



COASTAL



BEND

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Photo Description:  
Corpus Christi Fire Department by  
Creigh Photography

CBRAC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization  
with headquarters located at  
1305 N Shoreline Blvd  
CC, TX 78401

This report has been prepared by Kathryn Gomez  
CBRAC's Division Director of RAC Systems of Care

If you would like to get involved or learn more, please reach out to us at  
[cbrac@cbrac.org](mailto:cbrac@cbrac.org).



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# Mission & Purpose



## OUR MISSION

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 Plan.

---

## OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization shall be to facilitate a coordinated and comprehensive regional trauma, disaster and emergency health care system.

[cbrac.org](http://cbrac.org)

# CBRAC Board of Directors



Jennifer Carr  
RN, MSN RN,  
CPEN, TCRN  
**CBRAC Chair**  
Regional Director  
of Trauma Systems  
CHRISTUS Spohn  
System



Randy Endsley  
BSN, CFRN, CEN, LP,  
CMTE  
**CBRAC Vice Chair**  
Chief Medical  
Officer  
HALO-Flight Inc.



Amy Vivion  
MSN, RN  
**CBRAC  
Secretary**  
Trauma & Stroke  
Program  
Coordinator  
CHRISTUS Spohn  
Kleberg



Stephanie  
Simmons, LP  
**CBRAC Treasurer**  
Pre-Hospital  
(small/medium)  
**Chair**  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Annville Fire Dept.



Angela Rhoden  
**Special  
Populations  
Chair**  
Director of  
Provider  
Relations  
Corpus Christi  
Medical Center



Patricia Carr  
PhD, RNC-NIC  
**Perinatal Chair**  
Assistant Chief  
Nursing  
Officer  
Driscoll Children's  
Hospital



Melissa Stuiwe  
L.P., M.E.D.  
**Professional  
Education  
Chair**  
Del Mar EMS  
Program Director  
Del Mar College

# New CBRAC Board Members



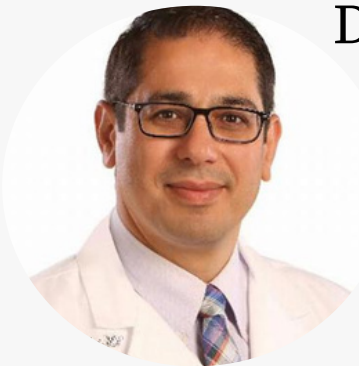
**Randy Mitten**  
RN  
**Cardiac Chair**  
Clinical  
Coordinator  
Cardiovascular  
Services  
**CHRISTUS Spohn**  
**System**  
(9.24-11.25)



**Andrew Cortez**  
**Pre-Hospital, LP**  
**Chair (large)**  
Batallion Chief  
Assistant EMS  
Director  
**Corpus Christi Fire**  
**Department**



**Amber**  
**Streatly, CPST-I**  
**Injury**  
**Prevention Chair**  
Injury Prevention  
Supervisor  
**Driscoll**  
**Children's**  
**Hospital**



**Dr. Ziad**  
**Darkhabani, MD**  
**Stroke Systems**  
**Chair**  
Stroke and  
Interventional  
Neurologist  
**Corpus Christi**  
**Medical Center**  
**Doctors Regional**  
(10.24-7.25)



**June Ness-**  
**Delgado, RN, BSN,**  
**MSN**  
**Trauma Systems**  
**Committee Chair**  
Director, Trauma  
Services  
**Corpus Christi**  
**Medical Center**



**Stephanie**  
**Roth**  
**Systems**  
**Performance**  
**Improvement**  
**Chair**  
Regional Vice  
President  
**Allegiance Mobile**  
**Health**  
(6.25-11.25)

# Messages from *Leadership*



**Hilary Watt**  
CEO, CFO  
Governmental Affairs



As we enter the new year, I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to each of our valued stakeholders for your continued collaboration, trust, and support.

This past year brought meaningful accomplishments and important progress, made possible through your partnership and the unwavering dedication of the CBRAC staff. Together, we strengthened the foundations of our regional systems of care and positioned ourselves for continued growth and impact. Your confidence in our mission and your shared commitment to improving patient outcomes across the Coastal Bend remain the driving forces behind all that we do. Our success is measured not only by milestones achieved, but by the strong relationships we cultivate, the communities we serve, and the positive, lasting difference we create together.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this shared journey with optimism, purpose, and a steadfast commitment to excellence. Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in CBRAC's mission.

*Hilary Watt*



**Jennifer Carr**

**CBRAC CHAIR**  
RN, MSN RN,  
CPEN, TCRN  
Regional Director  
of Trauma Systems  
at CHRISTUS Spohn



As Chair of the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council Board of Directors, it is my honor to reflect on another year of progress and collaboration across our region.

This year demonstrated the power of hospitals, EMS agencies, and regional partners working together toward a shared mission of improving patient outcomes. Across our systems of care including trauma, stroke, cardiac, perinatal, pediatric, injury prevention, and preparedness we saw meaningful advancements driven by dedication and teamwork.

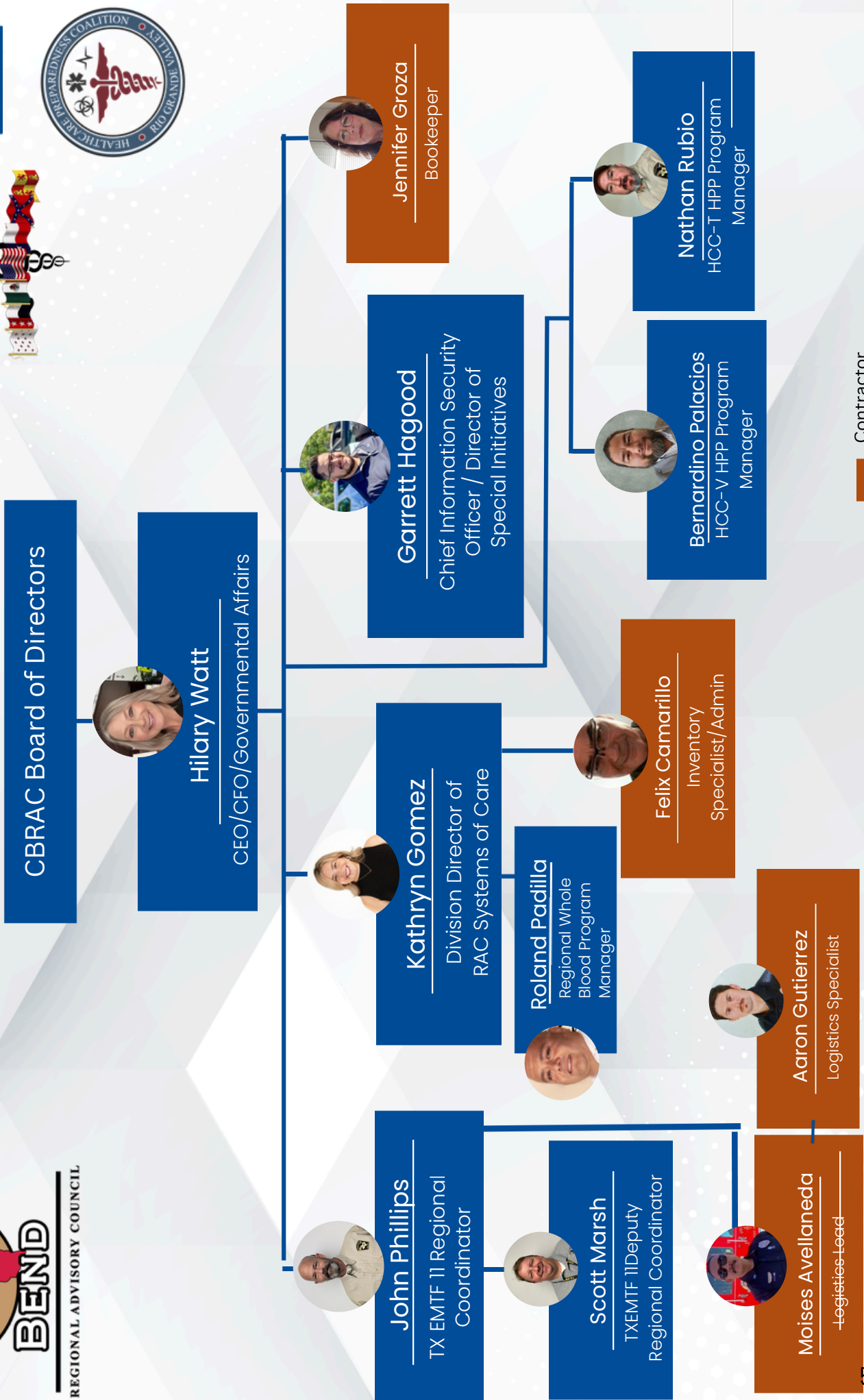
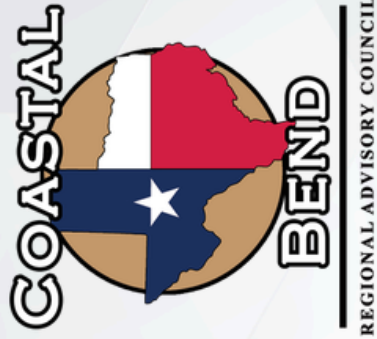
I extend my sincere appreciation to our CBRAC staff, committee leaders, and all professionals who contribute their time and expertise. Your commitment continues to strengthen the Coastal Bend as a leader in healthcare excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your partnership and continued support. We look forward to another year of growth and strengthened systems of care throughout the CBRAC region.

