



Texas Perinatal Services NEWSLETTER

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

June 2019

TPS Hosting Webinar Series Especially for TORCH Members

Level 1 and 2 hospitals that are TORCH members will have an opportunity to gain professional insights and guidance on the maternal levels of care program and processes for Level 1 and 2 designations in two webinars this summer. Director of Perinatal Services Carla Rider will be presenting **July 8** and **July 26** at noon. TORCH members should watch their *TORCHCast* newsletters this month for details and registration information, or contact [Carrie Ruiz](#) at TORCH.

Don't Miss Our Next Perinatal Forums

Our monthly Perinatal Forums, a service to customers, continue to draw big participation and high marks. We are excited to continue the series this summer with two outstanding presenters and topics on the calendar.

On **June 18** at 1 p.m., hear from Debra Bingham, Dr.PH., RN, FAAN, founder and executive director of the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement. She will address Perinatal Quality Improvement. You can learn more about Dr. Bingham and the institute [here](#).

On **July 15** at 1 p.m., Texas Perinatal Services maternal surveyor Nathan Drever, M.D., joins us to share insights from the surveyor perspective. You can learn more from Dr. Drever in our [recent interview](#) with him.

Watch your email for login information or contact [Carla Rider](#) for details.

Maternal Level of Care Designation Program News

Last month, the Texas Legislature passed [Senate Bill 749](#), which relates to the Maternal Levels of Care Designation program. As you know, DSHS implemented that program last spring as a significant step toward improving maternal morbidity and mortality in Texas. Among many other provisions you should be aware of, the bill changes the deadline for hospitals to be designated as a maternal level of care to August 31, 2021.

TETAF was actively involved in legislative discussions on this bill, recognizing the importance of avoiding the burdens that hospitals incurred following the rapidly implemented neonatal levels of care. The good news is the legislation allows hospitals to pursue designation well in advance of the new deadlines. The additional time allows a better focus on patient care and improved maternal care delivery for Texas mothers and babies. Postponing means missed opportunities to positively impact maternal care for your community now, and avoid the last-minute crunch of application submissions and processing at DSHS, resulting in potential designation delays, as experienced with the neonatal survey deadlines.

If you have not already contacted us for your survey, we encourage you to [schedule your maternal survey](#) soon. You'll find a helpful diagram on our website explaining [how the process works](#), and an online form for [requesting your survey](#). Questions? [Contact us](#).

Other Legislative News

The Texas Legislature gaveled to a close last month. Several bills related to maternal healthcare, including [Senate Bill 749](#) discussed above, were on its radar. What passed, what didn't and what do you need to know? Check out our just-published blog for the details. [Read blog](#).

TPS Brings National Learning Event to Texas

This fall, Texas Perinatal Services is bringing two outstanding workshops to Texas -- and TPS customers can attend at a significant discount. Our June Forum presenter, **Debra Bingham**, will return to deliver her full-day, nationally renowned Implementing Perinatal

Quality Improvement Conference on:

- **Oct. 11**, Dallas area
- **Nov. 4**, San Antonio area

Save the date and watch your email for registration details. The conference is open to all hospitals, but staff attending from TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services hospitals can take advantage of great discounts.

Texas Perinatal Services Represented on National Board

Carla Rider, Texas Perinatal Services director of perinatal services, was invited this month to join the [Executive Advisory Board](#) for the **Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement**. The Institute's mission is to expand the use of quality improvement to eliminate preventable perinatal morbidity and mortality and ensure equity in birth outcomes. The board meets quarterly. Carla is joined on the board by fellow Texan Jessica McNeil, perinatal educator at UT Southwestern in Dallas.

Follow Us on Facebook

Our Texas Perinatal Services Facebook page has become a great forum for sharing news of the day, events and kudos from around the state. Our community is growing, and engaged in the conversation! If you aren't following our page, we encourage you to join us and stay connected. Follow us [here](#).

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