



General Membership Minutes

September 27, 2024

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST

Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance
(118 Paseo Del Prado, Edinburg, TX 78539)

Attendees: Please contact the TRAC-V office at (956) 364-2022 regarding meeting attendance.

I. Call to order – Carlos Palacio, MD

Carlos Palacio called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions of new members

Introductions of new members attending a TRAC-V General Membership meeting were made.

III. Review and approval of previous minutes – June 28, 2024

A motion to accept the minutes by Rene Perez and seconded by Wesley Milum. All in favor. Motion passed.

IV. Board Report:

a) Board Meetings – Carlos Palacio, MD

Carlos Palacio provided a condensed review of major discussions at the most recent board meetings including the establishment of a Disaster Preparedness Committee within the RAC to plan regional exercises and drills, an update on the progress being made with the ESO EMS & Trauma registries, and updates to the TRAC-V regional whole blood system. Nathan Ramon will discuss more during the Executive Director Report.

b) Financial Report – Rene Perez

FY24

RAC Systems Development - \$0
EMS RAC - \$0
EMS/CO - \$0
SB8 - \$18,390
EI - \$0

FY25

RAC Systems Development - \$63,065
EMS RAC - \$83,375
EMS/CO - \$119,301
SB8 - \$18,390
EI - \$150,000

The financial report for the organization was provided by the Board Treasurer, Rene Perez. The financial balances provided to attendees represent the remaining balances for FY24 funds that ended on August 31, 2024, and the allocated FY25 grant funds. Mr. Perez reviewed the cash disbursements for the last couple of months and the accounts receivable aging summary. He highlighted that TRAC-V surpassed its membership collection goal for the year and encouraged members to pay the RAC as soon as invoices are sent out this FY. TRAC-V is in good financial standing and has no debts to pay.

A copy of the financial statement can be requested by contacting the TRAC-V office at (956) 364-2022.

V. Executive Director's Report

a) Update/Status on State Reports

Nathan Ramon provided an overview of recent reports submitted to the state for related state contracts. Final FY24 reports and the RAC Annual report are due to DSHS by October 15th. Monthly SB8 reconciliation and expenditure reports continue to be submitted as well.

b) Other RAC initiatives and activities

TRAC-V has taken the initiative to coordinate with other RACs around the state to share SB8 funding to cover the costs of students within our area. Since TRAC-V had already depleted scholarship funds it received, DSHS encouraged RACs who still had funds to share resources with other RACs to try and deplete all allocated funds from the federal government before the December 31, 2024 deadline. The TRAC-V extended SB8 program has totaled an additional \$253,532, which covers the tuition for 16 paramedics, 31 AEMTs, and 14 EMTs.

TRAC-V has also strengthened its Whole Blood program by revising the TRAC-V MOU and coordinating information meetings between hospitals, EMS, and South Texas Blood and Tissue. The Moody Foundation Grant Equipment recipients will be decided by a committee soon so equipment can be dispersed and training organized.

TRAC-V held its ABLIS course from August 13-15 and was attended by 59 students across 3 days. This is the first time the UTMHB Burn Blocker Unit conducted a training 3 days in a row. Two medics from Pharr EMS were called to transport a pediatric patient with inhalation injuries to San Antonio due to a structure fire in McAllen; the medics transporting the child had participated in the ABLIS course two days before.

Nathan Ramon thanked all EMTF partners and EMS providers who deployed to assist during Hurricane Beryl.

TRAC-V continues to participate in a number of external events and spearheaded ongoing training. A few events include: HCISD Active Shooter Exercise, Pediatric Simulations in EDs with the Regional PECC, CBP Healthcare Symposium to learn about CBP medical capabilities, and community partner events to increase TRAC-V exposure.

Looking ahead, the next few months will focus on data collection and capturing all the needed agreements to stand up the registries for EMS and trauma through ESO. First official kickoff meeting with the ESO team is next week and BAAs will be sent to agencies over the next couple of weeks. TRAC-V will also be coordinating with the Trauma and Pre-Hospital committees to complete the Self-Assessment survey, which is a RAC Deliverable to DSHS for FY25.

VI. GETAC and TETAF Update – Carlos Palacio, MD / Nathan Ramon

Nathan Ramon provided a brief summary of initiatives and progress made at the most recent GETAC meeting in June.

The Prehospital Whole Blood Task Force continues to discuss regional best practices and is looking at establishing a validated equipment listing to make it easier for EMS companies to decide what equipment to purchase for their program.

The Trauma Designation rules continue to be discussed and are moving forward after multiple stakeholder sessions with a target adoption in October or November of 2025. If approved, Chapter 157.125 would modify and keep the existing designation requirements until August 31, 2025. On September 1, 2025, a new set of designation rules, Chapter 157.126 would take effect. Chapter 157.123, the RAC rules, would take effect on December 1, 2024.

VII. EMTF and HPP Coalition Report – Bernie Palacios

The RGVHPC is pending new contract details and objectives through ASPR at the federal level but once received they will be relayed to coalition members. RAC-V members continue to deploy for EMTF purposes and the RGVHPC is looking at additional trainings to host during FY25.

VIII. TRAC-V Sub-Committee Reports

a) Allied Health – Jennifer Volcy & Michael Sanchez

The committee will meet after General Membership to make decisions on final speaker and sponsor information. The contract with the Courtyard by Marriott has already been signed and the Symposium planning is underway.

b) Bylaws – Rene Perez

Did not meet.

c) Cardiac – Melissa Aguilera & Jennifer Pena

The cardiac committee is proposing an early heart attack awareness campaign at Valley airports and will work with Nathan on creating a design and allocating funds to sponsor the project.

d) Compliance – Rene Perez

Did not meet.

e) Disaster Preparedness – Carlos Palacio & Danny Ramirez

The first committee meeting is next week on Wednesday and all are welcome to attend.

f) Injury Prevention / Education – Daniel Tuttle & Victor Alanis

The committee is seeking additional help to attend various events while representing TRAC-V and plan a community oriented event.

g) Medical Oversight Committee – Carlos Palacio

Did not meet.

h) Perinatal / NICU / Maternal – Annabelle Salinas & Adriana Cantu

The committee continues to meet and has reversed back from quarterly to meet more regularly and review regional data as a group.

i) Pre-Hospital – Gustavo Ramirez

The committee is looking into developing a resource center or information hub to assist EMS providers and personnel dealing with mental health

issues. Preliminary discussions with non profits and Psychologists in the region have taken place. TRAC-V will look into securing a grant to develop a hotline or an app that has links of where people can be seen for free.

j) Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement –

Did not meet.

k) South Texas Trauma Coordinators – Jennifer Volcy & Wesley Milum

The committee is reviewing transfer data and is seeking assistance from the Pre-Hospital committee on streamlining and ensuring that PCRs are delivered to the hospitals within the set time frame.

l) Stroke – Hamzah Saei & Gene Danugrao

The committee will be conducting outreach to ensure EMS providers are conducting stroke surveys in the field to determine if patients are VAN positive and that EMS providers know which facilities to take severe stroke patients to.

m) TMD & EMS Advisory – Carlos Palacio & Eric Panzer

The committee met in August and determined most patients that continue to be transferred out are pediatric patients. TRAC-V will ensure Driscoll Children's RGV and STHS Children's representatives are kept informed of specific cases that need to be addressed and will help market hospital capabilities.

IX. Open Forum

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 PM.

Next Meeting:

December 6, 2024

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST

Driscoll Children's RGV Training Center

(601 E. Nolana Ave., Suite B & C, McAllen, TX 78504)