

Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council General Assembly Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2025

UT Health – North Campus 11937 US-271, Tyler

Call to order 10:01 a.m.

Topic 1: Chair Talking Points.....Vice Chair, Billy Perez on behalf of Chair Shawn Salter

Discussion:

- Approval of the Jan. 28, 2025 General Assembly meeting minutes.
 - Motion to approve minutes by Roy Langford
 - Seconded motion by Chad Solomon
 - All were in favor with no further discussion.
- Chair's Report.....Billy Perez
 - a. RAC Executive Board report – FY24 Single/State Audit
 - i. The RAC Executive Committee, along with the RAC Director, President/CEO, and CPA, met with the Auditing Firm to review the FY2024 Single, State, and Federal Audit findings.
 - ii. The Auditors provided an opinion of a Clean Audit with zero material findings and no significant suggested practice changes for the organization.
 - iii. Furthermore, they complimented our CPA, Kent, and our RAC executive leaders on their controls and practices.
 - iv. Emphasis on establishing a financial reserve to address payment and payroll challenges.
 - b. GETAC Updates
 - i. The next GETAC Meeting dates are June 4-6, 2025, in Austin, Texas
 - ii. There is a Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Task Force meeting that is being held on Tuesday, June 3rd at 1:00 pm
 - iii. There is much focus on the current Legislative Session, as many Texas House and Senate bills remain active. I encourage you to see Legislative updates from TETAF and TEMSA on the current status of proposed legislation.
 - c. Board Initiatives for the RAC
 - i. The Board discussed an issue about inconsistent or non-use of the Texas Wristbands by EMS providers and an issue with Hospitals removing the Wristband prematurely.
 - ii. The EMS Committee is asking all EMS providers to share their plan for full Wristband implementation by July 1, 2025
 - iii. It was discussed that RAC Executive and Board Representatives will take the lead on working with Hospitals for their full implementation and use of the Texas Wristband. This effort has not yet started so we will update the Membership as steps are taken.
 - iv. The Board reviewed the current Hospital reporting requirements related to the current Measles outbreak in Texas. (Report daily M-F.) Regarding measles, all EMS providers are encouraged to have a coordination plan if they are transporting a patient with suspected Measles infection to a hospital to minimize potential exposure to other patients and healthcare providers.

- v. The Board voted to enforce the requirement for RAC-G committee chairs to submit an Agenda for meetings “at least” 7 days before a scheduled meeting, and Minutes must be submitted within 7-days post-meeting.
- vi. The RAC, with assistance from our HR Consultant, is conducting the initial screening of candidates for the contract Data Analyst position that is currently posted. The top candidates will then be interviewed by a committee established by the RAC and Board.
- vii. Mr. Keith Martin has been ratified as the Co-Chair of the Governance Committee.
- viii. Mr. Brian Wilkinson has been ratified as the Chair of the EMS Committee.
- ix. The board reviews the organization's finances. All Members should be aware that the funding received through State and Federal Grants is pass-through dollars that fund specific items. Unfortunately, none of those funds can be used to create any type of reserve for the RAC organization. As such, the only unrestricted funds are the Membership dues, which only bring in approximately \$63K annually. The Board recognizes the need to develop a small reserve fund to address issues from things such as delayed payment from the grant-issuing agencies. The RAC has had to tap into the Membership dues to cover payroll when State dollars are delayed. The Board is committed to developing a plan and sharing it with the Membership as quickly as possible.
- d. Input from Members on Identified Needs
 - i. The Membership may recall that at the last General Assembly meeting, it was requested that if any members have any suggestions for the RAC or our Committees to work on, please share them.
 - ii. Nothing has been received to date.
 - iii. Please know that this is something that we will continue to inquire of our Membership, including our ask of you today.
 - iv. If you don't have any requests at this time, you can always submit them to Loretta so she can relay them to the Board.

Action: None at this time.

Topic 2: RAC Office Updates Loretta Kuhn

Discussion:

1. Data position – 80 candidates have applied, and interviews are progressing. Hope to have it filled by next week.
2. Nominations are pending for Vice Chair and Treasurer. Billy Perez and Roy Langford are re-running. Both have been huge supporters, and the RAC office has appreciated their service. Turn nominations into Loretta's or Tammy's email. At the July meeting, all candidates will present why they want to be in these roles.
3. Wristbands. There are lots in the warehouse. If desired, some can be brought to hand out at the July meeting. We have over 150,000. These are for EMS only at this point.
4. Measles-required reporting. The Executive board has asked for the chart. We need to know why some agencies are not doing daily compliance reporting. RAC-G was 86% compliant in March.
5. Provided the financial status of all FY25 RAC/HPP contract budgets, see attachment.; indicating to the Finance Committee that approximately \$20K is available for the region.

6. We are working on making the General Assembly virtual. The state requires this of any organization using state funds.
7. Meeting planning requirements. If you need a room at UT North for your meeting, the committees must let the RAC office know at least a month ahead of time. **Deborah Stroud** was present and recognized. She has to get approval from the UT committee to secure the meeting rooms/times. This enables us to work with UT and UT Emergency Management to get the space as an in-kind contribution.

Action: None at this time.

Topic 3: Finance Report.....Roy Langford

Discussion:

1. Financial Report shared.
 - a. Please submit EMS receipts by June 1st. We already have those from Timson FD, Marshall FD, UT Health EMS, Fairfield EMS, Camp County EMS, Jacksonville FD, Lawson FD, and Hopkins County EMS.
 - b. EMTF shows \$730,000 spent. Total grants in excess of \$900,000.
 - c. RAC-G has taught over 13,000 individuals since beginning Stop the Bleed classes. Discussion of inventory. Jim Speier reported an inventory that was done about two weeks ago and we're a little low. When done with the class, please return the supplies.
 - d. HPP funding may be withdrawn or diminished significantly due to DOGE involvement. Many legislators are unaware of the boots on the ground here using those funds. Please support his program by contacting your legislators! We have a letter drafted to send to your legislators from your agencies. You can also receive this electronic document to put on your hospital letterhead. HPP stands for "Hospital Preparedness" to help with disasters. Most decon equipment, radios, etc., at hospitals come from HPP funding.

