confirm Mike Ryan as speaker in February.**

#### Update on Texas School "Stop the Bleed" Initiative

ACS recommended on June 6 that all instructors cancel all STB courses due to COVID-19. They did recommend that all restrictions regarding social distancing, etc. be followed if courses are being held. Many hospitals and EMS services have cancelled courses due to COVID-19. Jorie Klein reported that ACS is continuing to work on, but is not ready to roll this out yet.

Jorie reported that TQIP is releasing the pain management guidelines at the TQIP conference in December. Jorie challenged the committee to attend the conference as it will have a lot of pediatric information. Belinda agreed and reminded everyone to sign up and that the cost is "free".

#### Child Abuse Screening Pilot

The task force is working on identifying 3 validated ED Screening Tools and 3 validated Management Tools to present to RAC's. The group had not met since February due to COVID until earlier this week. This has been a harder process than initially thought. There has been more information made available since the project originally began. This week we determined we will review the 11 tools we have and what we need to take from those tools to create a crosswalk. **The taskforce will meet soon to determine the next steps.**

#### Status of Pending Trauma Data

We received data in February from the state registry for the 10 leading causes of death by age for 2012-2016. This included state data and data broken down for each RAC. The leading cause of death for ages 1-44 remains unintentional trauma. It was noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> preventable causes of death in the ages 15-34 are suicide and homicide. We requested a drill down on the data for the unintentional deaths and homicides/suicides to get more detail. This information will help to target injury prevention initiatives. This has been put on hold due to COVID-19.

We also requested information for transfers in and out. This is still a work in progress. Joe reported that staff was pulled in to tracing for COVID-19. Sally asked if Dell Children's is still working on the pilot to identify transfers in and out. There was no update from the state at this time.

#### Statement of Purpose for the Pediatric Committee

We worked on this and it has been taken to the GETAC committee. The statement of purpose is: The purpose of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council's Pediatric Committee is to work collaboratively with entities involved in prehospital and emergency pediatric care, to promote pediatric injury and illness prevention and to improve the outcomes of our vulnerable pediatric patients by developing evidenced based strategies for high-quality practice in order to deliver safe, compassionate, and effective care.

#### Discussion, review, and recommendations for initiative that instill a culture of safety for pediatric caregivers and the public with a focus on operations and safe driving practices

For almost a year we have discussed safe driving for EMS. Ensuring we have safety measures for the caregivers, patients, and public. Belinda requested comments/discussion. No comments.

#### GETAC Strategic Plan

At the GETAC retreat there were many recommendations. This will be followed up by December to have ready for the next legislative session. Some recommendations included: Guideline to follow when GETAC receives a request/recommendation, working on Clarification Document for Trauma Facility Designation, designation updates due to COVID, funding update, 2021 council meeting dates and reminder the GETAC Strategic Plan is a living document.

Initiatives, programs, and potential research that might improve pediatric emergency healthcare in Texas  
There has been a request from RAC B due to seeing pediatric patients with multiple concussions. We have several facilities who have revised discharge instructions to decrease secondary impact syndrome. We had a workgroup and discussed the possible need for developing education. Christi Thornhill discussed the legislation that required trainers and coaches in school system several years ago. There were also community programs who participated, but were not mandated. Belinda discussed not only needing education, but also standardized guidelines for providers, hospitals, etc. Christi discussed that the CDC has a lot of really good information for providers and lay people and it would be difficult to legislate that everyone partake of the education. Belinda asked if this is something we would want to look at. Christi recommended having resources like a toolkit rather than recreating the wheel. Belinda asked if others know about the recommendations of speech pathology. Dr. Vezzetti discussed that at Dell they have a concussion clinic. He reviewed the CDC website and agrees having education that there is reliable information out there and how to access that information would be beneficial. Dr. Liao discussed that STRAC was working on a concussion management guideline they started developing a few years ago and other things took over priority. She asked if we put something together we could send it out through the RAC's. Dr. Liao recommended utilizing the RAC's to disseminating in their area to the smaller providers to give them information. Belinda asked if we should develop a small work group. Dr. Liao agreed to participate on the work group. Dr. Liao agreed to co-chair. Kaci Thompson agreed to help. Midge Vaughn also agreed to help. Adrian recommended reaching out to Brandy Martinez in STRAC. Dr. Vezzetti recommended reaching out to Jenny Oliver at Dell Children's. Dr. Vezzetti will reach out to someone at the Dell concussion clinic. Dr. Liao asked if we should do a subgroup committee. Belinda told Dr. Liao she would help her set up a workgroup meeting. Dr. Vezzetti said he is happy to help. Joseph Noah from RAC B is also willing to help. **Dr. Liao will set up a workgroup meeting.**

#### General Public Comment

None

#### Summary for GETAC Meeting

EMSC Partnership update

EMSC IIC update

TQIP pain management and pediatric aspects

NAT toolkit

Waiting on data requests

New initiative of concussion.

The next meeting will be between January 4 and February 12, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting.

Belinda requested that participants type their name in the Q&A box to get credit for attendance.

Belinda thanked Robert for all of his help. Robert thanked the entire team who supports him!

There being no further business, Christi Thornhill moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.