Any introduction to organization begins with our history and the statement that the Rio Grande Valley “RAC” Trauma Regional Advisory Council for TSA “V” Inc. was recognized by DSHS in 1995 with the primary purpose of addressing trauma system development and trauma care in the Rio Grande Valley. It is hard to believe we will be celebrating 20 years as an organization in 2015! Being a member of the Board for the past 10 years, I have been witness to many of the struggles as well as many of the successes our organization has achieved. From infancy to an entity that provides guidelines and protocols for triage, treatment and standards of practice for pre-hospital and hospital healthcare providers is truly an accomplishment though that all our members should share pride in.

This past year I was privileged to participate as the Vice-Chair of the Board in developing our strategic plan for the TRAC for 2014. We developed a list that included budgetary targets, increased engagement in sub-committee development and oversight, and development of a regional registry for trauma, stroke, and cardiac care. At just past mid-way through this calendar year, I ascended to the Chair position on the Board and continued with the commitment towards these organizational goals. I am proud to report that we are well on our way to achieving those things which we had deemed priorities for the TRAC for this year. The regional registry has been developed and the first round of information reporting completed. The potential for this to help guide care initiatives in our region is huge! I am excited to see what the year-end evaluation of the consolidated data and report will reveal. Our executive officers have also increased communication and involvement with our sub-committees and have been privileged to share in their meetings and initiatives. Committee achievements this year include a successful Trauma Symposium, Stroke Symposium, Stroke Transport Plan, update of bylaws, PSA for texting and driving, and plan for more to come in the remainder of this year.

Our four-county region has changed dramatically in the past 20 years with different needs, challenges, and resources related to health care. The Rio Grande Valley Trauma RAC for TSA V members have kept pace with these changes and continue to come together as a cohesive unit to promote excellence in our region and provide education, training and support for each other. With the continued support and engagement of so many energetic, passionate, and dedicated providers, I imagine the next 20 years will reflect even greater stories of success and achievements within our organization!

Have a safe and happy day!

Deborah L. Meeks, RN, MSN, CCRN, CEN
Chairman RAC V
RAC-V Committee Activity

Allied Committee

During a luncheon at Daddy’s Restaurant on July 25th, the Allied Committee presented an appreciation plaque to Denise Arnold, Director of Sales and Mayra Nunez, Convention Services Coordinator from the South Padre Island Convention Center and Visitor’s Bureau.

The plaque was presented in appreciation for their dedication and support of the 17th annual Trauma Symposium held at South Padre Island in March 2013.

The Allied Committee is busy planning the upcoming Trauma Symposium 2014 to be held again on South Padre Island at the Hilton Garden Inn. Details to be announced.

Denise Arnold, Director of Sales
Mayra Nunez, Convention Services
Ginger Cunningham, Allied

Trauma Facility Highlights

Harlingen Medical Center

Harlingen Medical Center is a 112-bed hospital. Harlingen Medical Center has been a Level IV Trauma Center since 2007, designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Ginger Cunningham is the Trauma Manager and the TMD is Dr. Steven Holtzman. Harlingen Medical Center is currently preparing for Level III Trauma Status. They are staffed and equipped to serve the diverse medical needs of patients of all ages. HMC was recognized as BEST HOSPITAL 2014 by the Valley Morning Star.

* Chest pain treatment & intervention
* Cardiac cath-lab and open heart
* Continuous orthopedic surgical coverage
* Redundant radio communication system to support EMS reception
* ACLS, PALS, TNCC, ENPC & ATLS Certified staff and physicians
* Teleneurology provides 24/7 emergency neurology assessment capabilities
* tPa DTN goals in under 60 mins.

Ginger Cunningham
Trauma Coordinator
When clinical triggers are met, call within 1hr

When to Call
- All Cardiac Deaths
- All “Imminent Deaths”
- GCS ≤ 5
- Intubated / Ventilated
- Brain Insults

Call on ALL Patients...Regardless of Diagnosis and / Or Condition
Ideally Within 1 hr of Meeting Criteria
Call prior to withdrawal of care

Donor Referral Line
1-800-275-1744

Trauma Coordinators Newsletter
Tobacco Contracts Being Finalized

The August TETAF Update distributed by email provided incorrect information about state Tobacco/RAC contracts. The Texas Department of State Health Services has issued the EMS/Regional Advisory Council and EMS/County contracts for fiscal year 2014. The FY 2015 Tobacco/RAC contracts are finalized, processed and will be mailed out soon. However, TDSHS has announced that funding from the permanent tobacco fund for EMS and trauma care will remain level at $4.7 million for FY 2015, the same as it was for FY 2014, of which $2.4 million is available for the Tobacco/RAC contracts. Read the complete updated story.

Submit Comments on GETAC Injury Prevention Proposal

The GETAC Injury Prevention Committee has developed a document to assist hospital-based injury prevention programs enhance injury prevention program capacity by defining essential core components of hospital-based injury prevention programs and providing supporting materials to achieve them. The IP Committee would like to obtain public input on the document prior to its Aug. 20 meeting in Austin. Interested individuals should review the document and send comments to Shelli Stephens Stidham. The core components are meant to be guidelines and suggestions and NOT requirements for hospital-based injury prevention programs.

Registration Open for Texas Cardio-Neurology Conference

Register now for the Sept. 26 Texas Cardio-Neurology Conference. Check out the registration brochure for the complete line-up of topics and distinguished speakers. And, be sure to reserve your room at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa — rooms are going fast. View the brochure for hotel and conference details. Texas Cardio-Neurology Conference, Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa near Bastrop

Just Drive Social Media Campaign Launched

TTCF Mission
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.

Trauma Care in Texas
In 1989, the Texas Legislature, as part of the Omnibus Rural Health Care Act, directed the Bureau of Emergency Management of the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to develop and implement a statewide emergency medical services (EMS) and trauma care system, designate trauma facilities, and develop a trauma registry to monitor the system. No funding was provided for this project at that time.
The UTHSCSA’s SMART Hospital provides technology which can simulate a wide range of clinical challenges. The purpose is to train healthcare professionals at all levels to develop skills need to provide direct patient care. This technology has significant impact on the quality of patient care, safety, and life-long professional skills knowledge. If you are planning an educational session and would like to enhance it with simulation contact: Dr. Kristina Stillsmoking, PHD at the SMART Hospital 956-365-8821.

A link to a video about the hospital and the network: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6oqcrvvlpg#t=26
Unity is a strength ... when there is teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved. Mattie Stepanek

The Rio Grande Valley collaborated on bringing two significant projects to the region:

First, we are the future home of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Medical School, and Nursing School campus.

Next, Brownsville among other cities around the nation, submitted a bid and won the honor for SpaceX to build a vertical rocket launch pad that will support 12 proposed commercial launches a year from the Boca Chica Beach area. The expectation is to create hundreds of high-paying tech jobs with an initial capital investment of approximately $85 million to the area.

Following Brownsville and Cameron County’s lead, the Rio Grande Valley will be home to one of the nation’s most exciting economic development projects announced in years!