Topic 4: Preparedness & Response Division Report.....Eric Bailey

Discussion:

1. Off the Rails drill went well. Pulsara worked well, and compliance was 57% for RAC-G, 100% for RAC-F. Need better compliance from RAC-G. Some didn't connect patients with the event, which could have been part of the issue. This was good practice for the process.
2. Many have utilized the warehouse training room. Last week, there were 25 participants. It's open to all members. Give them notice ahead of time, and they will put on training or use it as a meeting room. That's part of your membership at RAC-G.
3. Glenn and Lisa have helped a lot with drills and education in recent months. They will be affected by any HPP funding decrease.
4. MGT 439 will be at TJC West June 3-4 for up to 80 people. MGT 319 in Pittsburgh is June 11-12. The Tyler class was cancelled as not enough students signed up.
5. If you sign up, don't be a no-call or no-show. You need to open your spot up to others. There is a cost for putting on the course.
6. EMTF – recognized Hopkins County EMS and Longview FD in recent deployment.
7. EMTF 4 - The trailer itself is being refurbished but is still deployable. Another structure is in development, to be done in the next 12-16 weeks.

Action: None at this time

Topic 6: Committee Chair Reports

Discussion:

1. Air medical.....Chad Solomon
 - a. Canceled April meeting.
 - b. Wristbands go live is July 1st.
 - c. Discussed cranes in operation.
2. Pre-HospitalBrian Wilkinson
 1. Discussing the whole blood initiative. Dr. Desai may have someone come to speak with us.
 2. Active shooter training pending.
 3. Jimmy Lawrence, LV FD is the co-chair that has been nominated. Will be voted on.
3. Clinical Education.....Dr. Desai
 - a. Deferred to today's education
4. Finance.....Roy Langford
 - a. Finance committee meeting later today.
 - b. Vein finder for \$3649 to UT ED.
 - c. Gave \$4000 for UT cardiology symposium
5. Hospital Preparedness – HCC Governance.....Karen Adams
 - a. Mobile satellite system quotes reviewed at meeting.
 - b. Participated in regional exercise and has after-action items.
 - c. Meeting after Gen. Assembly today.
 - d. Keith Martin elected co-chair last meeting.
6. Injury Prevention.....Brittany Ray
 - a. April 16 meeting held.
 - b. Fall prevention classes offered.
 - c. Funding efforts.
 - d. WHALE initiative discussed.
 - e. May 21st next meeting.
7. Pediatric Dr. Catherine Goetz
 - a. Booth was a good outreach opportunity.
 - b. The NPRQI dashboard tracks peds quality measures. Three hospitals currently use it, and two are pending. Once we have five, we'll have a regional dashboard.
 - c. Needs analysis in progress for pediatric readiness.
 - d. Bulk purchasing of Peds manikins and other training materials planned.
 - e. Scales in kgs would also be good to buy.
 - f. Measles also discussed.

8. Perinatal.....Kalee Mills, Secy.
 - a. Postpartum bracelet project ongoing. Evaluation process in progress.
 - b. Will collaborate with other committees regarding car seat needs.
 - c. Will meet after next Gen. Assembly
9. Stroke..... Jennifer Reeves
 - a. Will meet with Cardiac after GA.
 - b. Grant funding for stroke education, BE FAST/signs, sx. Guides.
 - c. Transfer document requested for families to give to EMS and directions for families (don't try to follow ambulance, only call this number for updates, etc.)
 - d. Recommendations for standards for Code Stroke requested. Cardiac – no report
10. Trauma.....Ashley Hanson
 - a. Met this morning.
 - b. Co-chair to be voted on: Tammy Jones.
 - c. GETAC updates reviewed, esp. Texas wristbands.
 - d. PI project: looking at data for times of transfer of trauma patients.
 - e. Trauma designations and influence of the state, who to report to if oversight needed.
 - f. Survey wins to be shared.
 - g. Will meet at next General Assembly beforehand.

Topic 8: Final Items.....Loretta Kuhn

Discussion:

1. Having your minutes reviewed by your medical director and getting their signature would help with getting physician involvement in your committees, per Loretta.

Topic 9: 1.0 hr EMS and/or RN credit -- “Principles of MCI Using a Common Database” Dr. Desai

Discussion:

1. Dr. Desai met full objectives of topic for about 40-50 minutes, to include MCI triage, state wristbands, and integration of a common database system for patient tracking throughout their course of care. Broader application to all patients is advised to assure usage on MCIs, which may be rarer.
2. Much final discussion regarding regional adoption of wristbands and a common database system.
3. Additional functionality and advantages specific to Pulsara added by Brandon Means.
4. UT Athens and Cedar Creek ED Director Robert Munden advised their full adoption a few weeks ago, with staff resistance replaced by much appreciation upon implementation.

Next RAC-G General Assembly meeting: July 29, 2025 @ the **UT Health North Campus**

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences/Symposiums

June 4-6, August 20-22, Nov 21-23	GETAC Meetings in Austin this year
May 1	UT Neuro Symposium
July 31 and Aug. 1 st	UT Trauma Symposium.
Adjourn: 12:30 p.m.	

Minutes submitted by: Dawn Johnston – April 29, 2025