

RAC-G General Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2023

UT Health Tyler Pavilion

Call to order 9:00 a.m. by Sheryl Coffey with a welcome of all attendees including guests from DSHS Trauma/EMS Department.

Invocation by Kim Beckham

Topic 1: Chair Talking Points.....Lisa Hutchison

Discussion:

- Approval of the minutes from the July 11, 2023 General Assembly meeting.
 - Motion to approve minutes by Roy Langford
 - Seconded motion by Jim Speier
 - All were in favor with no further discussion

Action:

- Everyone was encouraged to attend the next GETAC meeting being held at the Texas EMS Conference. Virtual options are also possible

Topic 2: Financial Report.....Kent Kalb, CPA

- Unavailable due to Kent Kalb being unable to attend meeting

Topic 3: Roll Call/Discussion.....Loretta Kuhn

Monitor, Author Anderson, State Preparedness and Response Manager Public Health Region 4/5 North is present for roll call.

All members were call upon and documented as present or not. Quorum verified.

Topic 4: RAC-G Calls for Vote to Accept FY24 RAC-G Bylaws as presented

Discussion:

- Current bylaws have not been updated and it is required to update and/or verify annually. The process involves reviewing and making the suggested draft available to members to review prior to General Assembly for voting to approve.
- DSHS provides guidance and the current bylaws have been written according to those guidelines and reviews by legal team.
- FY24 bylaws were posted on the RAC-G website for review by all members.
- Motions for changes/additions to draft:
 - Injury prevention and Public Education committees be stand alone committee as aligned with GETAC

- Motion by Britney Ray
 - Motion seconded by Laura Garlow
 - All present in favor, motion passed
 - Establish a Pediatric committee separate from Perinatal Mother committee
 - Motion by Laura Garlow
 - Motion seconded by Keith Martin
 - All present in favor, motion passed
- Motion to accept the FY24 RAC-G bylaws as posted with the addition of the Injury Prevention committee and Pediatric Committee as stated in minutes.
 - Motion by Michael Lawler
 - Motion seconded by Kenneth Webb
 - All present in favor, motion passed

Action:

- The additions will be made and bylaws will be posted on the RAC-G website

Topic 5: Jorie Klein, Director State of Texas Trauma/EMS

Discussion:

- The trauma rules have been reviewed by multiple teams of lawyers prior to being implemented
 - Scheduled to be available for public comment January 19, 2024 and will close for comments on February 19, 2024.
 - It is very important to understand that there will be several sessions to review the rules.
 - Public comments must be submitted in writing.
 - The rules will look different in a more understanding and simple language.
 - Rule 157.2 is a list of comprehensive definitions that support the system.
 - Rule 157.123 is new RAC rules with 2 major changes
 - Performance criteria is established for RAC and the RAC must have documented evidence that they meet all the elements related to the criteria. The criteria is a separate document.
 - Self-Assessment is designed for members of the RAC to complete. There is a score system for each element that you evaluate. The goal for all RAC's is a 3 and if not, the RAC will create an action plan to receive a 3
 - The purpose is to create a standardized process of RAC's to follow across the state to talk about overall opportunities
 - Purpose of perinatal, stroke, or cardiac is due to focus on trauma but the inclusive system does include it all from pediatric to adult. Initial performance and then the inclusive is what you will see.
 - Rule 157.125 is the designation requirements for trauma facilities
 - Will be changes related to bringing facilities up to the national standards
 - All trauma centers in Texas must align with the American College of Surgeons
 - Rule 157.130
 - 157.131 is being repealed and putting 130 and 131 together

- These involve trauma facilities that are in active pursuit of designation
- Designation guidelines are addressed
- Maternal and neonatal training will be available
- Self-Assessment id dur September 1, 2024 with expectations is that the discoveries are then integrated into the regional service plan that is revised every 2 years
- You will be able to see proposed new rules, one again, on January 19, 2024 with a six month review period before the rules go into effect.
- Public comments received
 - A work group is established to review along with TORCH and hospital association being included as well
 - Gap analysis is available and can be reviewed
 - On site survey teams will change based on the volume of the facility

