



## **General Membership Minutes**

September 5, 2025

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST

Pharr One Community Center  
(1121 E Nolana Loop, Pharr, TX 78577)

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 12:38 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 – July 11, 2025**

A motion to accept the minutes made by Frank Torres and seconded by Oziel Garcia. 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 July 25, 2025. Hosted by Rio Grande Regional Hospital, members received a report from TRAC-V Executive Director, Nathan Ramon, on the final numbers regarding this year's TRAC-V Symposium, a Pulsara usage report, and discussion on the TRAC-V scores for the DSHS Self-Assessment for FY25. Nathan presented which modules the RAC scored below a 3 and would develop Action Plans to address, as well as 1 "best-practice" plan to share.

The Board also discussed potential revisions and updates to the organization's Bylaws, and it was decided more would be discussed at future meetings.

#### **b) Financial Report – Rene Perez**

##### FY26

EMS RAC - \$82,509

EI - \$150,000

RAC Systems Development - \$63,065

EMS/CO - \$111,235

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 September 1, 2025. Mr. Perez reviewed the cash disbursements and final expenditures for FY25 and the accounts receivable aging summary. TRAC-V is still pending the collection of TRAC-V Membership dues from some EMS agencies and potential Board action may be taken against those agencies not in compliance with RAC membership criteria. 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. Final reports for FY25 are due on October 15, 2025 to include the final expenditure and narrative report, the RAC annual report, and the GC-11 inventory report.

##### **b) Other RAC initiatives and activities**

- As mentioned at last GM meeting, TRAC-V is collaborating with STBTC to host quarterly blood drives at RAC events and in the community.
- TRAC-V has continued to spearhead and grow its regional Whole Blood program efforts and recently attended the STRAC WB Summit in San Antonio to learn from subject matter experts across the country regarding WB deployment. Los Fresnos EMS and Brownsville FD EMS are the two newest EMS agencies that are now live and carrying PHWB. TRAC-V is coordinating with DSHS to implement the Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Pilot Program based on the \$10 million appropriated through the Texas Legislature this year. More information to come.
- TRAC-V held a Hurricane Tabletop Exercise on August 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss internal and external communication, patient distribution, and regional coordination. The National Weather Service designed and presented the Mock Category 4 Hurricane for attendees to utilize as a simulation.

- The TRAC-V Injury Prevention has continued to be active in organizing STB training, CPR training, Car seat checks, and participating in Community events.
- TRAC-V has continued to onboard more agencies to Pulsara and conduct refresher trainings with EMS providers and Hospitals on the day-to-day communication and the Incident Management feature.
- The 2026 TRAC-V Symposium is scheduled for April 16 & 17, 2026

## **VI. GETAC Update – Carlos Palacio, MD / Nathan Ramon**

- The GETAC PHWB Task Force has started working on ideas for the \$10 million funding distribution and met again on June 24<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio with DSHS, RACs, Blood Bank agencies, etc.
- The Trauma Committee has continued to discuss the military and civilian trauma integration with resources and capabilities for the through the Joint Trauma System in preparation for NDMS testing. The committee is also starting to closely examine the delays in Trauma Transfers, specifically in critical cases with age specific GCS and SBP measures. The committee will continue reviewing 2024 Data at upcoming GETAC meetings and encourage the RACs to begin looking at their own data.
- The Stroke Committee is finalizing algorithms for adult and pedi stroke transportation and will be made available to RACs to consider for implementation. Participation in the RDC was also discussed as a way to generate reports by RAC to present to GETAC.
- The Pediatric and Injury Prevention Committee both discussed the safe transport of Pedi Patients and ways to increase EMS and FRO utilization of Pedi Mate and/or other approved restraints.

## **VII. TETAF Update – Dinah Welsh (President & CEO, TETAF)**

Dinah Welsh of TETAF presented on the history and purpose of both TETAF and Texas Perinatal Services to include the Hospital Survey services, pre-survey and post-survey support for team members, Advocacy at the state legislature for RACs and healthcare efforts, and education CE offered through TETAF. TETAF is also the host for the Texas TQIP program, chaired by Dr. Carlos Palacio, and currently features 32 participating Level I & II hospitals around the State, with a new emphasis on standing up a Pediatric group and a Level III group.

## **VIII. EMTF and HPP Coalition Report – John Phillips / Bernie Palacios**

Bernie Palacios reported that the FY2026 HPP funds have currently been reduced by DSHS due to ongoing restructuring of the program and turnover at the federal level. Juvare is coming out with a new BedSync feature in EmResource that would automate capacity and make EmResource more concurrent with information instead

of a manual upload. More information to come. TRAC-V members a part of the EMTF-11 program continue to deploy as part of the ongoing search and rescue efforts in the Texas Hill Country following the devastating July 4<sup>th</sup> floods.

## **IX. TRAC-V Committee Reports**

### **a) Allied Health – Jennifer Arriaga-Volcy**

The committee has decided on a combined model for the 2026 Symposium to better serve the majority of attendees that cover more than 1 specialty area. More information will be available at the next GM meeting.

### **b) Cardiac – Melissa Aguilera & Jennifer Pena**

The committee is looking at collecting data to begin analyzing at a regional level across all hospital at the end of 2025 and going into 2026. Discussed areas for improvement are Door to EKG, DIDO, and Door to Balloon for PCI facilities. More to come and the committee is seeking more members.

### **c) Disaster Preparedness – Carlos Palacio & Danny Ramirez**

The committee met on July 29<sup>th</sup> for the Hurricane Tabletop Exercise and will continue to meet later in the year to begin planning MCI exercises to test Pulsara communication between EMS and Hospitals.

### **d) Injury Prevention – Cassandra Bravo, Bianca Hayes, & Alicia Cruz**

The committee has been actively coordinating more STB classes and attending other community events. A joint effort has also started planning a Shattered Dreams drunk driving event in March of 2026 prior to the Spring Break Holiday. The committee is looking at promotional items and awareness materials for Injury Prevention day / week.

### **e) Perinatal / NICU / Maternal – Annabelle Salinas & Adriana Cantu**

The committee continues to review monthly Golden Hour temperature rates at the regional level and is in the beginning process to recruit speakers for the 2026 TRACV Symposium.

### **f) Pre-Hospital – Gustavo Ramirez & Charlie DeLeon**

The committee continues to discuss mental health priorities and ways to increase access to resources for medics.

### **g) South Texas Trauma Coordinators – Jennifer Volcy & Wesley Milum**

The committee is beginning to review and emphasize compliance of EMS with the TX EMS Wristbands given the requirement for each trauma

patient to have a wristband number in the rules that went into effect on September 1, 2025. The committee is also beginning to review trauma transfer data that will be sent to the RAC.

**h) Stroke – Gene Danugrao**

The committee is reviewing a World Stroke Day event at Valley Regional Medical Center and discussing other outreach efforts. Surveys may begin to enter in their survey window so please ensure participation in the RAC meetings for attendance and support.

**i) TMD & EMS Advisory – Eric Panzer**

The next meeting will be held in November to review OOVt data and discuss any other important issues, including an update on the regional WB program.

**X. Open Forum**

- TRAC-V will be hosting a Committee Chair meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss progress in committees and ways to better support committee efforts
- The Texas ENA RGV Chapter is hosting a “Spooktacular” event in October with CE offered
- Applications for the 2026 GETAC Committees are set to open and TRAC-V encourages participation in GETAC as a committee member if selected, or as a participant

**XI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 PM.

**Next Meeting:**

December 5, 2025

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST

Knapp Medical Conference Center

1401 E 8<sup>th</sup> St, Weslaco, TX 78596