*Jennifer Carr*

# COASTAL BEND REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Contractor

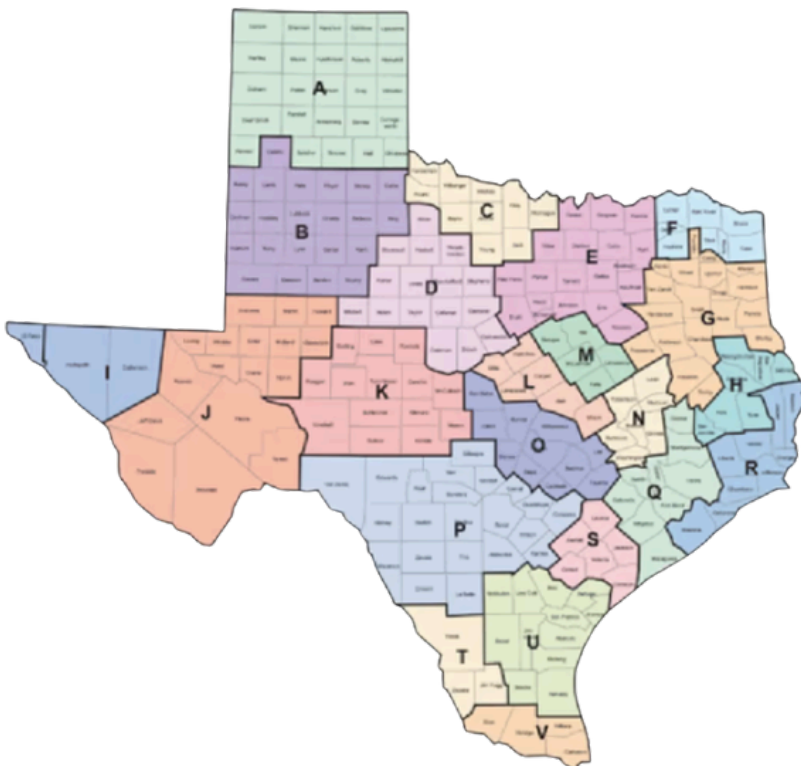
# WHO WE ARE

The Organization is a recognized Regional Advisory Council (RAC) for the area designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) as Trauma Service Area U (TSA-U), and operates in accordance with the Texas Trauma Rules (Title 25, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 157). All definitions are consistent with those set forth by DSHS.

A RAC is a formal organization recognized by DSHS to develop, implement, and maintain a regional emergency medical services and trauma system plan. RACs support trauma system coordination, system performance improvement, emergency preparedness, and other regional healthcare initiatives. In addition to trauma system responsibilities, RACs may facilitate broader regional healthcare system coordination in alignment with DSHS guidance.

**TSA-U is defined as the Trauma Service Area designated by DSHS and currently includes the following Texas counties:**

Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio.



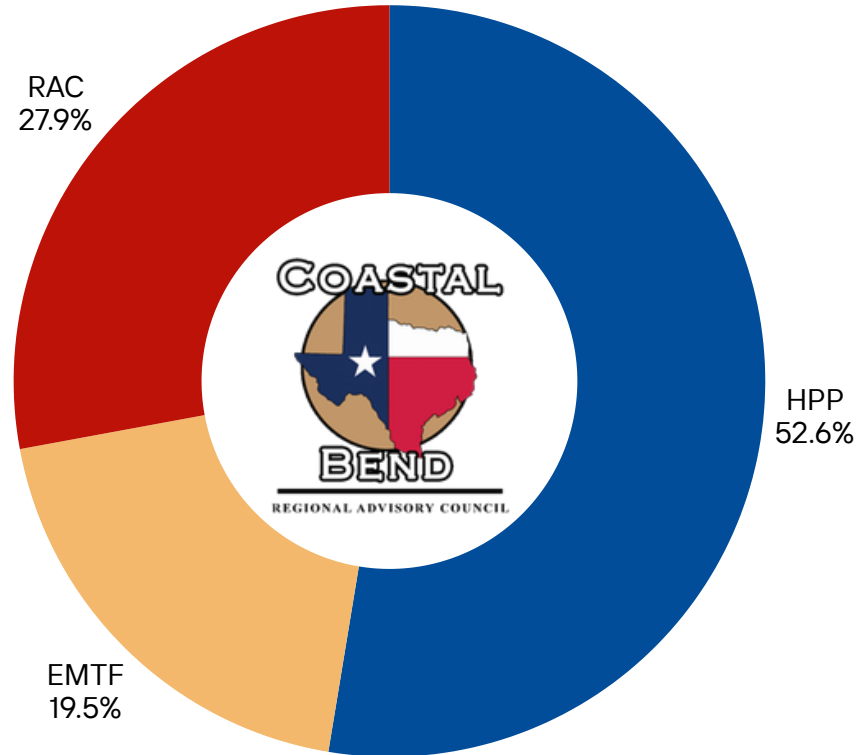
# ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

**The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)** provides leadership and funding through grants and cooperative agreements to improve surge capacity and enhance community and hospital preparedness for public health emergencies. The program is managed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, (ASPR), and directly monitored by Department of State Health Services (DSHS) which provides programmatic oversight and works with its partners such as the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council (CBRAC) to ensure that the program's goals are met or exceeded. Through a contract with the CBRAC, this funding is used to support each TSA's healthcare coalition and its members to help strengthen public health emergency preparedness in several ways. CBRAC's Hospital Preparedness Program covers three Trauma Service Areas: TSA-U, TSA-V, and TSA-T.

**The Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (TX EMTF)** is a series of components capable of activating resources on behalf of Texas on a state mission that provides a custom, scalable approach to medical disaster response. The key to the program is the ability to activate our members from EMS & fire departments, public and private healthcare organizations, regional coalitions, & state and local governments who provide personnel & assets that activate during disasters. CBRAC currently oversees EMTF Region 11, which includes 18 counties within Corpus, Laredo, and the Rio Grande Valley.



# FY25 Grants Financial & Funding Overview



## Regional Advisory Council (RAC)

EMS/CO \$190,445

EMS RAC EI \$150,000

EMS RAC \$80,508

RAC SYS DEV \$77,114

## Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)

EMTF \$131,736

HCC-V \$510,743

HCC-T \$164,669

HCC-U \$264,753

EMTF GR \$236,111

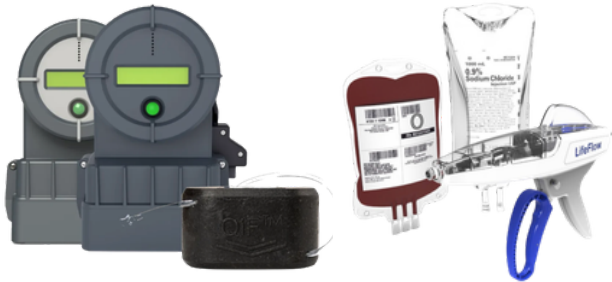
# EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS EXPENDITURES

September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025

## HIGHLIGHT PURCHASES

PORT A EMS WB  
Equipment

**\$16k+**



Wristbands for  
Perinatal and Stop The  
Bleed Initiatives

**\$2K+**



**\$3K+**

PALS, ALS, PHTLS and  
Hospital Data  
Management Course

**\$500**

Printing of  
more CISM  
brochures for  
community  
events

Coastal Bend  
Regional  
CISM TEAM

C-CRITICAL  
I-INCIDENT  
S-STRESS  
M-MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by CBAC.org

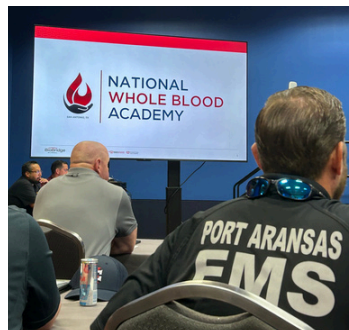


Scan to activate our team.



Shattered Dreams  
Team T-Shirts

**\$1K+**



**\$1.5K+**

Whole Blood Academy  
Mileage, Lodging  
& Per Diem



**\$2.5K+**

TXEMS Wristbands

# Injury Prevention Committee

## Child Passenger Safety Technician Training



The CBRAC Injury Prevention Committee hosted two Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) training classes this year.



There are currently a total of 62 certified CPSTs serving across the following counties: 3 in Aransas, 1 in Bee, 3 in Jim Wells, 1 in Karnes, 1 in Kleberg, 3 in Live Oak, 38 in Nueces, and 12 in San Patricio County.

## Stop the Bleed

Another key initiative of our CBRAC Regional Injury Prevention Committee is Stop the Bleed. Local partners use CBRAC-purchased Stop the Bleed training equipment to visit schools, businesses, and other community settings to teach life-saving techniques. The committee is also part of the statewide Stop the Bleed coalition. During FY2025 (September 1 – August 31), a total of **34** Stop the Bleed classes were taught. As part of this initiative, CBRAC purchased wristbands and stickers that are provided to participants after training, with the messages: "Stop the Bleed" and "I learned how to save a life!" to reinforce the skills they have learned.





# SAVE A LIFE PUT CHILDREN FIRST

The CBRAC Injury Prevention Committee carried out the inaugural “Save a Life: Put Children First” event, which focused on educating the public and providing tools and resources around hot car death awareness and prevention. This initiative was launched after a tragic reminder of the issue, as 2 of the 3 pediatric hot car deaths in Texas in 2024 occurred in our region. By bringing awareness and resources directly to the community, the committee is working to prevent future tragedies and keep children safe. This will be an annual event moving forward.



# Injury Prevention Committee

## Texas A&M Kingsville Hot Car Awareness Event

To support the regional Save a Life: Put Children First initiative, Texas A&M University–Kingsville (TAMUK) hosted a coordinated Hot Car Awareness event on campus, helping extend education beyond the Cole Park gathering. The effort was organized by Dr. Randolph Creel, Executive Director of Risk Management & Rural Economic Development Strategy, to expand regional messaging on child safety and hot car prevention. CBRAC Injury Prevention Committee members were in attendance, providing education and unified messaging. This collaboration strengthens CBRAC’s regional injury-prevention mission and broadens community awareness across the Coastal Bend.



## Never Forget, Never Regret: Hot Car Safety

Due to the tragic pediatric deaths caused by children being left in hot vehicles, RAC funding was used to purchase and distribute car air fresheners and thermometer decals throughout the Coastal Bend.

The air fresheners serve as a simple, everyday reminder for parents and caregivers, while the thermometer decals provide a visual warning of dangerous car temperatures. Together, these tools raise awareness and help prevent heat-related injuries and deaths among children in our communities.

# Perinatal Committee

## Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder (PASD) Identification Regional Initiative

This year, the Maternal Sub-Committee came together to create a Regional Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder Considerations Plan. The goal was to improve coordination not just in hospitals, but also with pre-hospital providers such as EMS, so that patients receive consistent, well-prepared care in any setting. As part of this effort, a regional wristband program was introduced, with its inception beginning at CCMC Bay Area. Through local MFM and OB providers, high-risk patients now receive a special wristband that helps first responders and hospital teams quickly recognize their condition in an emergency. This simple step bridges a critical gap and strengthens patient safety across the region.



## Postpartum Identification Regional Initiative

This year, we advanced our mission to reduce maternal mortality and complications such as pre-eclampsia and eclampsia through the "I Gave Birth" wristband initiative. At discharge, every postpartum patient from a maternal-designated facility now receives a hospital-specific wristband imprinted with the facility's number. On the inside, the wristband reminds patients to "tell the ED you are in the 6 weeks post birth period." This simple but powerful tool supports pre-hospital identification of postpartum patients, strengthens communication between facilities, and ensures timely, appropriate care for mothers across our region.

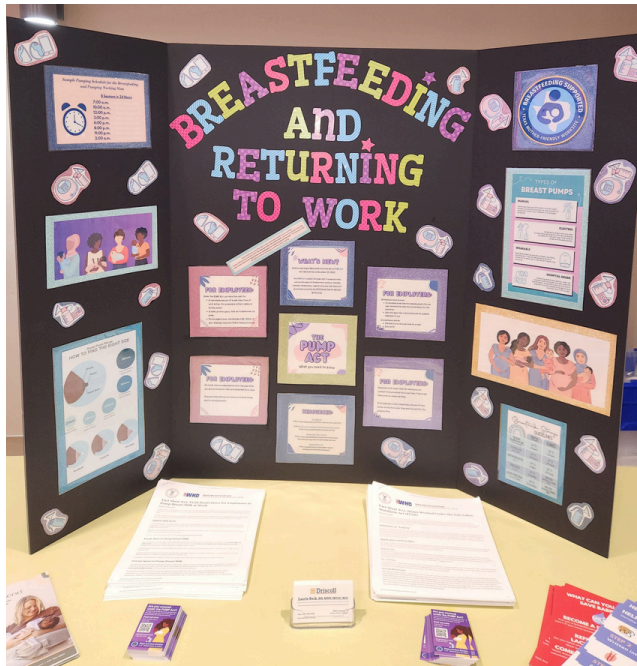


We extend our sincere thanks to the L&D team at CCMC Bay Area for leading the development of these initiatives, which have since been adopted region-wide.

# Perinatal Committee

## Breastfeeding in the Workplace

On the neonatal side of the committee, Perinatal Care Region team has been actively engaging with the community. This year, they attended five health fairs across the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, and Corpus Christi and delivered a Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) presentation at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi. These efforts focused on breastfeeding laws, including the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act, helping both families and hospital employees better understand the resources, rights, and protections available to breastfeeding mothers.



## Breast Milk Usage in High Risk Clinic Data Initiative

The Perinatal Care Region (PCR) committee launched a breast milk usage data initiative within the Driscoll High-Risk Follow-Up Clinic to better understand feeding practices and identify opportunities to support breastfeeding continuation among high-risk infants. This project focuses on standardized data collection at the initial and follow-up clinic visits to evaluate breast milk utilization patterns across the region. The intent is to identify gaps, trends, and disparities in access or continuation of breast milk feeding, inform targeted education and support strategies, and strengthen alignment between inpatient, outpatient, and community-based breastfeeding initiatives. Ongoing analysis will guide future quality improvement efforts and regional planning.



### DATA ON THE HORIZON!

Maternal data collection has begun at a regional level to identify gaps and issues. Analysis will be provided in the next annual report.

# Professional Education

## OB Simulation Mannequin



In FY24, RAC EI funds were used to purchase the OB Mannequin Victoria S2200, enhancing our regional obstetric training capabilities. In FY25, a train-the-trainer event was held in Corpus Christi with a company trainer, bringing together educators from Driscoll, CCMC Bay Area, CS South, CCFD, Port Aransas EMS, and the CBRAC Division Director. This collaborative training strengthened our regional capacity to provide high-quality obstetric simulation education and improve patient care.

