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RULE §157.123 Regional Advisory Councils

(a) The Department of State Health Services (department) shall recognize a Regional Advisory Council (RAC) as the leader for system development of a regional healthcare delivery system within a trauma service area (TSA) as described in §157.122 of this title.

- (1) The department shall recognize only one RAC for each TSA.
- (2) Trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, disaster responders, and emergency healthcare stakeholders in the TSA, shall be eligible for participation or membership in the RAC.
- (3) A RAC shall have the following responsibilities:
 - (A) maintain a 501 (c) (3) status; and
 - (B) submit required documentation to the department that includes, at a minimum, the following:
 - (i) a summary of regional trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, and emergency healthcare system activities;
 - (ii) a completed regional self-assessment, and a regional trauma and emergency healthcare system plan, and evidence of compliance to the criteria requirements the second year as defined in contract; and
 - (iii) external financial audits and financial statements as defined in contract.
- (4) Each RAC shall develop and maintain a regionally specific comprehensive trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, and emergency healthcare system plan that is revised at a minimum of every two years utilizing the completed regional self-assessment. The plan shall be inclusive of all counties within the TSA and shall be based on current industry standards and guidelines.

(A) The regional trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, and emergency healthcare system plan shall address the following elements:

- (i) trauma, prehospital, perinatal, stroke, and cardiac epidemiology data resources available; and

- 30 (ii) integration of regional stakeholders, identified coalitions and
31 community partners pertinent to the priorities and needs identified
32 through the regional self-assessment;
- 33 (iii) regional guidelines for the triage, treatment, transport, and transfer of
34 patients with time-sensitive healthcare injuries or illness;
- 35 (iv) prevention and outreach activities guided by the trauma, prehospital,
36 perinatal, stroke, and cardiac data available;
- 37 (v) system coordination and patient flow;
- 38 (vi) meaningfully participation in regional disaster preparedness,
39 planning, response, recovery, after-action review and data tracking
40 needs and support the hospital preparedness stakeholders including
41 the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) contractor and the
42 department.
- 43 (vii) identify the system-wide healthcare education for trauma,
44 prehospital, perinatal, stroke, cardiac, and the emergency healthcare
45 system sponsored or coordinated through the RAC;
- 46 (viii) execution of a regional systems performance improvement plan to
47 include outcome data;
- 48 (ix) integration of public health and business community stakeholders;
49 and
- 50 (x) guidelines to support regional research projects.

51 (B) All health care entities and identified coalition partners should participate in the
52 regional planning process.

53 (C) The Trauma Service Area with at least one county within the TSA located on the
54 international border of Texas and at least one county within the TSA that is adjacent to the
55 Gulf of Mexico shall provide guidelines and protocols related to trauma patient transfer
56 and related services that meet the following requirements;

57 (a) The RAC will develop an advisory committee composed of equal
58 representation from designated trauma facilities within the RAC.

59 (1) This committee will develop regional protocols for
60 managing the dispatch, triage, transport, and transfer of patients.

- 61 (2) This committee will periodically review patient transfers
62 ensuring compliance with the applicable protocols.
- 63 (b) Each hospital and emergency medical service provider operating within this
64 TSA will collect and report to the RAC data on patients transferred outside of the
65 TSA following the developed and approved regional protocols.
- 66 (c) The advisory committee and activities are integrated into the regional trauma and
67 healthcare system plan.
- 68 (5) RACs shall maintain compliance with the criteria of the contract to ensure the global
69 mission of the regional system is maintained. RACs shall comply with the following:
- 70 (A) notify the department and RAC membership within five days if it is unable to
71 meet the criteria necessary to maintain the regional systems as required by the provisions
72 within this section or DSHS contract;
- 73 (B) provide the department with a plan of correction of no more than 90-days from
74 the onset of the deficiency for the RAC to achieve compliance to consider;
- 75 (C) comply with the provisions within these sections, all current state and system
76 standards as described in this chapter, and all guidelines, and procedures as set forth in
77 the system plan; and
- 78 (D) continue its commitment to meet the criteria as required by its recognition.
- 79 (6) If a RAC chooses to relinquish services, it shall provide at least a 30-day written
80 advanced notice to the department, all members, coalition partners of the RAC, and the County
81 Judges within the TSAs that will be impacted.
- 82 (A) the RAC shall submit a written plan to the department for approval prior to the
83 30-day notice,
- 84 (B) funding and assets must be dissolved in accordance with state and federal
85 requirements; and
- 86 (C) the department shall consider options of realigning the TSA with another RAC to
87 continue services.
- 88 (7) The department shall have the right to review, inspect, evaluate, and audit all RAC
89 documents to verify compliance with the statute, rules, contract, and the Texas Regional
90 Advisory Council Criteria document.

91 (8) The department shall maintain the confidentiality of such records and documents to the
92 extent authorized by the Public Information Act

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95 (Government Code, Chapter 552), the Texas Health and Safety Code 96 (Chapter 773),
and/or any other relevant confidentiality law or regulation.

97 Such inspections shall be scheduled by the department.

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