

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

APRIL 20, 2009

Contracts

It is a requirement of our contracts with the state that the Board be advised of the signing of any contracts. Since our last meeting we have signed an amendment to the OASPR contract.

Cardiac Committee

In February SETTRAC co-hosted, with the American Heart Association, a meeting of cardiac leaders from hospitals in the SETTRAC region. Attendance was excellent with more than 50 present. AHA personnel introduced their latest program, Mission Lifeline. After some presentations those present were asked if they wanted to create cardiac committee as a part of SETTRAC. The response was unanimously positive. The next step is a meeting this Friday, April 24th at 7:30 am at the Houston AHA headquarters, 10600 Buffalo Speedway. James McCarthy, Medical Director of the Emergency Department of Memorial Hermann TMC and Gay Nord, CEO of Kingwood Medical Center will co-facilitate the meeting. Those in attendance at the first meeting and all EMS Directors from the SETTRAC region have been invited to attend this meeting. Anyone else interested in attending can contact me, preferably via e-mail, and I will refer you to the person accepting RSVPs for the meeting.

Legislation

There are numerous bills that have been filed that are related to hospitals and EMS providers. There are three prominent bills. House Bill 959 provides a \$5,000.00 exemption from property taxes for volunteer EMS & fire personnel. It is currently pending in the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 1509 would exempt from sales tax and annual license registration vehicles and trailers that are used by RACs exclusively for disaster response. It has been voted out of committee. Senate Bill 856 would repeal the Driver Responsibility Program that was created by HB 3588 six years ago and has provided millions of dollars to Trauma Centers, EMS providers and RACs.. It has voted out of committee and could come up for a vote by the Senate at any time. If you haven't already contacted your Senator to let him know your feelings please do so. Weekly updates on all bills related to hospitals and EMS are provided on the TETAF website at www.tetaf.org.

Marnie Krause

As many of you know Marnie resigned in February after almost 11 years of loyal, dedicated service for SETTRAC. Among other things Marnie was the editor of the newsletter and our webmaster. She has agreed to work with Lisa and Sherrie to teach them how to update the website. Lisa & Sherrie are also going to be co-editors of the newsletter.