

General Membership Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 @ 1000 hours

Via Zoom

Via Z<https://borderrac-org.zoom.us/j/88960084745?pwd=0QkBayFpEb2hiBh8TgnQcfqtCwaRQp.1>

Meeting ID: 889 6008 4745

Passcode: 295355

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ana Acosta - UMC El Paso
Kardha Alvarado - Las Palmas medical center
Virginia Armendariz - THOP Sierra
Marylou Astorga – Bienvivir
Tony Baird - Dominion Ambulance
Vanessa Banderas – BorderRAC
Amber Bechtel - El Paso Psychiatric Center
Trahana Benbow - Del Sol Medical Center
Donald Berger - UMC / EPCH
Henry Brutus - ProAction/Immunize El Paso
David Bustillos - Transmountain Campus
Lydia Camacho - UMC of El Paso
Darcie Camacho – LPMC
Rob Campion - Elite Medical Transport
Christopher Celaya – Tenant Healthcare
Celia Cisneros – LPMC
Eddie Colclasure - THOP (Memorial / Sierra)
Roxann Contreras - UMC of El Paso
David Cummings - Culberson Hospital
Monica Diaz – WBAMC
Michelle Diaz - THOP Memorial
Kevin Dieter -UMC-Healthcare
Erin Delagarza – WBAMC
Carla Escobar - UMC of El Paso
Yvette Felix THOP: East Campus
Chassi Fernandez - THOP-East Campus
Cristina Fore - THOP East Campus
Xochitl Gamboa - UMC of El Paso
JESUS GAMEZ - DSMC
Roy Gonzales – LPDS
Bianca Gonzalez - THOP- East
Claudia Gonzalez - Las Palmas Medical Center
Graciela Denisse Perez - THOP- EAST CAMPUS
Rachel Guerrero - The Hospitals of Providence
Diane Guillen - UMC El Paso
Jamicka Harrigan - Del Sol Medical Center
Todd Haugen – MMC
Wanda Helgesen – BorderRAC
Veronica Hinojo - DSMC
Cynthia Holguin - Del Sol Medical Center
Peggy Jaime – BorderRAC
Don Janes – UMC
Nick Koncar - Las Palmas Medical Center
Tiffany Lasky - TTUHSCEP
Vanessa Lee - THOP Memorial L&D
Oscar Lira Loera – UMC of El Paso
Emily Lloyd - THOP memorial
Irasema Lopez – LPMC
Martin Lopez - Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
Iris Madariaga - THOP Sierra
ThreasaMaples - UMCSH
Ricardo Marin - THOP - East
Erica Marquez - UMC El Paso
Laura Martin - THOP East
Miriam Mendoza - THOP Memorial Campus
Letty Mireles -UMC of El Paso
Tony Muro - THOP Transmountain
Guillermo Negrete -Fire Star
Valerie Nunez - UMC
John O'Hargan - WBAMC
Melissa Olivares – THOP: Memorial Campus
Jennifer Olivas – THOP: East Campus
Bryan Olson - BorderRAC
Victor Ontiveros - Culberson Hospital
Joe Ortiz - El Paso Fire Department
Adrian Payan - Las Palmas Medical Center
David Peckman – THOP: Transmountain
Diego Perez - Culberson Hospital EMS
Maria Perez -UMC of El Paso
Melissa Perlinger - HCA/Parallon
Angela Peterson - Culberson Hospital
Erica Portillo - HCA Las Palmas Medical Center
Molly Ramirez - WBAMC
Alex Ramos – Tenet Healthcare
Elen Rodriguez - THOP TM /Sierra
Luis Roman - RHSNM / ACHSNM
Christine Rosales - OEM
Sandra Salas - Endoscopy Center of El Paso
Fairuz Saleh - Las Palmas Medical Center
Eddie Sanchez - life ambulance
Sergio Soto - UMC
Susan Sharp - BorderRAC

Ricardo Silvera - EPDPH
 Claudia Smith - WBAMC
 Ira Swinney - TTUHSC EP
 Alexa Timbrook - UMC of El Paso
 Alan Tyroch – TTUHSC El Paso

