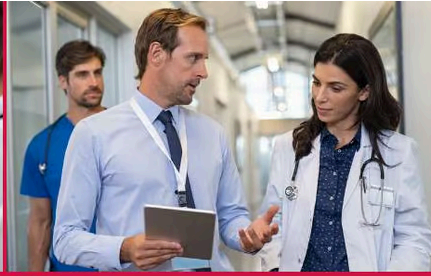
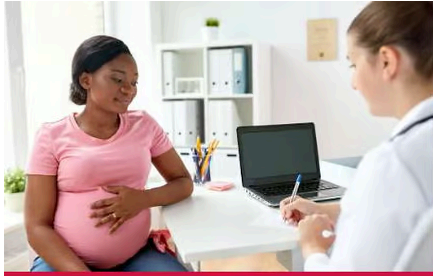


Surveys

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Texas Perinatal Services
A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

NEWSLETTER

April 2025

TETAF
CEO CORNER



The Perinatal Post



Jessica Phillips, MAS,
BSN, RNC-OB, C-
EFM, C-ONQS

Perinatal Program
Director



Springing Into Action

It was five years ago this month that TETAF and Texas Perinatal Services developed its TETAF COVID-19 Safety Plan. While the verification surveys briefly paused during that month, our team sprang into action to determine the safest way for continuing surveys and ensuring quality care measures were in place during one of the most critical times in health care. I am grateful for what we learned, that we are stronger as a result, and that our world is no longer in that crisis. We are busy with surveys and other activities, as usual, and I will gladly take the "normal" busy time.

As you are likely aware, the 89th Texas Legislature is more than half way through the regular session. TETAF has provided written and oral testimony on House Bill (HB) 37 and Senate Bill (SB) 1233, in addition to monitoring activity on dozens of other bills. I appreciate Jessica Phillips, MAS, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services perinatal program director, and Natalie Frost, M.D., FAAP, an Austin-based neonatologist, for each giving a full day, patiently waiting to provide expert testimony at the Capitol. I was there with both of them on different days and they provided remarkable testimony.

As we continue to advocate for world class perinatal care, it is

Happy April to all of you! I recently returned from the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) convention planning meeting. The [AWHONN Convention](#) is June 21-25.

Speaking of AWHONN, the AWHONN Texas Section has applications open for its chair, secretary, and treasurer. If you have been involved with the state section and feel a passion to lead, I can share the application details with you.

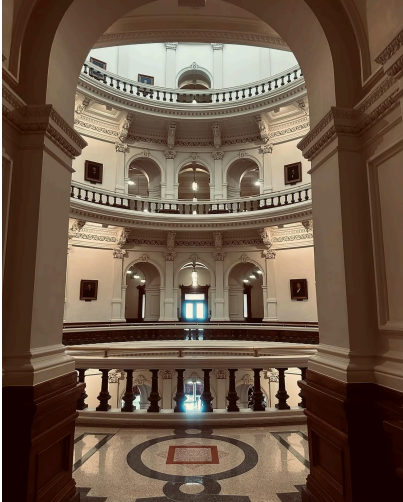
I encourage all of you to get involved with organizations like AWHONN or the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN). There is always something to learn and take

an honor to share the work that all of you do. I am grateful for your dedication to caring for patients.

away from their meetings and conferences.

All the best,
Dinah

If you ever have questions, please [reach out to me](#) or [Jorge](#). We are always glad to help!



89th Legislative Session Update

The 89th Texas Legislative Session is more than halfway complete. This week, the House passed Senate Bill (SB) 1, the budget bill, out of the House Appropriations Committee. Included in the budget were continued funding for trauma with an ongoing focus on rural health and funding for maternal mortality and morbidity. The Senate passed SB 1 last week and now the House will take up the bill on the floor next week.

TETAF Advocacy Committee and team remain focused on the TETAF Legislative Priorities and they are also focused on a number of other important legislative items, including:

- During the 88th Legislative Session, the Senate appropriated funds for a \$50 million Rural Hospital Grant Program. Last month, the House adopted an addition of "trauma, maternal, and neonatal designation-related expenses" as a category of expense for the Rural Hospital Grant Program. This is a result of a rider that TETAF submitted and Rep. Donna Howard (D-Austin) filed.
- [HB 37](#) (Rep. Mihaela Plesa, D-Plano) Rep. Plesa filed a committee substitute to HB 37, now titled "relating to perinatal bereavement care provided by certain hospitals, a perinatal bereavement care initiative, and a perinatal bereavement care hospital recognition program." TETAF met with Rep. Plesa and other legislative leaders to discuss the legislation to ensure it is not overly burdensome to maternal facilities while recognizing the good intent Rep. Plesa has in ensuring that all maternal facilities have access to a perinatal palliative care cooling device and bereavement care. It is intended that grant dollars would be made available so that hospitals could receive the perinatal palliative care cooling device and additional bereavement care education. On March 25, Jessica Phillips, perinatal program director for TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services, testified during the House Public Health Committee hearing. The bill is pending in the committee.
- [SB 1233](#) (Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills)/[HB 2684](#) (Rep. Valoree Swanson, R-Spring) This bill is relating to information regarding perinatal palliative care; creating an administrative penalty. TETAF met with Sen. Hancock's staff to express concerns and recommended using the term "fetus" instead of "preborn child" and discussed that the term "life threatening disability" would not be inclusive of all conditions. TETAF will continue to work with Sen. Hancock and Rep. Swanson to discuss concerns.

TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services continue to hold its Legislative Work Group meetings to update stakeholders on legislative activity. The next meeting is **Friday, April 4 at 9:30 a.m. CDT**. If you would like to attend, [register here](#).

Texas Perinatal News



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

Perinatal Advisory Council Names New Chair and Vice Chair

During the March Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) meeting, Dr. David Nelson was named the new chair and Dr. David Lam was named the new vice chair. Dr. Nelson is a maternal fetal medicine physician in Dallas and Dr. Lam is a neonatologist in San Antonio.

The next PAC meeting is set for June 6 at 9:00 a.m. CDT.



Sent to: emoore@tetaf.org

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