State Staff Talking Points

- **Joesph Schmider – Director of EMS**

- Introduction of Veleria Tumlinson as DSHS manager for our region.
- EMS Rules
 - Senate Bill 422 – “military bill”
 - If you are an inactive military personal or your spouse, you can receive a license to practice for 3 years as long as you have one in another state. This will go into effect December 18, 2923
 - Rural Notification for Dialysis Bill 15711
 - During a disaster, a dialysis patient is a priority patient. This bill went through and then died out but issues have been fixed and the rule will be going into place. Each EMS provider will have to have a protocol in place on how they are going to place dialysis patients as a priority. This will be in place next year if no other problems arise.
 - Firefighter Transport Bill passed
 - Fire department can transport patients via alternatives routes, i.e. fire engines, if EMS units are unavailable for extending periods of time and communication between the two entities is made and determined that it is in the best interest of the patient to be transported by alternative methods.
 - Education rules will be coming out in the future. Proposals of adding hours to the EMT and Paramedic education programs are being discussed but more opportunities will be available for input. CE requirements are being evaluated as well.
 - TEAMS will remain available as a virtual option for GETAC meetings
 - Senate Bill 8 funding
 - More funding has become available to RAC-G in the amount of \$750.000
 - Over 1200 scholarships throughout the state have been awarded
 - RAC-G has done an outstanding job with scholarships and monitoring
 - EMS conference is this month in Austin November 19-23

- **Sunita Raj – Manager Funding/Contracts Unit**

- UCC applications are not posted yet on the website due to revamping applications These should be available in the next few months

- Extraordinary equipment funding – about \$200,000 left in the budget, however, 4 requests that have been turned in are being evaluated currently for funding
- **Elizabeth Stevenson – Manager Designation Unit**
 - New rules for stroke, neonatal, and maternal are coming out
 - Will be adding to trauma meeting level 1 and 2 monthly meetings
 - Started stroke stakeholder meeting with a great response and participation
 - Some workgroups for trauma registry and TQUIP are in place
 - Level 3 will be required to participate in TQUIP and a mentor program has been established
 - Stroke workgroups established
 - A lot of trainings have been conducted with the role our designation guidelines
 - Neonatal and maternal have new rules coming out in January 2024
 - Gap analysis was sent out a couple of weeks ago, there have not been many changes but a few so they will be working on a new gap analysis to send out to give more insight on what to expect on the new rules.
- **Adrienne Kitchen – Information Unit**
 - Some changes will be seen on the website with some updates making sure that all the old information has been removed. You might see some different information resulting in deleting the old information.
 - Out of hospital DNR
 - Guide has been created on how to properly complete the form
 - Changes in hospital DNR will be coming as well
- **Deidra Lee – Program Specialist/GETAC & RAC’s**
 - The monthly call for this month will be November 20 at 2:00 p.m. The December call is CANCELLED
 - If you have anything that you would like placed on the agenda please contact Deidra
 - GETAC and committee meetings have the virtual option. The GETAC webpage has the link. The agenda are posted online as well once they are approved by legal
- **Arthur Anderson – State Preparedness and Response Manager Public Health Region 4/5 N.**
 - April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse
 - Be prepared to an influx of people ranging from 185,000 – 780,000 from out of state and out of country
 - Ocular issue census could increase
 - Local health department could possibly have solar sunglasses.

Topic 6: RAC-G Staff Reports

- **Contract Compliance.....Loretta Kuhn**
 - 3588 Funding
 - Received \$237,000 which includes operations for the RAC office.
 - Now able to hire another full time employee for office
 - RSD Funds
 - Can be requested for the trauma side

- Send requests with a quote and a letter on your agencies letterhead reflecting all information to the RAC office that is then forwarded to the finance committee
 - Submit requests as soon as possible
 - SB8 Funds
 - Received an additional \$750,000 for more scholarships
 - Wristbands have been purchased and the RAC office can be contacted to receive them
 - Additional Stop the Bleed kits are available
 - All deliverables are complete and up to date
- **HPP.....Michael Johnson**
 - FY23
 - Training classes for stakeholders was conducted resulting in 13.5 hours of continuing education offered. Will focus on more in the future
 - Training classes were held in the RAC-G training facility including EMS, fire, and law enforcement
 - Sponsored 4 exercises in FY23. Contact the RAC office if you would like help with your agencies exercises
 - On October 11, 2023 radiation surge exercise was approved.
 - Planning stages will begin soon and exercise will be conducted around April or May. This will be a large exercise
 - Sponsoring pediatric surge tabletop exercise in the future
 - If you are not receiving mass notifications please contact the RAC office with your information
 - All FY24 deliverables have been submitted and approved
 - Currently just completed RFA for contact years FY25-29
 - Requested 2 self-contained four station decontamination units
 - Purchase of another 85K generator
 - Looking at requesting updated WebEOC program with training opportunities
 - Small increase in budget for stakeholders
 - Will be working on updating agency MOU's
 - Purchase approved of heavy-duty truck to be able to respond to emergencies to transport equipment. Will be for emergency situations only
 - November 3, 2023, the power-point for the upcoming Solar Eclipse was distributed
 - About 32 million people affected by event
 - 124 mile wide pathway
 - Event will last a total of 4 minutes 28.1 seconds
 - Possibly some issues with transportation, lodging, food, public health concerns, and communication systems.
 - The RAC is recommending practicing for the event
 - HCT-G position is open and posted on the website for applicants
- **HCC-F.....Glenn House**
 - Stakeholder training
 - Active shooter training geared towards long term care facilities with lots of specific details