## Education By the Sea - Port Aransas EMS

This year, our Stroke Committee Chair, Dr. Ziad Darkhabani, a Stroke Neurointerventionalist at Corpus Christi Medical Center, delivered a presentation at the Education by the Sea conference hosted by Port Aransas EMS. The presentation focused on pre-hospital acute stroke therapy, providing valuable education to attendees. Participants received continuing education credits as part of the event, reinforcing the committee's commitment to advancing regional stroke care through education and collaboration.

PORT ARANSAS EMS  
PRESENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
**EMERGICON**

SESSION SPOTLIGHT  
WEDNESDAY | MAY 7 | 09:00

**Acute Stroke Therapy**

Dr. Ziad Darkhabani  
Stroke & Interventional Neurology  
Specialist, Corpus Christi Medical  
Center

Get the latest evidence & treatment options, including  
intravenous thrombolytics and intra-arterial interventions

COASTAL BEND  
Regional Advisory Council

Professional Education & Upcoming Events |

**NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST 2025 ISSUE #2

“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.

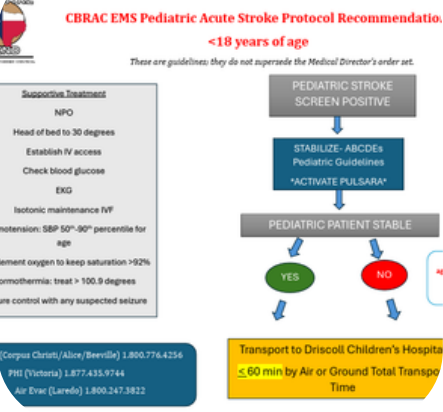
## Regional Education & Awareness

To enhance regional education and awareness, Kathryn Gomez, Division Director of RAC Systems of Care, launched a monthly newsletter featuring RAC updates, meeting dates, and educational opportunities across the region.

# Stroke Committee

## Regional Pediatric Stroke Considerations

This year, the CBR Stroke Committee developed comprehensive Pediatric Stroke Recommendations for pre-hospital care, along with a Non-Appropriate Facility Protocol. These regional recommendations were created collaboratively by stroke-neuro interventionalists, hospital ED directors, and EMS providers to ensure a unified process for

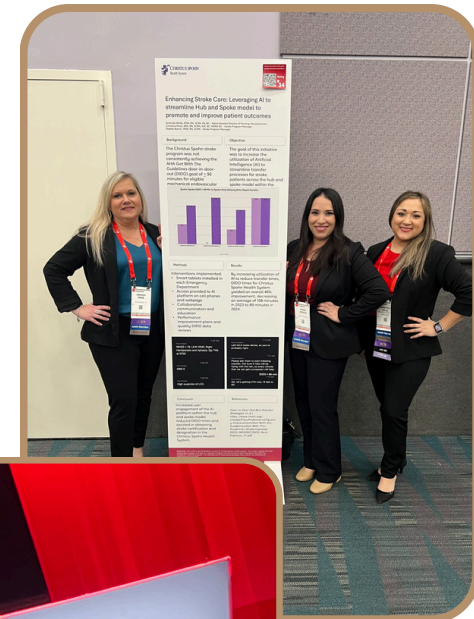


identifying and managing pediatric stroke cases. The protocols help direct patients to the most appropriate facilities while ensuring timely, coordinated care, strengthening the region's ability to respond effectively to this critical population. As always, these recommendations do not supersede medical director authority.

## International Stroke Conference Representation

The Spohn Stroke Team presented a poster at the Global Quality Showcase during the American Heart Association International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles. The project focused on reducing transfer times from spoke hospitals to the hub, improving door-in and door-out times for patients eligible for mechanical endovascular reperfusion. By enhancing education, strengthening collaboration, improving communication, and leveraging technology and artificial intelligence, the team streamlined transfer processes and elevated the quality of stroke care across the region.

Presented by:  
 Amanda Webb, MSN, RN, SCRNP, NE-BC – Administrative Director of Nursing, Neurosciences  
 Christina Perez, BSN, RN, SCRNP, ASC-BC, NVRN-BC, CPAHA – Stroke Program Manager  
 Debbie Barron, MSN, RN, SCRNP – Stroke Program Manager



# Pre-Hospital Committee



## Regional Pulsara Usage



Expanding the use of Pulsara continues to be a key priority for the Pre-hospital Committee. This platform streamlines communication between EMS and hospital teams, improving coordination and patient care. In support of this effort, CBRAC updated its Membership SOPs in 2024 to require EMS agencies to utilize Pulsara for at least 90% of patients transported to emergency departments. Strengthening consistency in Pulsara use helps ensure timely information sharing, smoother transitions of care, and better outcomes for patients across our region.

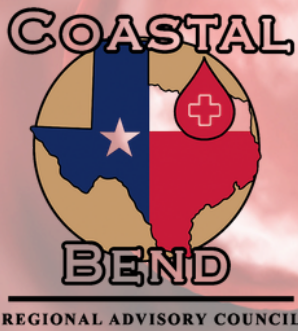


\*NOT A REAL PATIENT\*

## Regional Emergency Healthcare Leadership Dinner

CBRAC convened the Regional Emergency Healthcare Leadership Dinner on November 14, 2024, bringing together EMS Medical Directors, EMS Directors, regional hospital executive leadership, nursing leadership, and Emergency Department Medical Directors to strengthen regional collaboration and alignment. This forum provided an opportunity for medical, nursing, and operational leaders to engage in strategic discussion around current and upcoming regional initiatives supporting coordinated systems of care. Discussion topics included Pulsara utilization to enhance interfacility communication, pre-hospital whole blood programs, and other regional performance improvement and systems development efforts. The event supported engagement of regional medical directors and healthcare leaders in shared regional priorities, reinforcing CBRAC's role in facilitating collaboration, standardization, and continuous improvement across the trauma service area.

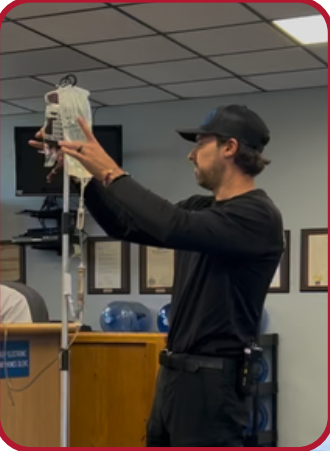




# Whole Blood Committee

## Port Aransas EMS

With over a year's worth of planning, Port Aransas EMS became the first ground ambulance service in our region to carry whole blood and blood components this October, marking a major milestone in expanding pre-hospital transfusion capabilities. We extend our sincere appreciation to EMS Chief Daniel Johnson for his leadership, dedication, and service as chair of the CBRAC Whole Blood Committee, as his vision and efforts have been instrumental in advancing this lifesaving work across our region.



## HALO-Flight Inc.

HALO-Flight, the region's sole air ambulance provider, has been a cornerstone of pre-hospital whole blood innovation, carrying whole blood and blood components on its aircraft for the past six years. This commitment has directly contributed to improved outcomes for trauma and critically ill patients throughout the Coastal Bend. In 2025 alone, 23 patients received whole blood during transport, reinforcing the lifesaving impact of this sustained effort. We extend our sincere appreciation to HALO-Flight for their dedication, expertise, and the significant time and resources required to maintain a fully operational and compliant pre-hospital whole blood program. Their leadership continues to elevate the standard of emergency care in our region.



**Huge THANK YOU to the Coastal Bend Blood Center for being our region's sole whole blood provider and an amazing partner on the regional whole blood committee!**



**More pre-hospital whole blood coming to the CBRAC region in 2026 as our lifesaving network continues to grow!**



# Trauma Systems Committee



## Trauma Rules 157.126 Feedback & Implementation



CBRAC trauma centers heavily participated in the development and revision of the Texas state trauma rules and related legislation and continue to serve as active partners in shaping trauma system policy at the state level. Since the implementation of the new trauma rules in September 2025, CBRAC facilities have remained engaged in the updated designation process, successfully completing 2 facility designations and re-designations. This continued collaboration ensures that trauma centers across the region maintain compliance with state standards while strengthening coordination, quality improvement, and access to high-level trauma care for the communities they serve.