Oscar Vega - LPMC
 Verne Walker - Del Sol Medical Center
 Zyon Zate - EMTF-9/BorderRAC
 Fernando Zeh - Del Sol Medical Center
 Gabriel Zubia - UMC EPCH

***Failed to sign in via the BorderRAC website**

*Michelle Rincon
 *kd1026974
 *valerie and anne
 *rtu7837
 *Valencia, Armando OEM
 *Erin’s iPhone
 *carlos gandarilla
 *clo6054
 *LTC Hsieh
 *Verenice Ramirez
 *mcgrailn
 *Alonso Flores Duarte

*Alejandra Garcia- Memorial
 *patricia.gelinas
 *Ian Rymer WBAMC
 *Dr Ahmed Elhaddad
 *michelle.arroyos
 *Chanston Cochran
 *Amber O.
 *iPhone Vivian 16
 *Zoom user
 *pam_ros Gomez
 *Hilda Gonzalez- UMC
 *Alonso’s Phone



All members and invited meeting participants agree to protect the privacy and security of confidential information at all times, both during and after association with BorderRAC has terminated. It is understood that any breach of confidentiality may be grounds for immediate termination of membership and occlusion of future meeting attendance; as well as any appropriate legal action.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Celaya called the meeting to order at hours.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The October minutes were reviewed. Dr. Tyroch motioned, Dr. Gamez seconded, and the motion carried to accept the minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Quarterly Financial Report

Ms. Helgesen reviewed the grant status reports.

		ASPR24 Quarterly Report				START:	END:
						7/1/2025	1/31/2026
<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - March	April - June		
		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD	
Personnel	\$388,758.00	\$98,546.41	\$94,496.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$193,043.05	
Fringe Benefits	\$116,627.00	\$29,126.52	\$29,001.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,127.77	
Travel	\$32,451.00	\$83.30	\$2,405.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,488.71	
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Supplies	\$2,879.00	\$455.36	\$3,416.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,872.22	
Contractual	\$24,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00	
Other	\$125,307.00	\$15,012.00	\$8,595.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,607.62	
Indirect	\$121,836.00	\$35,930.78	\$32,751.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$68,682.19	
	\$812,258.00	\$179,154.37	\$171,927.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$351,081.56	

The end date for this grant is January 31 of 2026. This snapshot covers TSA I, J, and K combined. The total budget

for this grant is \$812,258.00, with total expenditures of \$351,081.56. Ms. Helgesen explained reduction in total expenditures was we in anticipation of a 30% reduction in the funding, leading us to be very conservative with any of our spending. Since that time, DSHS informed us they believe we will receive all of the funding before the end of June, putting us in good shape. Moving forward, we will see some changes due to the state's expectation of the budget cuts.

		START:		END:		
		7/1/2025		1/31/2026		
ASPR24 TSA-I Quarterly Report						
		July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - March	April - June	
<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD
Personnel	\$125,148.00	\$32,482.75	\$30,609.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63,091.83
Fringe Benefits	\$37,544.00	\$9,602.63	\$9,157.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,760.27
Travel	\$15,027.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$2,100.00	\$327.79	\$3,216.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,544.69
Contractual	\$24,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00
Other	\$67,790.00	\$1,996.47	\$1,987.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,983.63
Indirect	\$48,000.00	\$13,130.97	\$9,030.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,161.73
	\$320,009.00	\$57,540.61	\$55,261.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$112,802.15

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TSA I's portion of the ASPR funding totals \$320,009.00. Q2 incurred \$55,261.54 in expenses, the bulk of which went to Personnel and Fringe Benefits. With the expected budget cut, we did not send anyone to the SETRAC symposium in Galveston, but hope to send members to the TDEM conference in Fort Worth in May. 112k remains for expenditure through June.

