



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

ISSUE #6



*Championing Care and
Strengthening
Preparedness*

WHO WE ARE

To reduce death/disability related to trauma, disaster and acute illness, through implementation of appropriate education and a well-planned, coordinated disaster and emergency response system.

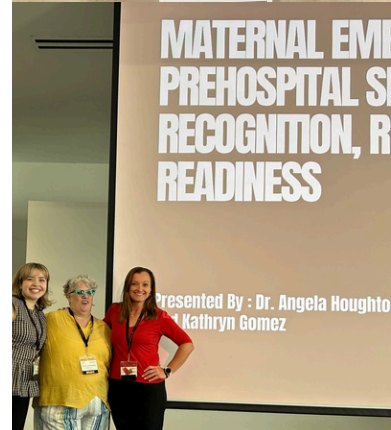


LETTER FROM CBRAC DIVISION DIRECTOR OF RAC SYSTEMS OF CARE

Good morning, CBRAC members,
Please see Volume 6 of the CBRAC Regional Newsletter – and Happy EMS Week!
With Nurses Week just behind us, this month serves as an important reminder to celebrate the many men and women who sacrifice so much to provide critical care and support to our communities every day.
Our regional collective has been incredibly busy this year, and time is flying by. We continue working toward bringing Corpus Christi Fire Department, Tri-County EMS, Refugio EMS, and Kingsville EMS online with Prehospital Whole Blood programs this year. Earlier this month, our regional HPP partners participated in the CBRAC Full-Scale Exercise, helping test and strengthen our healthcare system’s coordination and surge capabilities. We are also preparing for the regional launch of TXFNE within the CBRAC region on June 14th, along with continuous outreach and community event planning, and advancing committee-driven initiatives focused on improving patient outcomes across Trauma Service Area-U.
Thank you all for your continued collaboration, dedication, and commitment to strengthening healthcare throughout the Coastal Bend!

February, March, April and May Updates

Throughout February, March, April, and May, CBRAC members have remained actively engaged in regional education, preparedness, and system improvement initiatives across Trauma Service Area-U. Corpus Christi Medical Center (CCMC), HALO-Flight, and CBRAC presented at Education by the Sea, where topics included employee retention strategies (HALO) and maternal emergencies in the prehospital setting (CBRAC & CCMC). CBRAC members also provided STOP THE BLEED instruction during the Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference, helping educate community members and conference attendees on lifesaving hemorrhage control techniques. In addition, CBRAC members participated in the TXX @ Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference, which focused on regional recovery efforts and coordination following hurricane incidents. Earlier this month, CBRAC coordinated a regional Medical Readiness Surge Full-Scale Exercise based on a simulated incident involving an 18-wheeler crashing into a crowd at The Post OG music venue in Orange Grove, testing regional coordination, hospital surge capacity, and emergency response capabilities. CBRAC also finalized and printed the FY25 Annual Report, highlighting the accomplishments, partnerships, and ongoing initiatives of our members throughout the region. Copies will be distributed at upcoming meetings and are currently available for pickup. View our annual report [HERE!](#)



Provider Spotlight



CCMC Leading the Way for Regional PHWB Rotational Sites!

In March 2026, Corpus Christi Medical Center (CCMC) became a rotational site for the CBRAC Regional Pre-Hospital Whole Blood (PHWB). Through the Texas Whole Blood Pilot Program, CBRAC funds the whole blood units utilized by participating EMS agencies. EMS agencies carry the units in the field for up to 21 days, and if unused, the units are then rotated to CCMC at no cost to the hospital system for continued patient care utilization at either Bay Area or Doctors Regional for the remainder of the 36-day shelf life. Since March, CCMC has successfully accepted and utilized 18 units of whole blood through the rotation process, representing approximately **\$12,150** in blood product value. This collaborative regional model not only helps sustain prehospital whole blood availability for EMS providers across the Coastal Bend, but also supports hospital utilization for trauma, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, obstetric hemorrhage, and other critical bleeding emergencies. Most notably, this coordinated regional stewardship effort has helped bring regional prehospital whole blood wastage down to 0%, demonstrating the impact of strong collaboration between EMS agencies, hospitals, the Coastal Bend Blood Center, and CBRAC partners. The rotation process continues to strengthen regional stewardship of blood resources, reduce waste, and expand access to lifesaving blood products across the continuum of care.

