



### RETAC Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 21, 2015  
**Location:** Pikes Peak Regional Hospital  
16420 US Hwy 24  
Woodland Park, CO 80863  
**Attendance:** See attached list

A quorum was present. Rob Handley, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

#### **I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Kim Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, presented the proposed agenda. Jim Reid moved to accept the agenda as presented. Jody Wallace seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF April 21, 2015 MINUTES**

Minutes were reviewed by those present. Jim moved to accept the minutes as presented. Tim Dienst seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kim presented documents reflecting the financial activity of the Regional office for April, May, and June 2015. Jim Reid moved to accept the financial report as presented. Jody seconded the motion. Motion passed. Tim and Jody abstained from the vote due to their initial review of the documents on a monthly basis.

Kim provided the Council with a document showing the various purchases made by each County using their designated funds during the past quarter and a summary of the past twelve months.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence for the meeting.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kim presented the flyer for the upcoming Fire/Life Safety conference to be held in Colorado Springs April 26-28, 2016. He encouraged all present to consider attending this valuable prevention focused conference.

Jim announced that Ted Sayer has been hired by the El Paso County Emergency Services Agency. Imad Karaki announced that Ted will also be an alternate for his position on the RETAC Council.



Matt Concialdi and Michael Gerber spoke about the recent announcement of EMTS Provider grant awards. There was a total of \$835,185 in funding awarded to agencies in the Plains to Peaks RETAC for use during the FY16 fiscal cycle.

## **VI. REPORTS**

### A) Officers

Rob spoke about the National Rural EMS Conference which he and Kim attended in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Both indicated this was a valuable conference for rural agencies to consider for the coming year.

### B) Regional Coordinator

Kim Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, informed the Council that most items would be covered during the regular agenda. He did inform the Council about the recent events and projects underway concerning the provision of emergency medical services in the region. These included:

- An effort by the RETAC to develop a potential regional plan for ambulance service in the frontier counties.
- An effort by the Region V Healthcare Partnership sector to support recruitment and retention of healthcare providers in the frontier counties. This also includes the potential development of a community integrated health initiative.
- A federal grant opportunity brought to the RETAC by the Colorado Rural Health Center to support provision of EMS and general healthcare needs in the frontier counties. The amount of this grant is potentially \$578,160 over three years. Awards will hopefully be announced in September.
- An effort by the El Paso County ESA to determine the most appropriate model of ambulance transport service. This effort is being supported by a Master's Degree class at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### A) State Council Report

Kim provided the Council with the agenda for the next SEMTAC meeting and the schedule for the committee meetings. Matt Concialdi and Michael Gerber from the state EMTS office provided some information about the FY15 and FY16 EMTS Provider grants. There was \$835,185 in grant funds awarded to agencies across the RETAC for FY16. They encouraged all present to attend the SEMTAC meetings to make sure their voice is heard regarding all EMTS issues.

### B) Board of Health Rules

Kim updated the Council regarding the Bioterrorism rules 6 CCR 1009-5. At this time, section four which pertains to the RETAC has not been changed and will be considered in FY2016 by the EMTS



# Plains to Peaks

*Emergency Medical & Trauma Service Region*



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office. Rules for hospitals and public health were updated. Tim informed the Council that this rule has been considered to be an unfunded mandate with significant cost for many prehospital agencies.

Kim provided some background on the licensing of air ambulance services in Colorado. The requirement of CAAMS certification by the state has been determined to be against federal rules so there will be a task form created to consider other options in the state of Colorado for air ambulance regulation.

Kim spoke about the REPLICA and OATH programs at the EMTS office. REPLICA is a project to streamline recognition of prehospital certifications from other states. OATH is the online Colorado recertification program. There may be some rule changes as these two programs are fully implemented.

## C) Legislative Update

Tim provided an update. The Medicaid rate review committee is currently being formed to consider modifications to the program. Tim has been requested to apply for the committee and will submit his application.

Tim will make a full presentation regarding the federal EMS Field Bill at the October RETAC meeting. Support is needed from various groups to make the legislation successful.

Tim updated the Council on the work of the Community Paramedic task force. The group continues to meet and have made progress on the definition of the provider and the agency. Kim indicated that other states have had to use the legislative process to implement the program and this may be needed in Colorado.

## D) State Provider Grant

Kim provided a complete listing of EMTS Provider grant awards for FY16. He noted that only two agencies from the RETAC were denied funding for FY16. He also noted that there were significantly more dollars requested than there were funds to award so the EMTS staff was diligent in reviewing all successful projects in an effort to make the limited funds go as far as possible.

Kim explained about the EMTS Provider Grant incentive program for FY16. There were three projects submitted for consideration for a 75% state match for FY16. These included: data collection, communications, and MCI strike team support. Kim explained that likely only one of the project areas will be accepted for inclusion in FY16. He asked those present to give him direction on which one to support on behalf of the RETAC at the meeting the next week. After discussion, the Council agreed that the data collection was the most appropriate project.