		START:		END:			
		9/1/2025		1/31/2026			
FY26 EMTF Rider Quarterly Report							
<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	5th Qtr	YTD
Personnel	\$16,438.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits	\$4,931.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel	\$22,155.00	\$0.00	\$7,099.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,099.16
Equipment	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$2,868.00	\$735.84	\$2,550.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,285.88
Contractual	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$144,544.00	\$15,893.41	\$45,505.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$61,399.33
Indirect	\$35,175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$236,111.00	\$16,629.25	\$55,155.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71,784.37

The budget for this grant is \$236,111.00. Q2 expenditures totaled \$55,155.12, leaving \$71,784.37 for expenditures through January 31, 2026. We believe that all of the dates for these will change allowing expenditures through June 2026.

					START:	END:
FY26 Systems Development Quarterly Report					9/1/2025	8/31/2026
<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD
Personnel	\$31,470.00	\$1,085.94	\$7,064.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,150.86
Fringe Benefits	\$9,297.00	\$93.11	\$679.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$772.42
Travel	\$3,225.00	\$16.00	\$2,338.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,354.68
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$1,166.00	\$1,546.22	\$79.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,625.38
Contractual	\$6,945.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$12,872.00	\$818.25	\$7,422.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,240.41
Indirect	\$12,779.00	\$49.38	\$169.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$218.97
	\$77,754.00	\$3,608.90	\$17,753.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,362.72

The Systems Development total budget was \$77,754.00, of which \$21,000.00 has been spent.



					START:	END:
FY26 EMS RAC Quarterly Report					9/1/2025	8/31/2026
<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD
Personnel	\$85,000.00	\$11,928.65	\$32,813.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,741.74
Fringe Benefits	\$27,500.00	\$4,076.23	\$11,472.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,548.58
Travel	\$760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$11,394.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$83,700.00	\$7,839.86	\$9,862.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,702.73
Indirect	\$33,500.00	\$3,290.00	\$8,700.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,990.54
	\$241,854.00	\$27,134.74	\$62,848.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$89,983.59

The budgeted amount is \$241,854.00. Expenditures incurred in Q2 were \$62,848.85, with a remaining of \$89,983.59. Expenditures expected include the Prehospital Whole Blood project and preparation for injury prevention activities.

					START:	END:
FY26 EMS County Quarterly Report					9/1/2025	8/31/2026
<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD
Contractual	\$166,645.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$166,645.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

\$166,645.00 was budgeted for this grant. There have been no expenditures yet, but BorderRAC has received 2 reimbursement requests from EMS agencies and are reviewing them for reimbursement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Acute Care Committees

Cardiac Subcommittee

Ms. Armendariz reported challenges with cardiology data submission, noting only 4 out of 7 facilities submitted Q2 data on time and therefore there is not Q2 data for review. She also discussed upcoming educational initiatives including hypertension reset and an aortic stenosis presentation.

Stroke Subcommittee

Q2 data was reviewed. There was a slight increase in stroke cases from 449 to 453, with hypertension being the

To advance the Far West Texas / Southern New Mexico trauma and emergency healthcare system through prevention, education, preparedness, and response.

leading comorbidity, and males slightly outnumbering females.

Discussion turned to the 2026 Acute Ischemic Stroke guidelines, which include new recommendations for pediatric strokes and the use of Tenecteplase for specific time windows. Ms. Helgesen mentioned efforts to improve the reporting of pediatric strokes within the RAC Data Collaborative, with plans to collaborate with PHIX to address data gaps.

Hospital Trauma Committee/Regional Registry

The trauma registry data for Q3 was reviewed, showing trends in patient demographics, injury causes, and severity scores. Dr. Tyroch raised concerns about discrepancies in the data entry process, which Ms. Helgesen acknowledged and agreed to investigate further. Also noted are on ongoing efforts to improve severe trauma patient transfers and the implementation of image sharing technology to facilitate faster transfers between facilities.

Pediatric Subcommittee

Ms. Rodriguez presented Q2/Q3 data. Blood pressure monitoring dropped slightly in Q2, but Q3 was below the 80% benchmark at 75 percent. Blood pressure reassessment remains below our 80% benchmark (Q2 68% and Q3 57%), indicating opportunity exists.

