

Mentorship/Membership Chair: Tracy Cotner-Pouncy (University Health System—San Antonio) Co-Chair: Scott Christopher (Nacodoches Memorial)

REPEAT UPDATE: Welcome to TTCF! All new members and visitors to TTCF will spend their first meeting in the Membership/Mentorship committee. Important organizational information is provided and there is opportunity for networking and Q&A with experienced trauma coordinators. The State designation coordinators and a representative from TETAF are also present to answer questions. The Membership/Mentorship committee is a great place to start your TTCF journey!

Legislative/Public Relations Chair: Susan Hyles (Falls Community Hospital—Marlin) Co-Chair: -VACANT-

Focus for 2014: We are diligently pursuing new and revised pertinent information and legislation to the trauma world. We will post this data in the quarterly TTCF newsletter from highly qualified representatives from our president, TETAF, and DSHS, as available. Love it? Hate it!? Have suggestions for our newsletter, *Trauma Matters*? Here's your opportunity to be pro-active in the trauma world. We have a vacant Co-Chair position waiting for the right person who appreciates the opportunities associated with media and takes a hands-on approach with healthcare legislation!

Registry Chair: Irene Lopez (University Medical Center Brackenridge) Co-Chair: Garrett Hall (Parkland Health & Hospital System)

REPEAT UPDATE: The Texas Trauma system is continuing to evolve and has begun to recognize the significance and importance that trauma data has been and always will be. Without the use of your Trauma Registry you cannot get a count of events, what type of event, what improvements are being made, how significant the issue or event might be for the cause of injury. We must all remember that the quality of the data that we see in our system is dependent on our work and what we do as Trauma Registrars. Therefore we must strive to be excellent and continue to improve in what we do, for it has a large impact on the Trauma System. In order to achieve this goal, we must educate ourselves with what it is that we are responsible for in our job roles. That would be where this committee will be here to assist you with. We are listening to feedback that we are receiving from you as far as skills you might be lacking in and would like to improve on. We are finding ways to give you this information and expand your knowledge and your skill set. Together, we will get better together. Texas has a very strong Trauma system process and foundation. We must strengthen our data to truly show everyone the work that we really do as Texas Trauma Registrars, which is pretty great. Through our quarterly Trauma Registry Lunch N' Learn webinars we will continue to give you information with ISS scoring, show you how to present your data, abstract and validate your data. We have created the Texas Trauma Registrar website at www.txtraumaregistrar.com as a place on the web with trauma registry specific documents, tools, links, and contact information. We are here for you and your trauma registry needs.

Special Populations Chair: Jenny Oliver (University Health System—San Antonio) Co-Chair: Sandy Williams

REPEAT UPDATE: Come join our Special Populations committee, our focus is to improve coordination of care from Pediatrics to Geriatrics to Bariatric, to Obstetrics to Burn patients. We want to make sure that within trauma all special populations are being considered. We have recently discussed Trauma Team activation criteria for special populations. We are currently working on putting together a list of trauma facilities and capabilities related to our special populations. Together we can accomplish more, so join us and see where the journey continues to....

Would you or someone you know like to advertise in *Trauma Matters*? Reach out to an average of 90+ Trauma Program Representatives across the State of Texas by contacting TTCF Treasurer Jacky Betts @ jackybetts@UnitedRegional.org.

Newsletter Advertisement—\$250/year (4 issues/business card size)

TTCF Website Advertisement—\$250/year

Printed Courtesy of:



President's Corner

Taking a Legislative Stand

As leaders within Texas' trauma system, it is imperative that we have a strong awareness of ongoing legislative strategies that affect our daily work of providing optimal patient care. Below is a brief summary of a few of the major statewide and national campaigns. Please take this moment to familiarize yourself with these initiatives and consider your course of action to support the Texas trauma system.

THHSC and TDSHS under Sunset Review

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC) and the Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) are currently under sunset review. To be under sunset review means that the necessity of these state agencies is being questioned by a twelve-member body appointed by Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and Speaker of the House of Representatives Joe Straus. The Sunset Advisory Commission is responsible for providing an assessment of an agency's programs and providing the legislature the needed information to draw conclusions regarding eliminating waste, duplication, and inefficiency. Historically, the majority of changes recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission were adopted by the legislature, as was done during the 80th and 83rd Legislature. Additional information regarding the sunset process can be obtained on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission website (<https://www.sunset.texas.gov/>) as well as review the TDSHS self-evaluation report.

During an agency review, public input is sought by the Commission. Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Foundation, TETAF, has taken the lead on this initiative. TETAF has provided written comments/recommendation of 5 major topics questioned by the Commission that affect the trauma system. This includes the need for Texas to continue with 22 Regional Advisory Councils; to provide adequate funding for trauma, cardiac, and stroke emergency care and the RACs that coordinate the response; the designation of trauma centers; RACs coordinating neonatal/maternal care designation; and EMS fraud. Additional information and ongoing updates can be found at TETAF's website, www.tetaf.org.

