



NEWSLETTER

January 2025



A Year of New Possibilities

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday. With each new year, it feels like an exciting beginning of another chapter for TETAF and Texas Perinatal Services.

This year will be a bit unique with the TETAF Board of Directors as we have 19 members. I would like to welcome Dr. Christopher Joyal and Dr. Elizabeth Scherer to our board. Some of you may be familiar with Dr. Joyal who is a neonatal surveyor for Texas Perinatal Services and the neonatal program manager at Driscoll Children's Hospital. I would also like to congratulate Bill Bonny on being elected (Originally appointed to fulfill the remainder of a term.) and Dr. Dan Little and Rhonda Manor-Coombes on being re-elected to the board. Danny Updike and Scott Christopher have one year remaining on their officer terms and will remain on the board in those roles. It is a tremendous blessing for TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services to have so many

The Perinatal Post



Jessica Phillips, MAS,
BSN, RNC-OB, C-
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Perinatal Program
Director



Happy New Year to all of you!

This will be a year of less travel for me with fewer surveys due to the survey cycle, but it is a great opportunity to learn and advocate. I will provide more educational opportunities in our [Mighty Networks](#) group. If your hospital surveys with us for your maternal or neonatal designation, I encourage you to join.

I plan to attend the [Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies](#)

remarkable leaders serve on our board. I look forward to what we can accomplish.

This will undoubtedly be another busy year with the 89th Texas Legislature convening. The TETAF Advocacy Committee has met regularly in preparation and will focus on the [TETAF Legislative Priorities](#), along with any other related needs as we monitor bills that are filed. I encourage any of you who would like to be part of the advocacy process to join our [TETAF Legislative Workgroup](#). We meet virtually during the legislative session to share updates and how you can help advocate.

I am excited about the year ahead and what we have the opportunity to do together to ensure Texas has world class maternal and neonatal health care systems. I wish health and blessings for all of you in 2025.

All the best,

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[\(TCHMB\) Summit](#) and the [AWHONN Convention](#), which are both in June, I'm also planning to attend the [NANN Conference](#) in September. If any of you are attending these events, please let me know and I would love to connect with you.

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



TETAF Welcomes New and Returning Board Members

During the annual meeting of the TETAF General Assembly in December, five individuals were elected to the [TETAF Board of Directors](#) with terms to expire in 2027. The General Assembly voted from a slate of six nominees with the five highest votes elected to the TETAF Board of Directors.

The individuals elected to the Board of Directors are:

- **Bill Bonny, BA, LP** - Division Chief of EMS at Prosper Fire Rescue, RAC E
- **Christopher Joyal, DNP, MSN Ed., RN, CPN** - Neonatal Program Manager at Driscoll Children's Hospital, RAC U
- **Dan Little, M.D.** - Chief of Pediatric Surgery at McLane Children's Medical Center, RAC L
- **Rhonda Manor-Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN** - Trauma Program Manager at Baylor Scott & White - Lakeway, RAC O
- **Elizabeth Scherer, M.D., MPH, FACS** - Trauma Surgeon and Medical Director at UT Health San Antonio, RAC P

TETAF would like to thank all nominees for their interest in serving on the Board of Directors.

The first quarterly meeting of the TETAF Board of Directors will be the first week of March in conjunction with the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meetings. Further details will be shared in our February newsletter.



Join the TETAF Legislative Work Group

The 89th Texas Legislative Session begins on January 14. TETAF will once again host virtual meetings every other week to provide legislative updates and ways you can help advocate. If you would like to be part of the advocacy process, please click the link below to sign up and receive notifications for meeting dates and times.

[Sign Up for the TETAF
Legislative Work Group](#)

Texas Perinatal News

Perinatal Advisory Council Sets 2025 Meeting Dates

During the December 12 meeting, the Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) announced the meeting dates for this year. The PAC will meet on the following dates:

- Thursday, March 26
- Friday, June 6
- Thursday, September 4
- Wednesday, December 17

The PAC meets in the John H. Winters building located at 701 West 51st Street in Austin and streams the meetings on the [PAC webpage](#).

[Learn More](#)

National Perinatal News

January 23 is Maternal Health Awareness Day

January 23 is designated as Maternal Health Awareness Day. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of and advocate for the support and health needs for expecting mothers. This year's theme is, "Know What's at Stake."



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Texas Perinatal Services

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