## ED LENGTH OF STAY DATA INITIATIVE



The CBRAC Trauma Committee continued its regional initiative focused on Emergency Department (ED) Length of Stay for trauma patients. Throughout the year, the committee met monthly to review out-of-region trauma transfers, analyzing data to better understand how long patients are remaining in emergency departments while awaiting appropriate placement. These discussions allowed committee members to identify trends, system

bottlenecks, and barriers impacting timely transfers to higher levels of care. By examining individual cases and regional patterns, the committee worked collaboratively with hospitals and EMS partners to improve communication, highlight capacity challenges, and support strategies aimed at reducing transfer delays. This ongoing effort helps ensure trauma patients receive timely access to definitive care while strengthening coordination across the regional trauma system.

## CCMC Bay Area Whole Blood - OB Training

Whole Blood Implementation & Emergency Preparedness –  
CCMC Bay Area

CCMC Bay Area utilizes whole blood in emergencies for obstetric (OB), gastrointestinal (GI), and trauma patients to support rapid, life-saving transfusions. The Emergency Department also conducted targeted drills focused on obstetric hemorrhage, strengthening staff readiness and ensuring effective use of whole blood protocols during maternal emergencies.

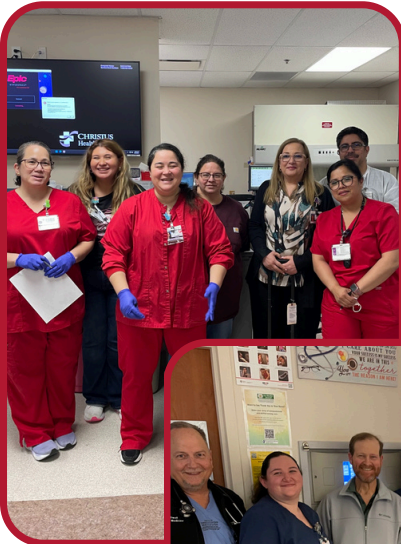


# Trauma Systems Committee

## Whole Blood CHRISTUS Spohn Alice

We are excited to announce that CHRISTUS Spohn Alice is now equipped with Whole Blood, enhancing lifesaving care for patients experiencing severe trauma or hemorrhage. This capability allows clinicians to provide faster, more effective resuscitation and reflects our continued commitment to strengthening emergency care across the region.

As pre-hospital Whole Blood use expands in our region, it's essential for hospitals to grow their capabilities as well. Strong alignment between EMS and hospital practices helps reduce blood product waste, supports seamless care, and ensures we're prepared for high-acuity emergencies across the Coastal Bend. CHRISTUS Spohn Shoreline also carries Whole Blood.



## Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference



Members of the CBRAC Trauma Committee along with local STB instructor volunteers, participated in the Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference, bringing life-saving education directly to the community. Over the course of two days, the committee led six Stop the Bleed classes, reaching approximately 180 participants. Attendees included community members, first responders, and conference participants, all gaining hands-on training in critical bleeding control techniques. This effort not only raised awareness about emergency preparedness but also empowered individuals with the skills and confidence to save lives in real-world situations.

# Cardiac Committee

## AHA Nation of Lifesavers

The American Heart Association's Nation of Lifesavers initiative continues to drive efforts to improve cardiac arrest survival through widespread CPR training, AED access, and community engagement. As part of this ongoing work, the implementation of the GoodSAM app is planned for the future, which will further strengthen the region's emergency response by alerting nearby trained responders to cardiac emergencies in real time.

Additionally, leadership from within the Coastal Bend continues to have a statewide impact. Corpus Christi Fire Department EMS Chief Andrew Cortez serves as the Chair of the Texas Zone N Group, helping guide regional collaboration, best practices, and strategic direction for cardiac care and response efforts across the state. These combined efforts highlight a strong commitment to advancing cardiac awareness, response capabilities, and improved outcomes for the communities we serve.



## AED Donation & Distributions



AEP donated Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to Del Mar College, with Tri-County EMS assisting in the thoughtful and strategic distribution of these life-saving devices throughout the community. Placement locations included Gregory Volunteer Fire Department, a local radio communications company in Corpus Christi, and CM Bowling Lanes in Aransas Pass—areas identified as high-traffic or critical response locations to maximize public access.

By expanding the availability of AEDs in both public and first-response settings, these efforts play a vital role in strengthening the region's chain of survival. Increasing access to early defibrillation significantly improves survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest and reinforces a culture of preparedness across the Coastal Bend. This initiative reflects a continued commitment to enhancing cardiac emergency response capabilities, supporting first responders, and empowering community members to act quickly and confidently in life-threatening situations.

**“Early recognition, early CPR, and early defibrillation these are the steps that turn bystanders into lifesavers.”**

# Critical Incident Stress Management Team

## 13 ACTIVATIONS DURING FY25

The Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Response Group, coordinated through the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council (CBRAC), is a multi-disciplinary team composed of emergency responders, including law enforcement, fire/EMS, and hospital-based professionals from across the Coastal Bend region, who are trained to support agencies following critical incidents. When an EMS agency, hospital, or healthcare organization within the CBRAC region experiences a significant event that may impact the well-being of its staff, the agency can submit a CISM request through the CBRAC website. Once the request is received, members of the CISM response team are notified and coordinate directly with the requesting agency to schedule and facilitate a structured debriefing. These debriefings are typically conducted after the initial 72-hour period following the incident, allowing responders time to process the event while ensuring timely peer support and resources to promote resilience and mental well-being among healthcare and emergency response personnel.



A total of \$761.01 in mileage reimbursements was issued from CBRAC to support CISM Response Group travel for incident response activations.



8 CISM trainings were conducted during FY25, six throughout the region and two at Driscoll Children's Hospital Rio Grande Valley.

Coastal Bend  
Regional  
**CISM TEAM**

**C-CRITICAL**  
**I-INCIDENT**  
**S-STRESS**  
**M-MANAGEMENT**

Sponsored by CBRAC.org



Scan to activate our team.





**EIIC**  
EMSC Innovation and  
Improvement Center

**TEXAS**

**ENA**  
Texas State Council

# PEDIATRIC READINESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



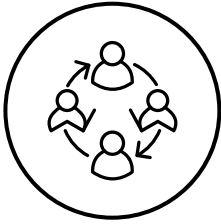
Through the Texas Emergency Nurses Association and the state's Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project, our region is fortunate to have a dedicated Pediatric Readiness & Simulation Mentor (PRISM). Jules Boatright, BSN, RN, CPEN, serves as an exceptional resource and is supported through this grant-funded initiative. She provides pediatric simulations across the region, rotating through emergency departments to strengthen pediatric readiness. In alignment with the new trauma rules that include pediatric readiness requirements, Jules has also supported regional facilities by helping train identified Hospital Pediatric Care Coordinators, who will oversee their facilities' internal pediatric readiness efforts.



**Jules Boatright**  
BSN, RN, CPEN  
Regional Pediatric  
Readiness Improvement & Simulation Mentor RAC-U

# Systems Performance Improvement

## Hospital ED Diversion



This year, the Performance Improvement (PI) Committee focused on monitoring and analyzing hospital diversion trends across the region through EMResource status changes. By identifying patterns in hospital diversion activity, the committee helped prompt targeted leadership discussions around emergency department capacity, extended ED holds, and behavioral health system pressures. These efforts supported data-driven conversations aimed at improving regional coordination, patient flow, and access to timely care.

## Special Populations Committee

## Vial of Life

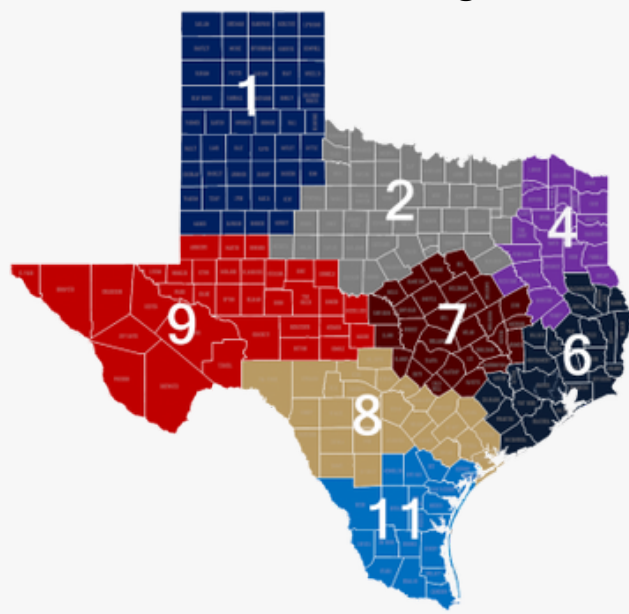


This year, the Special Populations Committee focused on expanding access to the Vial of Life program throughout the Coastal Bend. The Vial of Life is a simple but vital tool that allows individuals to keep important medical information easily accessible for first responders during an emergency. Kits were distributed widely handed out to parents and grandparents at CBRAC community events and festivals, and supplied to EMS partners to share directly with the public. By increasing availability, we are helping ensure that life-saving information is ready when it matters most.