- Request for CISM in our area have been made and currently working with executive chair and have reached out to Dr. Tany Glenn to see if she can accommodate teaching classes to form teams in our area
 - SETRAC cyber security training will be a deliverable for the RAC
 - Collaboration meetings for the eclipse event
 - Full scale exercise at Paris Regional Medical Center participation
- **EMTF-4.....Eric Bailey**
 - Jacksonville Disaster Exercise deployment October 18-20, 2023
 - MMU operations were set up the day before the event, and demobilization occurred the day after the event
 - EMS Conference will have an EMTF display
 - \$90,000 Chevrolet 5500 HD truck was approved for purchase that will completely fulfill our capability of deploying the MMU and trailers without having to hire additional drivers
- **Senate Bill 8.....Johnny Brown**
 - More funding is available to RAC-G in the amount of \$750,000
 - 156 scholarships in our region have been awarded
 - 89 Paramedic students
 - 67 EMT students
 - 85-86% of students are currently still enrolled in school.
 - Around 14% of the total scholarships awarded in the state are in RAC-G
- **HPP Governance Committee.....Karen Adams**
 - Jacksonville Exercise held on October 19, 2023
 - Simulated severe weather event affecting the City of Jacksonville compromising with hospitals prompting evacuation of patients.
 - Approximately 30 agencies involved
 - Instead of having 1 location, there were multiple locations of the exercise
 - 55+ students participated as actors
 - Several evaluators from hospitals were present
 - Christus Trinity Mother Francis Jacksonville, UT Health Jacksonville, and Jacksonville Fire Department coordinated exercise
 - Over 300 participants total
 - EMTF 4 deployed the MMU and Ambus along with staffing

Topic 7: Committee Reports

- **Air Medical.....Chad Solomon**
 - Last week meeting was held with speakers from UT Air 1 regarding construction that is ongoing along with UT Tyler School of Nursing and the projects that they are beginning
- **Pre-Hospital.....Amy Hooten**
 - ALERT training is available at no cost
 - Wristbands are now available at the RAC office
- **Cardiac/Stroke.....Jennifer Reeves**
 - November 17, 2023 will be the next meeting and will be discussing the cardiac and stroke regional plan
 - Dates for meetings in the upcoming year will be announced soon
- **Injury Prevention.....Brittany Ray**

- Previously a sub committee of the trauma group and will now be a committee of its own
- In the process of looking for sponsors related to falls and motor vehicle collisions
- Top 2 concerns in the region are ground level falls and motor vehicle collisions with fall from heights as a target for 2024
- **Trauma System.....Laura Garlow & Ashley Hanson**
 - Possibility of starting “lunch and learns” in early 2024 to cross service lines. Wanting to do accomplish one each month to engage the community education piece in raising awareness throughout the year
 - Submitted draft of trauma system plan to the RAC. Revised the rehabilitation and updated contacts and trauma plan sections
 - 2 representatives have been selected to represent the RAC for a Toyota Grant
 - Exploring the option of combining the UT and Christus trauma symposiums to have a larger regional symposium
 - Initiated trauma registry sub committee and it is also co-leg by registrar from Christus and UT with goals to support and develop quality data reporting
- **Finance.....Roy Langford**
 - No quorum was present at last meeting
 - Will hold meeting today after General Assembly to discuss requests

Committee chairs will meet briefly with Jorie Klein following the General Assembly.

Next RAC-G General Assembly meeting: January 23, 2024 @ the UT Health North Campus

Adjourn: 11:50 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Alicia Whetsell

November 9, 2023