



RETAC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 15, 2013

Location: Limon Ambulance Service
110 A Avenue
Limon, CO 80828

Attendance: See attached list

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

Kim Schallenberger asked for a brief moment of silence for Cheyenne County Commissioner Bob Paintin and his family as he struggles with medical issues.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kim Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, presented the proposed agenda. Tim Dienst moved to accept the agenda as presented. Shalou Herrera-Puno seconded the motion. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF July 16, 2013 MINUTES

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

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Kim presented documents reflecting the financial activity of the Regional office for July, August, and September 2013. Kim answered any questions. Tim moved to accept the financial report as presented. Judi seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

No correspondence at this time.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.



VI. REPORTS

A) Officers

Judi mentioned the nominees for the EMSAC awards program. Kim reviewed those nominations and informed the group he would forward information about winners as soon as he is notified. Tim and Rob both expressed public sympathy for the Paintin family and indicated they would speak later during the agenda.

B) Regional Coordinator

Kim indicated that most of his activities would be covered within the agenda. Kim informed the Council that the RETAC was awarded \$6030.00 from the Colorado Rural Health Center for the Rural AED program. This is a federal grant to place AEDs in rural locations. Kim informed the group that the funds would purchase approximately four units but that agencies and/or counties could go ahead and purchase more units at the discounted price. Both Lincoln and Kit Carson Counties indicated interest in this opportunity. Kim will keep the group informed.

Kim reminded those present about the Regional newsletter. He asked for feedback and potential topics for future issues. General feedback was positive and all agreed to forward ideas for future editions.

Kim presented a summary document showing redacted information about ambulance services billing rates in the Region. The group discussed the document and agreed it was valuable information.

Kim spoke about the effort to develop a regional preventative maintenance program for the numerous Stryker cots and stair chairs. All agreed that the effort was valuable but not quite what they expected. Nate Lenn offered to provide contact information for EMSAR. This is another vendor who provides the service but might be more competitive and agreeable to service older units also. Kim will work with Nate to get a quote from EMSAR.

Kim reminded the group that they had approved a RETAC membership in EMSAC. He stated that this had been completed and the RETAC is a full member.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A) State Council Report

Kim informed the Council that Dr. Andrew Berson from Memorial Health System-University of Colorado Health was appointed to the SEMTAC representing Level II facilities as a trauma surgeon. He replaces Dr. Roger Nagy from Penrose-St Francis Health Services.



Plains to Peaks

Emergency Medical & Trauma Service Region



Kim E. Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, Box 303, Kit Carson, CO 80825
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Kim informed the group that the next SEMTAC meeting will be held at the Pueblo Convention Center on October 23-24th. Kim provided the proposed agenda and a copy of the EMTS Section quarterly newsletter. Kim also noted that over time, the number of staff at the state EMTS office with actual health care backgrounds has dwindled to only two. This was provided for informational purposes.

Tim suggested that the Council might want to consider reviewing items of interest on the SEMTAC agenda prior to the meetings. This would provide a consensus view from the Region for Kim to present on the Region's behalf. Kim was tasked with getting agenda items out to the Council in time to allow discussions and decisions.

Kim provided an update on the Critical Care Paramedic task force meetings. At this time, they have developed some definitions and completed a review of the proposed scope of work for the new endorsement. They will make a presentation at the SEMTAC meeting on October 24th before continuing to work on the project. Two of the main concerns are the cost of testing and the amount of continuing education being proposed.

B) Board of Health Rules

No updates at this time.

C) Legislative Update

Kim provided a one page listing of recent legislation affecting the EMTS system from the federal and state levels. This information was provided by EMSAC.

Tim took this opportunity to speak about the EMTS Day at the Capitol scheduled for January and the efforts by the Chiefs, Managers, and Directors group to advocate for the EMTS system with our state legislators. Everyone was encouraged to participate in the events.

D) State Provider Grant

Kim updated the group on the Regional equipment grant. All equipment has been purchased and delivery is waiting for the training being provided by the vendor. Kim reminded the group that the FY15 Provider Grant will open on December 15, 2013.

Kim also spoke about the opportunities for education funding through the CREATE grant program operated by the CRHC using the EMTS Provider grant funds. Kim answered a couple questions about the program.



