

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULY 18, 2005

Trauma Systems Development Committee

The committee had a lengthy special meeting on April 22, 2005 to finalize discussion about the Level III designation and to make some revisions to the portion of the rule regarding Level IV designation. Then at the regular meeting in May there was some follow-up but the committee has finished the review of the trauma designation rules. The committee next meets in conjunction with GETAC activities in Austin on September 1st. The meetings will be held at the Airport Hilton.

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Emergency/Trauma Care Council

At the last meeting council heard a report from the Data Committee regarding diversion data. At the next meeting the council expects to accept the report from the study currently being conducted by The Abaris Group. The meeting will not be held on the regularly scheduled date. The date, time and location are to be determined.

Grant Funding

EMS/COUNTYTF

This is the county EMS portion of the fees generated by HB 3588. Notices were sent to all eligible providers on January 6. Only one has failed to respond with the proper documentation. That provider has failed to respond to e-mail and phone communication and has been sent a certified letter stating that the funds allocated for that provider will be reallocated to the eligible providers in that county.

EMS Trauma Facilities and Trauma Care System Fund (EMSTFTC) and the 9-1-1- Fund

The Prehospital Care and Transport Committee recommended, and you supported, the delay of the distribution of these funds until the distribution of all funds from the county trauma funds has been submitted. However, due to the lack of response from the provider mentioned above the notices for the distribution of this fund were not sent until June 16th. Many of the providers have responded with the required documentation and have been reimbursed. There is deadline of August 4th for the submission of documentation. The same provider as mentioned above is involved in the distribution of these funds and was notified in the same certified letter that the funds allocated for that provider will be reallocated if proper documentation is not submitted.

HRSA Funds

After numerous delays the contract for HRSA Year 3, ending August 31, 2005, has finally been executed. The delays have been due to many changes in the HRSA program administration at the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Because of the delay DSHS is attempting to obtain an extension of the contract to allow adequate time for the proper expenditure of the funds.

The main areas of focus for Year 3 are to: 1) ensure that there are enough hospital beds to meet the standard for surge capacity; 2) ensure that there are adequate amounts of pharmaceuticals at each facility; 3) establish relationships with EMS providers for transport/transfer of large numbers of patients if necessary. To meet the final items the Hospital Planning Group (HPG) is planning on adding EMS representation to the group in the near future.

After submitting a successful request for qualifications SETTRAC will automatically be the administrative entity for the HRSA Years 4 & 5 funds.

HRSA Year 4 is scheduled to begin on September 1, 2005. The regional planning groups worked with DSHS to assist in preparation of the application for Year 4 funding.

For information about HRSA planning contact either of the HPG co-chairs, Lori Upton (832-824-5432, laupton@texaschildrenshospital.org) or Margaret Price (832-355-2264, mprice@sleh.com).

Texas Trauma and Emergency Health Care Statewide Coalition

The last meeting of the coalition was on April 21st. The coalition plans to have regular meetings in the upcoming years to prepare for the next regularly session of the legislature.

Texas EMS and Trauma Foundation

A temporary board of directors has been established. One of the members of the temporary board is Dr. David Persse. The board will serve 6-12 months in order to get the foundation established. Once that is done an election will be held to select the board members and division directors. A draft of the bylaws has been created and has been widely distributed for comment. Another meeting has not been scheduled but one is anticipated in conjunction with the GETAC activities on September 1st & 2nd.