Education Spotlight

Why Timing Matters for Prehospital Interventions

0200 hours.

The station finally goes quiet. Boots are off. Radios are turned down. Just seven hours into the shift, you've already encountered your district's favorite frequent flyer, activated a trauma alert, and helped lift a grandmother from her commode. The last chart is signed. You settle into the bunk.

Then the tones drop.

"MEDIC 3... DELTA MEDICAL... TROUBLE BREATHING."

Four minutes later, you are standing in a living room with a patient sitting upright, elbows on knees, working hard to breathe. You hear inspiratory and expiratory wheezing. A bronchodilator is started. Air movement improves slightly. The monitor looks reassuring. The hospital is only a few minutes away. The thought comes easily and feels reasonable: they'll get steroids in the ED. Except, they don't. Not quickly. By the time the medication is ordered, prepared, and administered, more than 45 minutes have passed since first patient contact. What could have been started in the field within minutes is delayed by crowding, boarding, and throughput strain. This scenario illustrates a common but underappreciated gap in acute care delivery.

[READ THE REST HERE!](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS



**TEXAS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
THE CONFERENCE**
★ 2026 ★

FORT WORTH, TEXAS
MAY 26-29, 2026
TRAINING - NETWORKING - INNOVATING

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

FY26 Q3
Meetings

June 2-5

[DoubleTree by Hilton Austin](#), 6505 N Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78752.

[VIRTUAL OPTION - MORE INFO HERE!](#)



TEXAS EMS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 22-25, 2026 | FORT WORTH CONVENTION CENTER |
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

REMINDER!

As part of a regional initiative to expand access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.) services across the CBRAC region, CBRAC has partnered with Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (TXFNE) to implement a response model similar to the one currently utilized by STRAC. The program is scheduled to officially launch on June 14th. This initiative means that any hospital within the CBRAC region will now be able to contact MEDCOM dispatch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to request a forensic nurse response directly to their facility. This marks a monumental step forward for our region in ensuring patients have timely and equitable access to trauma-informed care, forensic services, advocacy resources, and support close to home.

Through this collaboration, CBRAC continues working to strengthen regional systems of care and improve access to critical services for all communities within Trauma Service Area-U.



Continuing Education Opportunities



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

DSHS GRAND ROUNDS
Education



Driscoll Health System Grand
Rounds Lecture Series



EIIC
EMSC Innovation and
Improvement Center

Texas Pediatric Readiness
Education Series



Emory Serious communicable
Diseases Program

RESOURCES & TOOLS

[GETAC MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[PEDIATRIC READINESS IN THE ED CHECKLIST](#)

[CBRAC HOSPITAL SELECTION](#)

[AND FIELD TRIAGE GUIDE](#)

NEW

[AI COMES FOR EMS](#)
[EMS HUMAN TRAFFICKING CE](#)
[COURSE LIST](#)

[CBRAC REGIONAL TRAUMA AND](#)
[EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS PLAN](#)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

DSHS SURVEY DESIGNATION MEETINGS

Statewide Trauma Designation Meetings

Texas trauma designation program staff are invited to attend our monthly meeting in collaboration with the department and peers throughout the state. Share ideas and best practices to improve patient outcomes for Texans.

[LINK TO 2026 MEETING LIST](#)

Statewide Stroke Designation Meeting

Texas stroke facility designation program staff are invited to attend our monthly meeting in collaboration with the department and peers throughout the state. Share ideas and best practices to improve patient outcomes for Texans.

