

9.c. GETAC Disaster Preparedness & Response Committee Update to Council - March 2025

Chair: Eric Epley, CEM, NREMT-P

Vice-chair: Wanda Helgesen, RN



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

GETAC Disaster Preparedness & Response Committee

2025 Committee Priorities Update

Priority Not Implemented

Priority Activities Recorded

Priority Completed and Monitored

Committee Priorities	Current Activities	Status
1. Emergency Medical Task Force Development and Review of performance	<i>Received quarterly performance summary from EMTF State Coordination Office (SCO) showing doubling of deployment tempo, esp. relating to Wildland Fire Medical Support missions.</i>	
2. TX EMS Wristband and Pulsara app deployment and improvement	<i>Discussed utilization of EMS wristbands and value of national format standard, and also discussed Pulsara new feature for Family Reunification and ingestion of Raptor and other attendance/accountability systems at schools, hospitals, etc</i>	
3. Prehospital Whole Blood Initiative, development of Rotation Systems, Walking Blood Banks and MCI Whole Blood Push Packs.	<i>Reviewed summary of PHWBTF, walking blood banks, 35 vs 21 day blood bags and concerns of 35 day bag going away in 2026. Discussed the riders that TEMSA and STRAC have pursued for \$4M funding for whole blood, equip and training, esp for rural areas</i>	

9.c.A. GETAC Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Task Force Update to Council - March 2025

Chair: Eric Epley, CEM, NREMT-P

Vice-chair(s): Donald Jenkins, MD, FACS; C.J. Winckler, MD



GETAC Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Task Force

2025 Task Force Priorities Update

Priority Not Implemented

Priority Activities Recorded

Priority Completed and Monitored

Committee Priorities	Current Activities	Status
1. Implement Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Programs in every county in Texas using a regional guidelines approach emphasizing a system of rotation to prevent waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Identifying scope, cost, and building on existing prehospital whole blood programs.</i>• <i>Building consensus on regional processes.</i>	
2. Establish Funding from the State Legislature in support of Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Establishing relationships with key State Representatives to carry asks to the Legislature.</i>	
3. Identify alternative collection processes for whole blood ensuring adequate resources across the state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Identifying research on walking blood bank programs.</i>• <i>Identifying Level I and Level III Trauma Centers as Blood Centers.</i>	