# TX EMTF 11

The 2025 Program Year Annual Report describes highlight achievements made possible by all the TX EMTF 11 member agencies, facilities, departments, and organizations, Regional HPP HealthCare Coalitions, and Regional Advisory Councils. These organizations continue to collectively encourage their emergency responders to selflessly support the Texas Emergency Medical Task Force 11. Individually and collectively, each stand ready to help their neighbors anywhere in Texas. Special appreciation is extended to every member of our task force, along with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Division of Emergency Management, for providing the structure that enables our responder's to unite in advance, during, and following disasters as "one team, one fight". #TXEMTF



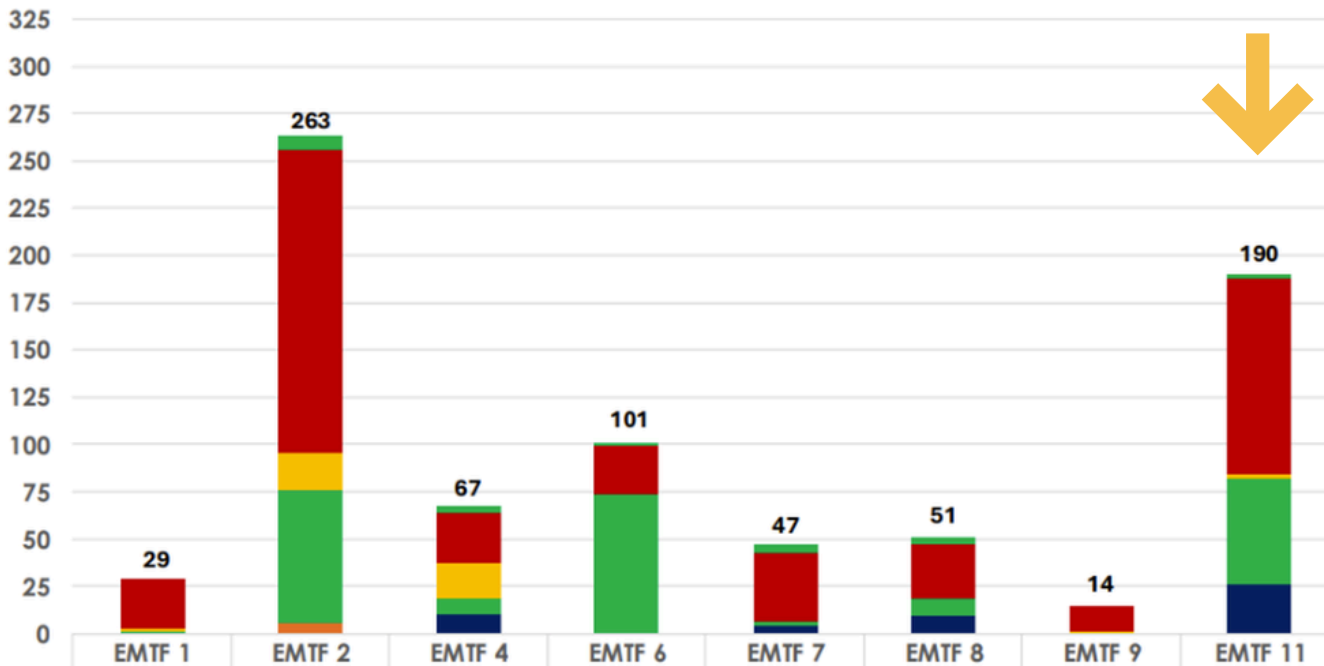
The following is a high-level summary of the Program Year's activities, accomplishments, goals, and projects. The 2025 Program Year had an increased operational tempo from previous years as the State of Texas increased operational preparedness and prepositioning. The TX EMTF 11 has continued to refine operations and build upon lessons learned from all activations while capturing best practices and improvement points from continued operations. TX EMTF 11 continues to focus on our membership to sustain and expand roster depth for increased capabilities.



# TX EMTF 11 by the Numbers

**11 Regional Components**  
**70 MOA'd entities supporting EMTF 11**  
**19 State Mission Assignment Activations**  
**143 Calendar Days Activated**  
**11 Member agencies deployed with 157 members**  
**217 Training and exercises events**

**FY25 Personnel Activated by Incident Type by EMTF 7/1/23-6/30/24**



	EMTF 1	EMTF 2	EMTF 4	EMTF 6	EMTF 7	EMTF 8	EMTF 9	EMTF 11
Winter Weather	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildfire-EMAC	0	7	3	1	4	3	0	2
Wildfire	26	160	26	26	36	30	13	104
Tropical Weather	2	20	20	0	0	0	1	2
Severe Weather	1	70	8	74	3	9	0	56
Other	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement Support	0	0	10	0	4	9	0	26

EMTF 11 was the second most deployed region out of all eight Texas EMTF regions, highlighting the team's high level of readiness and operational commitment throughout the year.



# Exercise Highlight BATAAN 2025



TXEMTF 11 is proud to support the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon. Since its inception, participation in the march has grown from approximately 100 marchers to more than 9,600 participants from across the United States and several foreign countries. While the event remains primarily a military tradition honoring the legacy of World War II veterans, many civilians also choose to take part in this physically demanding march. Participants may select between two courses: a 14.2-mile route or the full 26.2-mile marathon. TXEMTF 11 provides both medical and logistical support throughout the event, ensuring timely and accessible care for all participants. In 2025, EMTF 11 also supported the operation by providing food services for all Texas EMTF members deployed to this exercise.

## TX EMTF 11 AGENCIES THAT ATTENDED

- CBRAC EMTF/HPP Staff
- Pharr Emergency Medical Services
- Pharr Fire Department
- McAllen Fire Department



# Major Activations Tropical Weather

## Hurricane Beryl

From July 5–23, 2024, Texas EMTF was activated for 19 days to preposition for Hurricane Beryl and potential impacts along the Texas Gulf Coast. During this deployment, EMTF assets provided critical support including jurisdictional 911 assistance, oxygen delivery, welfare checks, and hospital wait time mitigation for local EMS agencies. At the height of operations, the team included 4 TFLs, 42 MISTs, 9 AMBUSs, 22 ASTs, a T6 MMU, and 10 CB Paramedics, operating from T2 staging. Over the course of the mission, EMTF personnel from 92 member agencies (469 members) handled 2,034 total encounters, treated 1,065 patients, and transported 866 individuals. This deployment underscores the vital role of EMTF in ensuring preparedness and rapid response during major regional emergencies.



## Tropical Storm Francine

From September 9–12, 2024, Texas EMTF was activated for four days to support emergency operations. This deployment involved 85 personnel from 17 member agencies, demonstrating the strength and readiness of our regional teams to respond quickly and effectively when called upon.





# Additional Major Activations

## Law Enforcement Support

From November 4–10, 2024, Texas EMTF was activated for six days to support Election Day operations, deploying 14 members from 7 agencies. This mission highlights EMTF’s commitment to community safety and readiness during critical events.



## Wildland Fire Support

### Mission Summary

TX EMTF resources were activated and paired with wildland firefighting assets to respond to wildland fires across the State due to drought conditions and excessive heat. These combined resources were strategically placed based on needs identified by the TAMFS to rapidly respond to reported wildfires.