[LINK TO 2026 MEETING LIST](#)

Statewide Perinatal Designation Meetings

Perinatal Designation Meetings
Texas maternal and neonatal levels of care designation program staff are invited to attend our monthly meeting in collaboration with the department and peers throughout the state. Share ideas and best practices to improve patient outcomes for Texans.

[LINK TO 2026 MEETING LIST](#)

2026



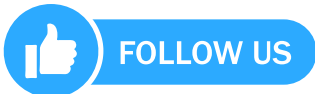
COASTAL BEND Regional Advisory Council

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 CBRAC OG FSE
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 CBRAC PCR MEETING 1200-0100 @DCH-HYBRID	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 CBRAC WB MTG 1100-1200 @CCBC-HYBRID PEDI COMM MTG @1PM @DCH - HYBRID	22	23
-----EMS WEEK-----						
24	25	26	27 CBRAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 0930-1130 *HYBRID*	28 CBRAC TRAUMA OUTCOMES *VIRTUAL* 0930-1030	29	30

COASTAL BEND COG REGIONAL TRAINING CALENDAR !

IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR FEEDBACK, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO KATHRYN GOMEZ, WHO PREPARED THIS NEWSLETTER.



**KATHRYN
GOMEZ**
Division Director of RAC
Systems of Care

- (956) 357-0249
- (361) 929-5401 ext. 1002
- kathryn.gomez@cbrac.org
- 1305 N Shoreline Blvd CC, TX 78401
- cbrac.org



Key legislation and effective dates:

- **HB 33: Multi-Agency Response Planning**
Requires emergency services and school officials to plan and conduct joint exercises for school shooting scenarios. **Effective:** September 1, 2025
- **HB 742: Human Trafficking Education**
Requires specific education on human trafficking for all EMS personnel. **Effective:** September 1, 2025
- **HB 149: AI Transparency in Healthcare**
EMS Providers must develop a formal plan to notify patients when artificial intelligence (AI) is utilized in their care. **Effective:** January 1, 2026
- **SB 1021: Certification Standards**
A conviction of stalking (on or after Sept. 1, 2025) now serves as a disqualifier for EMS certification. **Effective:** September 1, 2025

- **HB 35: First Responder Peer Support Network**
Establishes a confidential, statewide peer support network for firefighters and EMS personnel. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is developing the program, with full details expected in March of 2026. **Effective:** September 1, 2025

Rulemaking & Next Steps

The following rules in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) are currently under development with a target adoption date of August 2026.

Impacted Sections: §§157.11, 157.32, 157.33, 157.34, 157.36, and 157.37.

Stakeholder Engagement: Informational webinars will be held in early 2026.

Public Comment: The official public comment period will open April 2026.

NEUROSENSE



- NeuroHawk™ Military**
Field Assessment for military use
In development
- NeuroHawk™ ED/EMS**
Rapid triage and assessment for emergency departments and ambulance use
In development
- NeuSTAT™**
Continuous Hospital Monitoring
Clinical trials have begun for submission to the FDA to obtain clearance for commercial launch. Hope to receive clearance by the end of 2024.

In just 2.5 seconds, our devices scan the entire cranial vault

Nine antennae alternate transmitting and receiving a safe, low-power radio frequency (RF) pulse across the patient's brain. Healthy brain tissues have unique electrical properties that alter the RF wave as it passes through the tissue. Similarly, hemorrhages and ischemic tissue cause distinctive changes to the RF signal.