Suicide Safety screening processes exceeded the 80% benchmark (Q2 84%, Q3 81%). Harm or Violence Safety Screenings data indicated opportunity in Q2 (78% with a benchmark of 80%), and exceeding the benchmark in Q3 at 84 percent. Dr. Tyroch questioned the low rate of structured suicide assessments for high-risk patients. Ms. Helgesen agreed to review the data reporting process.

Weight measurements in kilograms was slightly below the benchmark in Q2, but surpassed the benchmark in Q3 at 84 percent. Some have identified weighing both kilograms and pounds because their system automatically does both, even though their intent is kilograms only. Correction to this data collection will improve benchmark attainment.

EMS Committee

Chief Ortiz reported Q2/Q3 data indicates measurable progress in reduction by more than half of EMS hospital transfer times (inpatient from a hospital to other than another acute care facility). Discussion turned to delays in transfers from EDs and Ms. Helgesen suggested future work toward reviewing emergent transfers from freestanding/satellite EDs.

Chief Ortiz presented Q3 EMS *Code Heart/STEMI* activation data and STEMI cases, noting low field EKG submission rates below the 95% benchmark at 75% and *Cardiac Event Field Activation* below the 60% benchmark at 58.33 percent. Ms. Helgesen noted BorderRAC and the committee will review the data to ascertain why the decreased number of EKGs in the field.

Chief Ortiz suggested reviewing the data as to age groups and targeting education concerning calling 911 vs. transporting themselves to improve patient outcomes.

The stroke assessment and severity scores were reviewed. The 2023 data indicated a very low number of documented stroke assessments with a higher level of Stroke Severity Scores, whereas 2024 data showed approximately 30% documentation of both. Chief Ortiz noted that going into 2025, EPFD made those required fields so the record cannot be closed until the assessment and severity score have been added if stroke was the primary impression.

Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee

Ms. Helgesen reported regarding EM resource preferences, announcing changes to the MCI notifications, which will be restricted to authorized personnel. She explained this is following recent incidents where information was leaked to news stations.

The NICU TTX exercise that took place in November went well and had good participation.

Mr. Muro outlined plans for two exercises late in Q1: a C-suite exercise scheduled testing facility ICS command center implementation and a low notice mass casualty exercise.

Additionally, the committee is still working to bring HAZWOPER training to El Paso.

Mr. Muro addressed the need to replace aging repeaters (22 years old) in Hudspeth and Culberson (Eagle Peak, Junction and Culberson) counties, with Border RAC seeking approximately \$53,000 in grant funding through the Council of Governments. Mr. Olson reported successful submission of the Firehouse grant application.

EMTF

Mr. Zate discussed the upcoming Bataan Memorial Death March on March 21, 2026, at White Sands Missile Range. BorderRAC and EMTF will support WSMR again with a mobile medical unit. The event, which honors World War II veterans, includes a full marathon and an honorary marathon, with EMTF providing medical care at the finish line.

Mr. Zate reported there is a staffing shortage due to the World Cup and F1 Grand Prix causing the Dallas area EMTF to withdraw from assisting with Bataan this year. Ms. Helgesen requested interested volunteers, including doctors, nurses, and EMS personnel, contact BorderRAC to volunteer for the event.

Perinatal Committee

Ms. Helgesen reported for Ms. Gonzalez, who was unavailable today. Q2/Q3 data was reviewed.

Data indicated percentage of NICU patients discharged on exclusive breastfeeding, as statewide effort, with a benchmark of 25 percent. Q1 was 27% (above the 25% benchmark), Q2 decreased to 10%, and Q3 to 9%.

NICU patients that received antibiotic in 60 minutes from birth the Q2 data showed 62%, Q3 the percentage decreased to 57%. Ms. Helgesen reported a benchmark has not yet been set for this element.

NICU transfers to a higher level of care was Q2-2% and Q3-3%, with the primary reason being surgical GI. Those transferred out of El Paso to a higher level of care were Q2 at 20% and Q3 at 17%, with the primary reason being cardiology, however, there is some question regarding those that were transferred out because of medical management vs. the surgical. The committee will try to obtain further information on those patients.

