

North Texas Mass Critical Care Task Force
6:30 p.m. Jan. 9, 2014, at Park City Club
Meeting Minutes

Cochair John Carlo, MD, called the meeting to order.

Attending

NT Mass Critical Care Task Force

Robert L. Fine, MD, chair
John Carlo, MD, co-chair
Sandra Parker, MD, co-chair
Kendra Belfi, MD, co-chair

DCMS Community Emergency Response Committee

Mark Casanova, MD
Gordon Green, MD
Stephen Landers, MD
Sarah Helfand, MD
James Luby, MD
Mark Mlcak, MD
Carol North, MD, Veterans Administration & UTSW
Don Read, MD

Dallas County Medical Society

Michael Darrouzet, EVP/CEO
Connie Webster, senior VP of operations

Dallas County Health and Human Services

Wendy Chung, MD, chief epidemiologist
Christopher Perkins, DO, medical director and health authority

Denton County Medical Society

Ed Thornton, MD, chief medical officer for Texas DMAT & Denton County Medical Society

Hospital Representatives

Steve Love, president and CEO, DFW Hospital Council
Maeve Sheehan, MD, medical director, Children's Transport and Access Services, Children's Medical Center
Scott Robins, MD, HCA North Texas
A.J. Kirk, MD, John Peter Smith Hospital
Robert Simonson, MD, Methodist Medical Center
Ed Goodman, MD, Texas Health Resource
Mark Till, MD, Texas Health Resource
Ray Fowler, MD, chief of EMS Operations, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Tarrant County Medical Society

Larry Marshall, president
Brian Swift, CEO

Rick Antonisse, executive director, North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council
Paula Dobbs-Wiggins, MD, faith community representative, SMU/Perkins School of Theology

Paul Pepe, MD, chief medical officer, City of Dallas

Ray Swienton, MD, codirector of EMS, Disaster Medicine and Homeland Security Section

Molly J. Thoerner, director of emergency preparedness, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Minutes. Minutes of the Jan. 15, 2013, meeting were approved as submitted.

Current Conditions on H1N1. The task force discussed the current season of influenza — one of the most severe our community has seen in years — and ICU beds rapidly are filling up. The North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council has 39 ventilators that could be used if our area capacity were exceeded and the State had declared a disaster over the signature of the governor. The State is aware of the situation in North Texas.

Overview of Recent Task Force Accomplishments. Area county medical societies have just begun efforts to educate their members about the mass critical care guidance documents. The task force discussed the following:

- Strong agreement to remove the word “DRAFT” from both the Adult and Pediatric NT Mass Critical Care Guidance Documents and refer to them as "Version 1.0." If the governor declared a disaster, the Guidelines would be implemented immediately.
- Stress that the guideline documents are a humanitarian effort by a group of experts to provide a framework for how our community will respond and apply scarce resources during a public medical emergency.
- Ensure that messaging includes the project’s history and process, but not as an opportunity for input, thus allowing opinions, but not a vote on any future amendments.
- Continue to seek guidance from the Interfaith community. Although the community is represented on the task force, it has been absent from recent meetings. Task force leadership will contact the Interfaith community to share the Version 1.0 guidelines.
- Increase awareness of the guidelines by physicians and administrators of local hospital systems. Steve Love, president of the DFW Hospital Council, will meet with the executive hospital leadership soon and request that members disseminate the guidelines within their health systems.
- Educate area emergency preparedness organizations about the guidelines. Rick Antonisse, from the RAC, will begin this process.
- Meet with influential players about the guidance documents. Michael Darrouzet, from the Dallas County Medical Society, will meet with Texas Medical Association, Steve Love will meet with Texas Hospital Association, and they will contact Senator Jane Nelson, chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and Kyle Janek, MD, executive commissioner for the Texas Health & Human Services Commission.
- Task force members should refer media inquiries about the project to Dallas County Medical Society (administrators of the task force), which will refer the media to the task force chair, co-chairs or other designated spokespersons. Members stressed the importance of consistent messaging (task force members were referred to the Talking Points Summary). DCMS administrators will keep the task force informed of all media inquiries.
- Contact their organizations’ public relations departments to inform them of the effort and to direct their inquiries to the task force leadership.

North Texas input into State planning and 2015 legislative agendas. Ray Swienton, MD, discussed the State’s efforts to develop a statewide Crisis Standards of Care Framework. The State is developing a 2-year project working from information developed by the Institute of Medicine, published in literature, and developed by other states. A work group will convene in the spring. Members of the North Texas Task Force who are interested in participating in

the initial development, workgroups or regional stakeholder meetings should contact Dr. Sweinton. Details will follow.

Next Steps:

1. Communicate within the healthcare community through articles in county medical society publications and blast emails.
2. Follow up with elected leaders to update them on the project.
3. Continue to work with DSHS to draft a Crisis Standards of Care plan, and institute a process for public engagement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.