BUTTERFLYBVM



TECHPOINT MIRA AWARDS
**BEST OF TECH
WINNER 2024**

butterflybvm™

butterflybvm™



Coastal Bend Location List

Program Launching
6/14/2026

Aransas County:

CCMC- ER 24/7
Rockport
400 Enterprise Blvd.
Rockport, TX 78383

Bee County:

Christus Spohn- Beeville
1500 E. Houston St.
Beeville, TX 78102

Jim Wells County:

Christus Spohn- Alice
2500 E. Main St.
Alice, TX 78332

Nueces County:

CCMC-BayArea Hospital
7101 S. Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

CCMC-Doctors Regional Hospital

3315 S. Alameda St.
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

CCMC- ER 24/7 Northwest

13725 Northwest Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78410

Christus Spohn- Shoreline

600 Elizabeth St.
Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Christus Spohn - South

5950 Saratoga Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78414

Clinic Location:

Please call for clinic location.

Kleberg County:

Christus Spohn- Kleberg
1311 E. General Cavazos Blvd.
Kingsville, TX 78363

San Patricio County:

CCMC- ER 24/7 Portland
1702 Us-181 N Suite A-11
Portland, TX 78374

Refugio County:

Refugio County Memorial
Hospital
107 Swift St.
Refugio, TX 78377

MedCom Dispatch Number
(24/7) - 210-233-2970

Program launching
6/14/2026

1

Who is TXFNE?

The Forensic Center of Excellence: TXFNE is a community-based forensic nursing program that provides medical forensic exams for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and child/elder abuse.

2

When to Call TXFNE

TXFNE cares for victims of violence of all ages. TXFNE is able to perform acute & non-acute exams and conduct exams for both report and non-report patients.

3

How to Call Us

To contact a TXFNE forensic nurse, call MedCom at 210-233-2970. They will obtain basic patient information and dispatch out a nurse to your facility.

4

TXFNE Response

The TXFNE nurse will be at your location in 90 minutes or less to conduct the forensic exam for the patient.

5

Hand-Off

Once the nurse is done with the exam they will give hand-off to the medical staff at the location.

6

Follow-Up Care

TXFNE will take their own labs to follow up with any positive results. TXFNE will ensure the patient is connected with needed community resources & follow-up care.

7

TXFNE Records

TXFNE will be the custodian of all medical forensic records. Patients, law enforcement, or other parties requesting records can email records@txfne.com.

8

Court Process

TXFNE forensic nurses will be responsible for testifying in the court setting for the medical forensic exam.



FORENSIC
CENTER of EXCELLENCE

**Program launching
6/14/2026**

The Forensic Center of Excellence: TxFNE is a community-based forensic nursing program that aims to close the gap for medical forensic exams for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and elder abuse throughout the CBRAC Region.

**DO YOU HAVE A PATIENT THAT HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF...
SEXUAL ASSAULT?
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?
HUMAN TRAFFICKING?
ELDER ABUSE?**

-Upon triage and within the hospital records, refrain from documenting the incident, as this can create conflicting statements

-Focus on the patient's medical assessment and issues requiring medical attention

-Place them in a quiet, private room

-**Contact TxFNE**, and assist with forensic triage, even if the patient is declining an exam, allow the forensic nurse to inform the patient of their options

-Patients can have a medical forensic exam without contacting law enforcement. TxFNE can assist with navigating this. If law enforcement arrives before TxFNE, please obtain the case number

-We would prefer if the patient does not eat or drink until seen by TxFNE. However, the patient's comfort is most important, please inform them that this may impact evidence that is collected, and allow them to make this choice

-If the patient needs to use the restroom, please instruct them not to wipe, have the patient collect a labeled urine sample and have them keep it in their possession in case we need it for toxicology testing



To contact a TxFNE Forensic Nurse, call 210-233-2970.

ALLEGIANCE MOBILE HEALTH - ALICE

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, May 19

9:00 am - 11:00 am

**Location: 601 East 3rd
Street**



Appointments are highly recommended, walk-ins welcome.

Scan the QR Code above or call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 to book your lifesaving appointment.
Donors will receive a Shirt & a Grimaldi's coupon. While supplies last. Photo ID needed.