Maternal is collecting data regarding postpartum hemorrhages. Q2 data indicated 4%, Q3 increased to 10% and we are uncertain for the reason.

The Maternal members have begun reviewing postpartum depression screening. Q2 data showed 71% were screened and Q3 showed 79% were screened with a benchmark of eighty percent. The referred percentages were very low at 2% and 1.70 percent respectively. The committee will discuss the number of patients referred compared to those screened.

Prevention Committee

Ms. Acosta thanked BorderRAC for the support in the lighting of the star on the mountain for *National Injury Prevention Day*, November 18, 2025.

The November, December, and January spotlights were reviewed and included posts regarding:

November

- Injury Prevention
- Thanksgiving Reminders
- Know your Risks
- Diabetes and High Blood Pressure Information

December

- Holiday Decorations and Fire Safety
- Christmas Trees and Holiday Gift Ideas
- Holiday Parties and Keeping the Spirit

January

- *Winter Safety*
- *Winter Special Population Considerations*
- *Human Trafficking Awareness*

System Performance Improvement Committee

Dr. Tyroch presented data on patient transfers in Texas trauma centers. Eighty-three percent of trauma centers are Level 3 or 4, which manage 41% of all trauma patients. He noted concerning trends in transfer delays, with 78% of severely injured patients taking more than two hours to be transferred, particularly affecting geriatric patients at 87% and those aged 15-64 at 67 percent. This issue has reached multiple levels of leadership and work is being done to address it, including monitoring requirements and communication between trauma centers.

Ms. Helgesen explained their process of collecting data from registries and facility forms to identify and categorize transfer delays. Dr. Tyroch emphasized the importance of reviewing these delays both internally and regionally, and recommended that every trauma center include this as a standing item on their trauma PI committee.

ED Overload stats were discussed. Dr. Tyroch reported he has concerns regarding the *Overload Status* of facilities recently. He suggested the committee reassess emergency department overload metrics and resource allocation.

The discussion turned to the Whole Blood initiative, which is being addressed by the GETAC Prehospital Whole Blood Task Force that meets weekly. We are pending regional contracts from DSHS. Once those are received we can move forward with EMS and hospital MOUs with BorderRAC as well as equipment purchases and other contract requirements.

Dr. Tyroch noted the importance of using whole blood for various patient needs, not solely for trauma patients.

Upcoming GETAC meetings in March were mentioned, as well as the potential for using Pulsara to share images for burn patients and other conditions across the state. Lastly, Dr. Tyroch mentioned the extension of the uncompensated care application deadline to March 6, 2026.

Physician's Advisory Group

There was nothing in this category for discussion today.

Professional Education Subcommittee

Ms. Jaime reported the majority of Q3 was spent preparing for BorderRAC's three-year re-accreditation for providing professional education for nurses. So fewer live activities were offered. The Texas EMS Jurisprudence Exam was updated and we are working on activities regarding burns, ECMO, and launching the pre-hospital agency whole blood initiative.

BorderRAC had notable collaborations with El Paso County Medical Society, Texas Tech, and Border Health Caucus for the TMA. UTEP, The Meadows Institute, El Paso Water, Public Health and the El Paso Center for Diabetes.

BorderRAC's EMS CE Providership review is coming up in February.

BorderRAC continues monitoring our data benchmarks, to ensure we are meeting the learner's needs and closing practice gaps that have been identified or trended through our clinical committees.

Ms. Helgesen announced BorderRAC Accreditation with Distinction for the nursing professional development program. She recognized Ms. Jaime for her hard work on the BorderRAC self-assessment. Dr. Tyroch also congratulated BorderRAC.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no discussion in this category at today's meeting.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Ms. Helgesen provided an update on the recent water main break, detailing BorderRAC response efforts and coordination with various healthcare facilities and public health partners.

Also discussed was the future meeting format, with plans to explore hybrid options to accommodate both in-person and online participants.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS –Wednesday, April 8, 1000 hours.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1131 hours.

/scs