- ACTIVATED 8/6/24 – 9/3/24 [29 Days]
- ACTIVATED 9/12/24 – 9/18/24 [6 Days]
- ACTIVATED 10/5/24 – 11/12/24 [38 Days]
- ACTIVATED 12/30/24 – 1/7/25 [8 Days]
- ACTIVATED 1/23/25 – 1/25/25 [2 Days]
- ACTIVATED 1/30/25 – 2/16/25 [17 Days]
- ACTIVATED 2/25/25 – 4/5/25 [39 Days]
- ACTIVATED 4/12/25 – 4/18/25 [6 Days]





# EMAC Wildland Fire Support

## California Wildfire Mission Summary

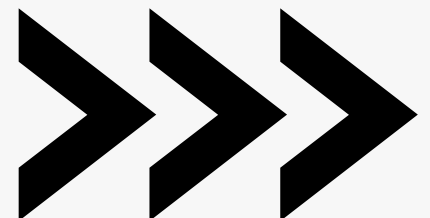
Texas EMTF resources were activated and paired with TIFMAS wildland firefighting assets at the request of the State of California, deploying to support operations on the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles County. The deployment ran from January 11–28, 2025, totaling 17 days and involving 14 member agencies and 26 personnel. This joint response highlights the strength of statewide partnerships and the continued commitment of our teams to support national emergency efforts.





# HEALTHCARE COALITIONS

A HEALTHCARE COALITION (HCC) IS A REGIONAL NETWORK OF HEALTHCARE AND RESPONSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK TOGETHER TO PREPARE FOR, RESPOND TO, AND RECOVER FROM EMERGENCIES. SUPPORTED BY THE HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM, HCCS UNITE HOSPITALS, PUBLIC HEALTH, EMS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO COORDINATE RESOURCES, PERSONNEL, AND INFORMATION DURING DISASTERS—STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.





# Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Preparedness Coalition

## Message from HCC-V Program Director, Bernardino Palacios



During this fiscal year, the Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) advanced its mission in alignment with the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) priorities, strengthening healthcare system readiness and response capabilities across the region. Under the Director’s leadership, the HPP and Healthcare Coalition (HCC) enhanced coordination among hospitals, public health agencies, emergency medical services, and community partners to improve planning, information sharing, and operational readiness. Investments were focused on training, exercises, capability development, improved response coordination, medical surge capacity, and continuity of healthcare operations during emergencies. Moving forward, the program remains committed to sustaining coalition partnerships, advancing preparedness capabilities, and supporting a resilient healthcare system prepared to respond to emerging threats and disasters.

### RGVHPC HCC-V

**COUNTIES SERVED**  
4  
**POPULATION SERVED**  
1.6 Million  
**HOSPITALS SERVED**  
16  
**MEMBERS SERVED**  
175



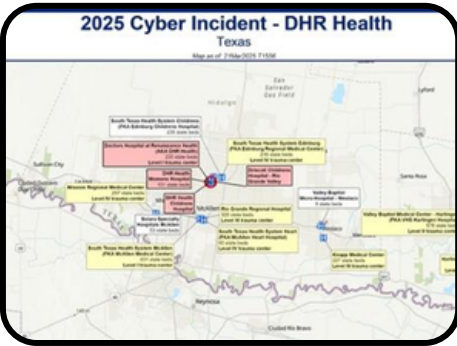
### **Decontamination Training for HCC-V**

As part of ASPR funding for HCC-V, the coalition supported the delivery of decontamination training across all 13 hospitals in the Rio Grande Valley to strengthen facility and emergency department preparedness. The training enhanced staff readiness for hazardous materials incidents and other contamination scenarios, reinforcing hospital capabilities to protect patients, staff, and operations during complex emergencies. These efforts also promoted greater consistency in decontamination procedures and coordination across facilities, supporting a more unified regional response.



# Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Highlights

## Coordinated Healthcare Responses During Multi-Facility Downtime Events

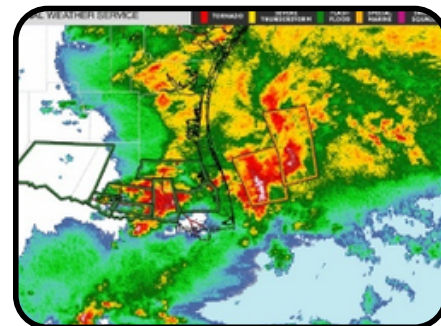


In March 2025, a major cyber incident caused a downtime event at a critical infrastructure site within a Level I hospital in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), resulting in the loss of internal networking capabilities and disruption of multiple internal systems. Through coordinated response efforts led by the

Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Preparedness Coalition staff, Starlink satellite communication deployment packages were activated to restore critical connectivity and support hospital operations. Despite the disruption, the hospital system remained operational and continued providing patient care due to established continuity plans and regional preparedness efforts.



During the same period, a severe thunderstorm event produced heavy rainfall and flooding across the Rio Grande Valley, impacting community and healthcare infrastructure. In response, the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council (CBRAC) activated the Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC) on behalf of the Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Preparedness Coalition at the City of McAllen Office of Emergency Management disaster activation site. Within a 24-hour period, both Level I hospital systems in the region experienced operational disruptions requiring coordinated response. The RMOC activation supported regional situational awareness, communication, and resource coordination among healthcare partners as facilities continued to manage patient care and infrastructure challenges.



*"Training and coordination ensure EMS can serve the community in any emergency."*



# Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Highlights

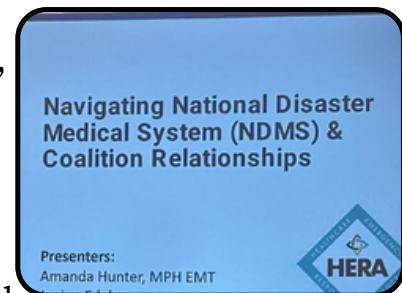
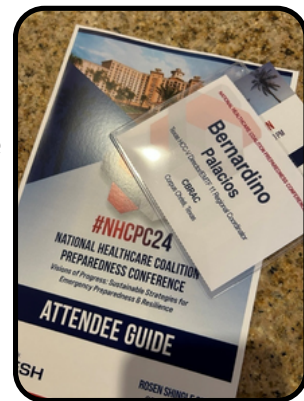
## Understanding Cyber Threats in Healthcare

Garrett Hagood, CBRAC Chief Information Security Officer, participated in the SETRAC Conference where he provided a cybersecurity briefing during a preconference workshop for SLTT personnel, HPP contractors, and federal partners. The session focused on emerging cyber threats impacting the healthcare sector and the importance of coordinated cyber threat awareness. Garrett also presented during the general conference, delivering a Cyber Threat Briefing and introducing the Region 6 ASPR/HPP Cyber Threat Reporting Group initiative. Attendees gained insight into the cybersecurity threats facing the healthcare sector and were introduced to the collaborative reporting effort designed to strengthen regional cyber threat information sharing and preparedness.



## National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference Attendance

In December 2024, representatives from the Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Preparedness Coalition attended the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference held in Orlando, Florida from December 10–12, 2024. The conference brings together healthcare coalition leaders, emergency managers, healthcare providers, and government partners from across the United States to share best practices and strengthen national healthcare preparedness capabilities. Participation in the conference provided opportunities to attend educational sessions, panel discussions, and collaborative networking events focused on improving healthcare system readiness, resilience, and coordinated emergency response. Topics included sustainable preparedness strategies, emerging threats to healthcare infrastructure, and lessons learned from real-world incidents and coalition operations. Attendance supported the coalition's ongoing commitment to enhancing regional preparedness capabilities in the Rio Grande Valley by incorporating national-level best practices, strengthening partnerships with other healthcare coalitions, and identifying innovative tools and strategies to support healthcare response during disasters and public health emergencies.





# Coastal Bend Healthcare Preparedness Coalition

## Message from HCC-U Program Director , Scott Marsh



This fiscal year, the Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) made significant progress toward advancing regional readiness in line with ASPR priorities. With the support of our board, HPP and the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) strengthened collaboration across hospitals, public health agencies, EMS, and key community stakeholders, elevating preparedness planning and information sharing. Focused investments in workforce training, exercises, and core capabilities expanded our region’s surge response capacity and reinforced continuity of healthcare operations. In the year ahead, HPP will continue to build on these achievements by deepening coalition engagement, modernizing communication and coordination systems, and reinforcing the resilience of our regional healthcare system.