Coastal Bend Blood Center
Giving so that others may live

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

BLOOD DRIVE

LIVE MUSIC at *Harley Davidson* **FOOD TRUCKS**

1PM-4PM

502 S PADRE ISLAND DR,
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78405

JULY 25TH, 2026



**YOUR DONATION CAN SAVE LIVES-
STARTING IN THE FIELD.**

TYPE O+?

**YOU'RE THE IDEAL DONOR FOR EMERGENCY WHOLE
BLOOD USE.**

NOT O+?

**WE STILL NEED YOU! YOUR BLOOD WILL SUPPORT
LOCAL PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES.**

American Sign Language (ASL) Emergency Communication Aid

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
				<p>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>NO PAIN MILD MODERATE SEVERE</p>						
W	X	Y	Z							

The best way to communicate with me is:

- Interpreter
- Texting
- Writing
- Lip-read
- I can't lip-read
- Assistive Listening Device

Help
Water
Emergency
Hospital

Hurt
Yes
No
Bathroom

Wi-Fi password
Video Relay Service Interpreter
DHHC
THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CENTER



Office Locations

DHHC-Corpus Christi
5151 McArdle Road
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

Office: (866) 993-1154
Office VP: (361) 288-8774

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:00AM - 5:00PM
Friday
9:00AM - 12:00PM
Saturday & Sunday
CLOSED

For Advocacy & Access Support:

Aliza Long

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Specialist
Email: dhaccess11a@hhs.texas.gov
Call/Text: (361) 593-6878
VP: (361) 356-4726

Felicia Cuellar

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Specialist
Email: dhaccess11b@hhs.texas.gov
Text: (361) 593-6873
VP: (956) 402-3132

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Specialist
Program Funded by
HHSC Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Communication Tips

How to communicate with the Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- > Keep in mind that Deaf people's communication preferences may depend on their age, education, mental and physical status, language fluency, vision, role in the conversation (presenter, participant, observer), residual hearing, other disability and even gender.
- > Do not assume an individual's most effective communication method.
- > Even if a Deaf person "speak well", this doesn't reflect their ability to hear.
- > Factors such as the nature of the conversation and duration should be considered.
- > Deaf-Blind individuals have different communication needs, as well. They have various degrees of vision; some can see shadows and lights, while others can only see specific parts of the environment.

Interaction Do's & Don't's

Calling the Deaf Person's Attention/First Contact

- > If you speak to a person who does not respond, consider that the individual may be Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- > Move into the person's field of vision and/or call the person's attention by gently waving or tapping that person's shoulder.
- > If entering a room without the individual's knowledge, flick the lights slowly a couple of time (quick flicking often indicates an emergency). However, if the individual is Deaf-Blind, do not do this, since it may cause adverse results.

Do:

- Face the Deaf individual and make eye contact. Speak at a normal pace.
- Do speak directly to the Deaf person (not the interpreter). Speak in 1st person.
- Allow time for information to be conveyed on both sides.

Don't:

- Yell, talk loudly, or mumble.
- Cover your mouth or speak while looking away or turning your back.
- Stand too close; visibility becomes a challenge at a closer ranger.
- Get frustrated.

Accommodation Tips

The Americans with Disabilities Act Title I, II, & III



Title I: Employment



Title II: State & Local Government



Title III: Public Accommodation

Provide options for the person requesting accommodations to choose the accommodations needed, such as the following:



Interpreters

American Sign Language, Pidgin Sign English, Oral, Pro Tactile, Tactile, Certified Deaf Interpreter



Captioned Media



Speech-to-Text Services

Communication Access Realtime Translation, C-Print, TypeWell, etc.



Note-Taking Services



Assistive Listening Systems

Loop, infrared, FM system, etc.



Other

Depending on the specific request.

Contact the Communication Department to request a qualified and/or certified Interpreter.

Communication Department

Office: (866) 993-1154 Opt 1

Email: commdept@deafhcenter.org