

Kim,

As one of the Plains to Peaks regional medical directors, I would like to request consideration of Plains to Peaks RETAC for formation of a Plains to Peaks RETAC Prehospital Mental Health Committee under RETAC. This committee meets an unmet need for a non-political committee of current and future prehospital mental health teams throughout the RETAC area. Currently, the El Paso Sheriff BEHCON team, UPRHSD MHAP team, and the Colorado Springs Fire CARES team would be the ideal start to the team. In addition, Dr. Johnson (medical director for BEHCON and CARES) and myself (medical director for UPRHSD MHAP) have met and agree there is a critical need for this committee. The committee would also be open to other agencies or groups that are interested in developing prehospital mental health teams.

The purpose of this committee would be to work collaboratively for regional prehospital care of mental health patients within our RETAC area. This committee may also have the ability to collaboratively apply and negotiate funding streams, etc for the member groups. It is felt that the Plains to Peaks RETAC is the best place to house this committee due to the vast area that can be covered by this committee. In addition, this committee will have medical director involvement with the prehospital mental health team medical directors, as well as will likely report to other mental health committees, including the Teller County Mental Health Alliance and the El Paso County Mental Health Committee. This committee would allow for regional approaches not present in current committees. In addition, none of these other committees focus on prehospital care and management of these patients.

The cost of this committee should be minimal for the RETAC other than the costs of time for helping develop the committee as well as a RETAC rep being on the committee, as appropriate.

Thank you for your time and consideration for the formation of this critical committee. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeremy DeWall, MD, NRP
Regional Medical Director, Plains to Peaks RETAC

Cc/
Dr. Johnson
Mr. McLaughlin