National Legislation to Support Trauma Care Facilities

The Trauma Care Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Act (H.R. 4080) was introduced to the US House of Representatives in February by Republican Michael Burgess and Democrat Gene Green, both of Texas, to provide grants for state development of trauma systems and to support pilot projects to design and implement regionalized emergency care systems.

Delay of ICD-10 Implementation

On April 1, 2014, President Obama signed into law H.R. 4302 that included provisions to delay the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) from being able to enforce any mandate to implement ICD-10 until at least October 1, 2015. The majority of the H.R. 4302 addresses the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) which dictates physician reimbursement for Medicare payments.

Courtney Edwards (Parkland Health & Hospital System)

TTCF President 2014-2016



TETAF

Parkland/TETAF Trauma Awareness Day August 21, 2014

Anyone who has had a poster accepted at any of the scientific meetings over the past 24 months or has a poster or research project related to pre-hospital/trauma/cardiac/stroke care or injury prevention is invited to display at no charge. The goal is to share successes and foster learning in a casual, relaxed environment. Each RAC, the Texas Ambulance Association, the Texas EMS Alliance and the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum are invited to set up a booth. TETAF also will have a display booth.

Go to www.tetaf.org for registration links and more information.

Just Drive - TETAF's Injury Prevention Initiative

The Just Drive initiative has been rolled out statewide. Our Just Drive resource page is available on the TETAF website to assist you in planning this injury prevention initiative in your region. Many communities have already implemented the program. Pledge Day is being scheduled for September, 2014 in conjunction with the new year school start.

TETAF has posted a social media guide on the Just Drive Web page to provide information, ideas and tips on how you can engage on Facebook and Twitter. Like us on Facebook at: Just Drive TETAF and follow us on Twitter @Justdrive_TETAF. If you have high school students in your family, encourage them to help spread the message.



Trauma Survey Scheduling Tips:

To ensure your survey is timely and at the best time for your trauma center, please allow at least 6 months advance notice for TETAF to schedule a trauma survey. Calendars fill very quickly. Steps to survey:

1. 14 months prior to your expiration, download the application from the DSHS website, take it to your trauma committee and provide each department with their section to complete. You will compile all other sections, but let the other departments own and complete their departmental information. Submit to DSHS 12 months prior to expiration.
2. DSHS may take 2 - 3 months to review your application and respond with additional needs or approval to schedule a survey.
3. When approved for survey, you may go to www.tetaf.org, under the Services tab and complete a request for survey. The information you provide will assist TETAF in determining your survey team and coordinate the scheduling of your survey.
4. Remember, survey calendars are very full. Please provide a date range that is at least 6 months in advance of your desire to survey. Once surveyed, the report will be returned in 30 calendar days. You should submit your report to the state no less than 60 days prior to your trauma center designation expiration date.

Brenda Putz

Welcome to the TTCF Newsletter *Trauma Matters!*

Our mission is to promote and address educational needs of the various facilities and institutions that provide trauma care in our State.

Membership is open to anyone interested in improving care for trauma patients. Meetings of the TTCF are held

quarterly and provide an outstanding opportunity to network with Trauma Coordinators and Trauma Program Managers from throughout Texas. During meeting, members receive updates on legislative issues, injury prevention programs, trauma registry requirements, and rule changes.

Become a member at ttcf.org. Membership to the Texas Trauma Forum is open to all interested persons. The Forum meets regularly

and shares information regarding trauma system development, hospital designation, and legislation information regarding Trauma and Emergency Medical issues. Committees include: Level III, Level IV, Injury Prevention, Special Populations, Public Relations/Legislative, Fund Raising, Education, Trauma Registry, and Mentorship. Voting privileges are extended to all dues paying members. Membership dues in the amount of \$25.00 (U.S.) will be paid annually. Membership is current from the receipt of dues through February of the next calendar year. Dues are not pro-rated or transferable. Make checks payable to “Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum”.

**Please return application and check to: Texas Trauma Forum
PO Box 177
Wichita Falls, TX 76307**

Secretary’s Corner

Spring has sprung...wait, hold on a second. Although Texas is experiencing colder than usual weather, Spring is officially here. The season brings growth, freshness, and renewed energy. Even your TTCF is “infected.”

There is new leadership in the Chair position of the PR/Legislative Committee (see the editor of this newsletter) who is bounding forward. Although Susan is capable of leading the committee, the Co-Chair position remains vacant. If you’re interested in improving the newsletter, and/or you have a desire to assist in organizing the rapidly approaching “Capitol Day”, please join the committee.

Your TTCF is growing with process improvements in event registration, membership recordkeeping, list-server expansion, education offerings, and member services. We welcome your input and support.

Freshness is budding in the form of the 7th edition TNCC course and book, the American College of Surgeon’s “Orange” book, and even national discussion of an individual “trauma” specialty certification. There are new TBON license renewal requirements related to jurisprudence and geriatric care.

Spring has brought new energy to the subject of pediatric trauma designations, as well as trauma finance funding in the form of the Sunset Advisory Commission. Renewed energy is on display in key leadership position changes at DSHS EMS & Trauma Systems, and newly elected state officials abound.