## E) Statewide RETAC Forum

Kim noted that he and Rob continue to attend the quarterly forums. Rob noted that these meetings are valuable for networking and to keep all RETACs moving forward. The next meeting Sept 2-3, 2015 in Vail.



F) Pediatric Issues

Kim asked Elizabeth Spradlin to provide an update on the current status of pediatric care at Memorial Hospital. Elizabeth indicated that they are working to rebuild the pediatric clinical platform after the formal relationship with Children's Hospital Colorado to lease space was terminated. They continue to work with CHC for provider support for the program. They have hired a pediatric neurosurgeon and continue to put pieces in place to support the pediatric program. Some regulatory pieces need to be completed before they can ensure 24/7 coverage.

Kim took this time to congratulate Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital, Keefe Memorial Hospital, and Lincoln Community Hospital on their successful triennial reviews to maintain their Level IV trauma center designation. Kim also noted that Memorial Central and Penrose Main also completed their Level II trauma center reviews successfully in the last quarter. Those present congratulated all of them. Pikes Peak Regional Hospital (Level IV) and St Francis Medical Center (Level III) will be receiving their review in the last quarter of 2015. Memorial North hospital will be receiving their initial review to move from non-designated to a Level III in October 2015.

G) Drive Smart Colorado, CDOT Grant

Kim noted that the FY16 grant submission was successful and will extend the program for three more years. He also explained that the contractor, Drive Smart Colorado, will be not be involved with the Southern RETAC anymore as they have hired a new contractor for their program.

H) Regional CQI Committee

Kim updated the Council on the committee status. The group continues to meet every other month. The state EMTS office has formed a data task force to support the upgrade in the NEMSIS data base from 67 elements to approximately 280. Jeremiah Ahrens, CQI contractor for the RETAC, was appointed to represent the region on this task force. It is hoped that this upgrade will help to improve the quality of the data for use by agencies and the region for CQI efforts. Matt Concialdi spoke about the progress of the task force and indicated they were making good strides.

Mark Homan asked if there was any consideration being given to the data points which will affect reimbursements such as patient satisfaction and quality of care. Kim and Matt both indicated that these data points are mostly clinical in nature. Kim promised to bring this issue to the Public Policy and Finance committee next week for their consideration.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

A) 2015 Regional Biennial Plan

Kim presented the completed 2015 Regional Biennial Plan and thanked everyone for their help in providing information for the project. He encouraged those present to read the document. The plan will be provided to each set of county commissioners in the near future.



B) Goal Committees

Kim thanked the group for their help in developing the Biennial Plan goals. He then spoke about each goal and requested volunteers to support the implementation of the goal objectives.

- Education
  - Facility Education: Kim provided some history about this topic and the previous program which was modestly successful. He explained that with some modifications the project could be successful again. Volunteers came from each of the hospital systems in the region.
  - Prehospital Education: Kim explained that this is not an effort to change the existing BLS conference held in Lincoln County. His hope is that with the combining of resources from the RETAC and other sources that some high quality education could be offered for not only BLS but also ALS providers. Volunteers and potential members included Tim Dienst, Jeff Force, Sue Richardson, and Mark Homan.
- Healthcare Finance

Kim provided some background for this goal. With the implantation of the Affordable Care Act, the method of reimbursement for care will be changing significantly. The understanding is that bundle payments based on patient demographics and other factors will be made to Accountable Care Organizations which will then distribute the funds to the members. Agencies and facilities will need to be at the table to ensure appropriate distribution of funds. Volunteers included: Tim Dienst, Candy Shoemaker, and Jason Schallenberger.
- Rules & Legislation

Kim explained that the objective of this goal is to educate and engage more stakeholders in the processes for rule making and legislation. He noted that these rules and laws are affecting the provision of healthcare services across the spectrum and involvement in the process is essential. Volunteers included: Tim Dienst and Rachel Smith.
- RMD/CQI

Kim indicated that the Regional CQI Committee is already meeting the objectives of this goal so no additional volunteers are needed at this time. He did invite all attendees to participate in the meetings.

Kim assured those present that he will facilitate the development of these committees and will make every effort to be respectful of their time and resources. Every effort will be made to use teleconference and other electronic means for the committees.

C) Roundtable Discussion

John DeWitt: The previously scheduled ICS 300 class had limited participation and he is having trouble subsequently scheduling an ICS 400 course. Russ Roux promised to provide some information about upcoming courses in El Paso County. John also noted that Lincoln County had completed their FEMA Pre-disaster Mitigation plan and would be hosting an American Red Cross training in Hugo in August. John noted that Lincoln County would be hosting a full scale active shooter exercise at the Genoa-Hugo school in September. Volunteers for victims and observers are needed.

No other additional comments from those present.



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**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, Rob adjourned the meeting at 1547.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be October 20, 2015 in Kit Carson County

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Kim E Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator