



General Membership Minutes

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)

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 12:13 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 – September 27, 2024

A motion to accept the minutes made by Wesley Milum and seconded by Michael Sanchez. All in favor. Motion passed.

IV. Board Report:

a) Board Meetings – Carlos Palacio, MD

Carlos Palacio provided an overview of the board meeting held on November 8, 2024 to include the independent financial audit provided to TRAC-V by Cascos & Associates, an update on progress made to the TRAC-V Strategic Plan, and discussion on various data collection projects underway.

b) Financial Report – Rene Perez (As of November 1, 2024)

FY25

RAC Systems Development - \$62,671

EMS RAC - \$70,700

EMS/CO - \$119,301

SB8 - \$13,305

EI - \$138,640

The financial report was provided by the Board Treasurer, Rene Perez. The financial balances provided represent the amount remaining in the Fiscal Year for each DSHS grant TRACV receives as of November 1, 2024 due to the limited time in December to reconcile November expenses and prepare a monthly report for the December 6th meeting. Mr. Perez reviewed the cash disbursements for the last couple of months and the accounts receivable aging summary. He mentioned that invoices for TRAC-V Membership dues should be sent to the designated points of contact in January or February of the new year, and the EMS/Co funds will begin to be disbursed around the same time to eligible EMS providers. TRAC-V is in good financial standing and has no debts.

A copy of the financial report 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 DSHS for state-related contracts. Upcoming reports include the Q1 Financial Support Document by December 31st and the new Board Attestation form by February 28th for any newly appointed RAC board members.

b) Other RAC initiatives and activities

Nathan provided an overview of the 2023 Independent Audit Report provided by Cascos & Associates detailing a clean, unverified opinion and affirming that TRAC-V is in good financial standing.

Nathan then covered other RAC activities within the last few months including Whole Blood training with EMS providers, Fire Prevention Week public service announcements posted on social media for the Injury Prevention committee, the first TRAC-V Disaster Preparedness Committee meeting in October, participation in the LEPC Hazmat exercise in Sharyland, an Embarkation Hub tabletop exercises with Cameron County Public Health, and continuing Pulsara training with EMS and FRO partners.

The TRAC-V South Texas Healthcare Symposium registration link is officially live and will take place Thursday, May 1st and Friday, May 2nd. Early bird registration prices will be in effect until Feb 28th and will transition to full price afterwards. The Allied Health committee is working on the speaker agenda and TRACV is beginning to collect sponsors. More information can be found on the TRACV website.

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 meetings in November in conjunction with the TX EMS Conference.

The Disaster Preparedness Committee continues to review Whole Blood utilization in the Pre-Hospital setting and presented data on counties in the State of TX and nationwide that have a pre-hospital blood transfusion program. STRAC presented data on whole blood utilization, transfusion percentages, and estimated cost to operate a whole blood program in its region. The committee also continues to highlight Pulsara success including the continuously increasing number of patient channels being created by EMS across the state, totaling 858k for 2024 at the time of the committee meeting.

The Trauma Committee revisited common deficiencies seen by DSHS during Trauma Designation applications from facilities, the adoption of the trauma & RAC rules in the Texas Administrative Code, a review of the NDMS pilot program nationwide for major patient surges, and an overview of the Texas TQUIP program provided by Dr. Carlos Palacio.

Nathan highlighted the team from Brownsville FD EMS that competed at the TX EMS Sim Game during the TX EMS Conference in Fort Worth. The team sent to compete were the winners of the TRAC-V Sim Games at this year's Symposium and were representing the entire RGV.

Lastly, Nathan highlighted all 2025 GETAC Committee and Council appointees from the RGV. There are 9 TRACV representatives across the various GETAC committees and 1 representative on the GETAC Council.

VII. EMTF and HPP Coalition Report – John Phillips / Bernie Palacios

John Phillips presented a TX EMTF-11 Program Year Summary for FY24 activities. Mr. Phillips covered the number of activations and various personnel packages that were deployed from EMTF-11 and compared the number of days activated between EMTF-11 and other regions of the state. EMTF-11 is comparable to the Dallas Fort Worth metro area (EMTF-2) in terms of number of personnel sent and number of days activated, displaying the willingness of South Texas and RGV partners to be deployed.

Bernie Palacios covered ongoing projects with the RGV Healthcare Preparedness Coalition through the HPP program including the finalization of the Supply Chain Assessment that has been sent to ASPR and coordinating different education courses for the region, including a Certified Hospital Emergency Coordinator (CHEC) course.

VIII. TRAC-V Sub-Committee Reports

a) Allied Health – Jennifer Volcy & Michael Sanchez

The committee will begin regular meetings in 2025 to finalize speakers and the agenda for the 2025 Symposium. The registration link is already live and the committee will start promoting registration sign ups.

b) Bylaws – Rene Perez

Did not meet.

c) Cardiac – Melissa Aguilera & Jennifer Pena

The committee is moving forward with a heart attack awareness campaign at Valley Airport(s) and is beginning designs to get approval to utilize RAC funds to spearhead the campaign. One of the 2025 goals include establishing metrics to review for non-PCI capable facilities within the region.

d) Compliance – Rene Perez

Did not meet.

e) Disaster Preparedness – Carlos Palacio & Danny Ramirez

The committee is working with the LRGVDC to plan a FEMA led training/drill for hospitals in 2025 and will meet again in Q1 or Q2 of next year.

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

Daniel Tuttle and Victor Alanis are stepping down as Committee Co-chairs due to work responsibilities and time management. Cassandra Bravo and Bianca Hayes are taking their place and have already organized a draft schedule of injury prevention events for TRAC-V to participate in and added more people to the Committee.

g) Medical Oversight Committee – Carlos Palacio

Did not meet.

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

The committee has begun recruiting speakers for the 2025 Symposium and continues to review region wide data on PCO2 and Golden Hour rates. To make data collection and review easier, hospitals will send data directly to TRACV to blind the data and create aggregate values for our region to review at regularly scheduled meetings.

i) Pre-Hospital – Gustavo Ramirez & Charlie DeLeon

The committee continues to work with TRAC-V and ESO to ensure data is being populated in the regional repository. The committee will review compliance with PCR submission to hospitals after discussions with the Trauma committee experiencing issues receiving PCR within 24 hours. The committee also continues to make progress on recruiting mental health services to work with TRAC-V on seeing EMS patients and listing out potential resources on the TRAC-V website.

j) Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement –

Did not meet.

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

The committee continues to review the contingency rate amongst hospitals applying for designation and address common deficiencies like PI Review and maintaining proper charts. One of the committee's 2025 goals includes establishing a regional mentorship program for newly appointed trauma program managers and trauma coordinators.

l) Stroke – Hamzah Saei & Gene Danugrao

The committee is working on finalizing updates to the Pre-Hospital Stroke Transportation Plan to ensure the list of facilities and flow chart is up to date with current regional capabilities. The Plan will then be reviewed by the Pre-Hospital committee and then the Board of Directors for approval. The committee is also planning to promote EMS education and assist with education on performing stroke screenings like VAN.

m) TMD & EMS Advisory – Eric Panzer

The committee will meet on December 18th to review 2024 Quarter 3 data for all Out of Valley transfers and address any other topics.

IX. Open Forum

X. Notice of TRAC-V Board Positions Subject to Election / Re-Election in January of 2025:

- a) Cameron County non-911 EMS
- b) Hidalgo County 911 EMS
- c) Willacy County EMS
- d) Officers of the Board
 - i. Chairman
 - ii. Secretary

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn made by Wesley Milum and seconded by Aaron Lopes. All in favor. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.