Growth and energy are in the air, Spring is in bloom, and your TTCF is bountiful ...anyone want to ice fish in my pool?
Brett Dodwell, RN BSN CEN

Upcoming Events (2014)

- May 12...TTDEC
 - May 12...TTCF Board Meeting
 - May 13 ... TTCF General Meeting
Education: TCAA—Synopsis of Finance Management
 - May 14 ... TOPIC
 - Jun 13 Building Your Reports in Excel (Lunch N’ Learn)
 - Aug 18.....TTCF Board Meeting
 - Aug 19 TTCF General Meeting
 - Aug 20 TOPIC
 - Sep 19 ICD-10 Overview, Are You Ready? (Lunch N’ Learn)
 - Nov 21.... TTCF General Meeting
 - Nov 22....TOPIC
 - Dec 5 NTDB 2015 Updates (Lunch N’ Learn)
- More information at <http://www.ttcf.org>**

Education **Chair: Christi Reeves** (*Clear Lake Regional Medical Center*) **Co-Chair: Gina Pickard**

Providing education to the Trauma Coordinators around the state is a top priority of TTCF. The Education Committee request input from all TTCF members on proposed topics or speakers. Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) will be presenting education in this month’s meeting and offering 2 CEs. Future proposed education topics include: spinal immobilization, anticoagulation reversal, ICD-10, disaster preparedness education and updates to the 7th edition TNCC course.

Fund Raising **Chair: Ram Perez** **Co-Chair: Robin Gage** (*Titus Regional—Mt. Pleasant*)

The finance Committee has been working to bring new items to sell at TTCF meetings.

Injury Prevention **Chair: Marcy McFarland** (*Parkview Regional—Mexia*) **Co-Chair: Jessica LaPlant** (*Christus Spohn Health System*)

The TTCF Injury Prevention Committee wants to help reduce injuries in Texas. Members of this committee will use their experience, knowledge and creativity to work on IP projects that all TTCF members can take back to their communities and put into action. We know that the majority of TX trauma programs are managed by one person. It takes quite a bit of time to research, plan, develop and execute an injury prevention program. So help us help you!

Level I / II **Chair: Lori Boyett** (*Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center—Waco*) *ad hoc VACANT-* **Co-Chair: Sherry Jennings** (*St. Joseph—Bryan*) *ad hoc –VACANT-*

REPEAT UPDATE: There is a newly formed Level 1 and Level 2 committee for TTCF members. It meets at 08:00 on TTCF meeting days – the same time as the Level 3 and Level 4 committee meetings. This committee is great to network and gather information about issues Level 1 and 2 centers may be facing or for Level 3 Trauma Centers who are working toward increasing their trauma designation. This month, we continue to explore previous discussion about ROTEM vs. TEG, fluid warmers, and changes in the ACS “orange book”. We are still looking for co-chairs for this committee. If you are interested, please contact Courtney Edwards.

Level III **Chair: Andrea Holmes** (*Memorial Herman Southeast Hospital—Houston*) **Co-Chair: Heidi Lavka**

The Level III Committee comprises of trauma program coordinators and managers whose primary responsibility revolves around maintaining the trauma program at their facility, however this, like all committees at TTCF, is open to anyone. The meeting consists of a mix of case presentations, journal article reviews to open discussions for problem solving issues that are faced by Level III program managers. It is a place to network for Level IV program managers who are challenged with upgrading to a Level III as well as an area to help bridge the gap to a Level II, if that is in your future. Many of us face the same daily challenges and share strategies to meet the needs required by the State. Many of the TETAF surveyors are also Level III program managers and offer an unique perspective on how to resolve issues and make your program grow.

Level IV **Chair: Janice Markwardt** (*Hill Regional—Hillsboro*) **Co-Chair: Deedee Abbott**

Why should I attend the Level IV Committee meeting? Many of you may ask yourself this question. I could have an extra hour of sleep. As a Level IV Trauma Program Manager/Trauma Coordinator – this is your Committee – we provide:

- Excellent time for interaction with other TPM/TC
- Open forum – all questions and suggestions are welcome
- Direct interaction with Trauma Surveyors
- Education for Trauma PI/”Loop Closure”
- Other trauma topics are addressed which may include – trauma activation charges, trauma flow sheets: electronic-vs-paper, etc.
- Education on “Trauma Facility Checklist Criteria”, etc.
- Experienced “seasoned” and “new” TPM/TC share
- Speakers : “What is working for me/what is not working”

This is a time for you to connect with other Level IV trauma managers – we all wear many hats, not just trauma, many of us are Cardiac/Stroke Coordinators – many other positions.

You are not alone, we are your “trauma” family. The Level IV Committee has an open agenda – this is your opportunity to ask any question, provide input as to “what is working for you” at your facility or “what is not working”. Your time to share with other Level IV managers/coordinators.

Representation from TETAF has been present at all of the Level IV Committee meetings along with numerous Trauma Designation Surveyors. They welcome all of your questions / concerns. If your question is not answered during this committee time – an answer will be provided before the end of the day.

Come to the Level IV Committee meeting ----- we welcome you!