### CBHPC HCC-U

**COUNTIES SERVED**  
12  
**POPULATION SERVED**  
560,000  
**HOSPITALS SERVED**  
9  
**MEMBERS SERVED**  
150



## WRAP-EM-CHEMICAL SUGRE VTTX

HCC-U, in coordination with HCC-T and HCC-V, participated in a virtual tabletop exercise focused on healthcare response to a chemical surge, hosted by WRAP-EM. The exercise provided an opportunity for healthcare partners to walk through response processes and explore what coordination would look like during a large-scale influx of chemically exposed patients, strengthening communication and regional readiness. Participants also identified potential gaps in resource allocation and patient flow. Lessons learned will help inform future planning efforts and improve healthcare system response capabilities.

# Coastal Bend Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Highlights

## Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

Through Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) funding in support of the HCC-U coalition, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) training was delivered to enhance regional readiness for high-threat and mass casualty incidents. The course brought together healthcare, EMS, fire, and law enforcement partners for hands-on, scenario-based training focused on providing lifesaving care in dynamic and potentially hazardous environments. Key areas of focus included hemorrhage control, airway and breathing management, coordinated response operations, and rapid patient movement. By supporting TECC training through HPP funding, HCC-U continues to strengthen cross-disciplinary coordination, improve operational readiness, and enhance patient outcomes during complex emergencies.



## Certified Emergency Healthcare Coordinator Course



Another use of HCC-U funding was bringing the Certified Emergency Healthcare Coordinator (CEHC) Course, including both Basic and Advanced levels, to the region through Augusta University. This intensive week-long course prepared healthcare professionals to effectively coordinate hospital and healthcare system response during emergencies and disasters. The CEHC course focused on incident management, emergency operations coordination, patient flow

and surge management, inter-facility collaboration, and communication across healthcare coalitions. The training strengthened participants' ability to manage complex incidents while maintaining continuity of care and operational awareness. The course was also made available to HCC-T coalition partners, with mileage reimbursed through HPP funds to support participation and reduce barriers to attendance. Through these targeted investments, HCC-U and HCC-T continue to build healthcare leadership capacity and enhance regional preparedness for large-scale and complex emergencies.

*"Training and coordination ensure EMS can serve the community in any emergency."*



REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL



# Coastal Bend Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Highlights

## Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference Tabletop Exercise



As part of the 2025 Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference, a regional tabletop exercise was conducted to simulate a hurricane response impacting the Coastal Bend region. The exercise brought together representatives from local jurisdictions, hospitals, and EMS agencies to discuss coordinated response strategies. Participants reviewed evacuation procedures, communication pathways, and internal operational processes while working through a realistic disaster scenario. This collaborative exercise strengthened regional preparedness, reinforced interagency coordination, and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to evaluate and improve response plans prior to hurricane season.

## NAS Corpus Christi Airshow Medical Support

CBRAC CBHPC-EMTF members and staff provided medical support during the airshow at NAS Corpus Christi. Due to the large number of attendees and active participants, the AMBUS was deployed as a precautionary measure to enhance regional medical readiness and provide rapid support should any incidents requiring medical attention occur. This presence helped ensure coordinated response capabilities for potential mass patient needs and reinforced regional preparedness for large-scale community events.



*"Preparedness and partnership strengthen our regional emergency response."*



# Laredo Seven Flags Healthcare Preparedness Coalition

## Message from HCC-T Program Director, Nathan Rubio



This fiscal year, the Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) made significant progress toward advancing regional readiness in line with ASPR priorities. With the support of our board, HPP and the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) strengthened collaboration across hospitals, public health agencies, EMS, and key community stakeholders, elevating preparedness planning and information sharing. Focused investments in workforce training, exercises, and core capabilities expanded our region’s surge response capacity and reinforced continuity of healthcare operations. In the year ahead, HPP will continue to build on these achievements by deepening coalition engagement, modernizing communication and coordination systems, and reinforcing the resilience of our regional healthcare system.

### SFHPC HCC-T

#### COUNTIES SERVED

3

#### POPULATION SERVED

291,516

#### HOSPITALS SERVED

3

#### MEMBERS SERVED

62



## “An Army Marches on its Stomach - Food Unit Planning for a Disaster”



At the SETRAC Conference, the HPP and EMTF 11 team shared lessons learned from Food Unit planning during the Bataan Memorial Death March exercise, where EMTF 11 has supported feeding deployed teams for the past two years. The presentation highlighted the often overlooked but critical role of logistical planning to sustain operations during prolonged incidents. Ensuring access to food and hydration is essential to responder safety and operational effectiveness during disaster response, reinforcing the importance of planning for responder sustainment as part of regional preparedness efforts.

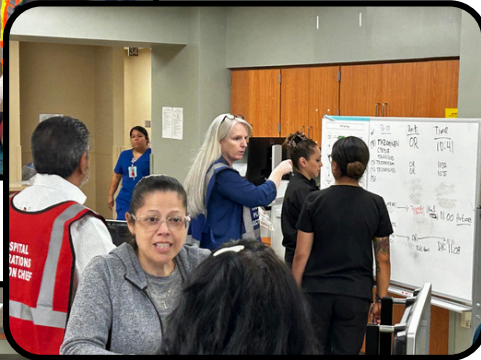


# Laredo Seven Flags Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Highlights



## Laredo International Triennial FSE

SFPHC coalition members participated in a Regional Triage Full-Scale Exercise at Laredo International Airport, focused on testing emergency department and facility surge capabilities in response to a simulated mass casualty incident. The exercise emphasized interagency coordination, patient triage and movement, communication workflows, and resource management across healthcare and emergency response partners.



This full-scale exercise provided participating facilities and agencies the opportunity to evaluate existing plans, identify operational gaps, and strengthen collaboration under realistic conditions. Lessons learned from the exercise will inform future planning efforts and support continued improvements in regional readiness and response to large-scale emergencies.

## Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

Through Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) funding in support of the HCC-T coalition, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) training was brought to Laredo to strengthen regional readiness for high-threat and mass casualty incidents. This course provided law enforcement, fire, EMS, and healthcare partners with practical, evidence-based instruction focused on lifesaving care in dynamic and potentially dangerous environments.



The training emphasized hemorrhage control, airway and breathing management, coordinated response operations, and rapid patient movement, reinforcing collaboration across disciplines. By investing HPP funds into hands-on TECC education, HCC-T continues to enhance coordinated response capabilities and improve outcomes for patients during complex emergencies affecting the region.

*"Preparedness is built before the emergency and sustained through partnership."*



# Laredo Seven Flags Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Highlights

## Active Shooter Preparedness - Jim Hogg

Coalition partners in Jim Hogg County collaborated with local hospitals through a coordinated, coalition-based approach to strengthen emergency preparedness and response. This collaboration focused on enhancing communication, aligning operational plans, and improving coordination during high-impact incidents, including mass casualty events and periods of increased emergency department demand. By working together across healthcare, EMS, public safety, and emergency management, coalition partners and hospitals reinforced regional readiness, improved patient flow, and supported continuity of care during complex emergencies.



## Laredo Fire Dept. EMTF-11 Response

The City of Laredo formally recognized the Laredo Fire Department for their deployment through Texas Emergency Medical Task Force 11 in support of emergency response operations in Kerrville. This deployment highlights LFD's commitment to regional mutual aid, readiness, and coordinated response during large-scale incidents. Their service reflects the strength of Texas' EMTF system and the importance of interregional collaboration to support communities in times of need.

## RACES Coalition Leadership Activates New Redundant Communication Capabilities for HCC-T

SFHPC coalition leadership activated new communication capabilities through Amateur Radio Emergency Services (RACES) to strengthen redundant communications for coalition agencies. This capability ensures alternative communication pathways remain available during cell tower failures, power outages, or other disruptions to primary systems. By integrating amateur radio resources into coalition operations, the SFHPC coalition enhances coordination, situational awareness, and continuity of operations during emergencies, supporting reliable communication when it is needed most.



*“Resilience is not accidental it is built through coordination and commitment.”*



# THANK *YOU*

This annual report is dedicated to the CBRAC staff and our regional partners across the Coastal Bend, Laredo, and the Rio Grande Valley. Your commitment, collaboration, and tireless work strengthen our systems of care and improve outcomes for the communities we serve. Thank you to each member for your continued contributions and participation.

**Feel called to support CBRAC? Donate using the QR code below.**



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Coastal Bend Regional  
Advisory Council, Trauma  
Service Area U