



Texas Rehab Providers' Council

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TXRPC.Org

TXRPC NEWS

JUNE 2005

ELECTION TIME

The 2005 election of directors will be conducted during June. This year there are three director posts to fill. Directors whose terms expire at the end of June are:

Ron Kieschnik
James Garner
Tom Hafford

Nominations

Each member representative has received a nomination form via fax and email. Instructions are on the form. Nominations can be faxed or mailed to the Secretary of the Council, but they **MUST** be received before close of business (5:00 p.m.) Friday, June 10, 2005. Nominations submitted by email cannot be accepted. A nominee is only qualified if he or she is a member representative of a member organization in good standing and is willing to serve for the anticipated term. Present directors will contact nominees to verify willingness to serve.

Balloting

Official Ballots will be prepared and distributed to all member representatives. Official ballots will include all qualified nominees. Member representative shall indicate their votes for up to three nominees but with no more than one vote per nominee. Signed ballots should be returned via fax or US Mail to be received by the Council Secretary before close of business (5:00 p.m.) Thursday, June 30, 2005.

Election

Ballots will be tallied by the Secretary. The three nominees having the most votes will be elected to a two year term. New directors will begin service at the board meeting on the fourth Tuesday of July. Officers are elected by the board and serve one year terms.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual meeting of the Greater Texas Rehab Providers' Council will be held August 4, 5, and 6, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk in San Antonio. Program highlights include a Credentialing Round Table, HHSC, TMHP Policy Panel, Exhibits, Educational Workshop. Brochures and registration will be sent to you in the next few days. Please urge your colleagues, competitors, and suppliers to register early as space will be limited.

All rehab professionals are invited to attend. Workshops, panel discussions, educational events, and exhibits are open to all attendees; however only member representatives can vote on TXRPC business issues.

The main purpose of TXRPC is for rehab professionals to get together, discuss issues, share solutions to common problems, and influence the state lawmakers and policymakers. Your presence is important. **Plan to be there!**





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TRPC Texas Rehab Providers' Council

SB 1580.... WHAT'S NEXT?

Senate Bill 1580 was left tabled in committee at the end of the legislative session May 30. The TXRPC members have agreed that this industry should not wait two years for the State of Texas to implement professional standards in the provision of custom wheelchairs and seating systems. Senate Bill 1580 provided the catalyst for awareness and debate not only among TXRPC members, but within the industry at large, political officials, and program officials. This heightened awareness can be a springboard to moving forward on this important issue. If the rehab industry is to be in a position to achieve establishing credentialing standards into statute in the next legislative session, the time to start is now.

Michael Bird, as chairman of the credentialing issues committee, has been compiling and refining definitions and requirements for an authorized provider of mobility systems. Now is the time to get something implemented in the Texas Medicaid and CHIP. **Your input is crucial**

So...

Re read the final draft of legislation.... Even the senators on the Business and Commerce committee were surprised that it had become "License" legislation.

Communicate with Michael your recommendations for minimum standards for a "Qualified Mobility System Provider" in Texas. mbird8338@aol.com

TXRPC is planning to begin presenting policy recommendations relative to credentialing within the various state funded programs in upcoming policy meetings with HHSC.

MEDICAID ISSUES.... QUARTERLY MEETING

Agency Liaison Committee will meet with HHSC and TMHP to discuss general problems and make recommendations. Previous meetings have averted some potentially disastrous coding and pricing problems, especially with cushion codes.

Still in discussion are the issues of coding and pricing for wheelchair parts, problems of some national HCPC codes that are not used in Texas Medicaid, and suggestions to streamline communications with prior authorization staff about inconsistencies in prior approvals and definitions.

If you have a recurring problem in policy, coding, claims, or reimbursement, please summarize it and send it to Tom Hafford texasdme@itexas.net .