E) Statewide RETAC Forum

Kim noted that he and Rob continue to attend the quarterly forums. The most recent forum focused on the quality of EMS data currently stored in the state Image Trend system. Kim provided a recent summary of information about data submissions from ground transport services in the Region. The concern is that the data is available for review but is not accurate enough for analysis. During the next RETAC Forum, Image Trend will be providing training and considering options for improving the quality of the data.

F) Pediatric Issues

Shalou reported that a group of EMS and facility pediatric care providers will be forming a new committee to focus on communication and pediatric care. The group is called “Cupcake” and will be meeting for the first time on November 14th. She will provide more information as it becomes available. She also noted that the Children’s Hospital at Memorial has a new pediatric surgeon and trauma medical director. They have also recently added numerous pediatric ENT specialists to the staff at the facility.

G) Drive Smart Colorado, CDOT Grant

Kim noted that the FY13 grant funding ended on September 30th and the FY14 grant period started on October 1st. Kim provided a document for information to the group. The document is the FY13 Contract Final Report provided to CDOT. It summarizes the activities throughout the FY13 cycle and provides a great insight into the work being done by Drive Smart Colorado on behalf of the RETAC.

H) Regional CQI Committee

Kim provided an update on the work of the Regional committee. Given the issues with the quality of EMS data at the state level, the group decided to contract with an individual to conduct research and provide analysis for the group using data at the agency level. Five persons responded to the advertised job opening and the selection committee interviewed three very qualified persons. Ultimately, Jeremiah Ahrens from Colorado Springs was hired as the CQI Analyst contractor for FY13. The CQI Committee is meeting on October 16th and will meet the new contractor for the first time. Kim will continue to update on progress.



VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A) RETAC IGA

Kim informed the Council that all five Boards of County Commissioners have approved and signed the newly revised IGA. Kim will be providing an original copy to each County as he travels through the Region.

B) FY14 EMTS Supplemental Funding

Kim provided a historical background for the \$47,608.00 supplemental funding opportunity provided to the Region for FY14. These funds must be used like any other Provider grant with quarterly reporting and all work to be completed by June 30, 2014. Kim reminded the group that a request had been sent via email to bring ideas for potential Regional projects for these funds. Kim offered two ideas including Recruitment/Retention and a potential ALS Conference. Tim provided some financial information from UPRAD that showed a disturbing trend in reimbursements where costs continue to rise but reimbursements remain stagnant. He suggested that some of the funds could be used for advocacy with lawmakers to provide awareness about the financial plight of EMS. Other options considered included dividing the funds evenly among the Counties or developing a mini-grant program at the Regional level.

Tim made a motion to split the funds into two areas. One half to be divided among the five Counties equally for equipment and education at the local level. One half to be used for projects at the Regional level for Recruitment/Retention, Education, and Advocacy. Nate seconded the motion. Motion passed. Kim will set in motion the methods for receiving funding locally and to start the Regional projects.

(C) Roundtable Discussion

Rob Handley announced that Limon Ambulance Service will be starting an initial EMT class and academy after the first of the year.

Sandra Jewell-Shearer asked when El Paso County had hosted a meeting. It was noted that this occurred in January 2013.

Tim Dienst announced that UPRAD has received a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation in the amount of \$71691 to support the development of their Mobile Integrated Health Service program. Tim also noted that Pikes Peak Regional Hospital passed their triennial Level IV trauma survey recently.

Mark Morrison stated that Lincoln Community Hospital passed their recent trauma review.



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John DeWitt mentioned the “Code Red” emergency notification system in place with Cheyenne, Kit Carson, and Lincoln Counties. He also announced a grant from the Cooper Clark Foundation to place a tornado siren on the west end of Limon. John also mentioned a grant for bike helmets to support the Drive Smart program in Lincoln County. The GIS mapping software is now being used by both Public Health and the dispatch center in Lincoln County.

Bonnie King informed the group that St Francis Medical Center recently passed their triennial Level IV survey. She also noted that Dr. Hamilton is the new trauma director at Penrose Main.

Ted Foth spoke about the September 23rd dirt storm that caused numerous wrecks on the interstate in the Burlington area. This taxed the ambulance and hospital services but all performed well under the circumstances.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Rob adjourned the meeting at 1512.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be January 21, 2014 at Fountain Fire Department Station 1 in El Paso County.

Kim E Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator