



RETAC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2026

Location: St Francis Medical Center
6001 E Woodmen Road
Colorado Springs, CO

Virtually via Zoom

Attendance: See attached list

A quorum was present. Sherry Steffen called the meeting to order at 13:02 PM. Introductions from all attendees were completed.

I. CONSIDERATION of DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was presented. Lana Currance made a motion to accept as presented. Jared Cass seconded the motion. Motion passed.

II. ELECTION OF 2026 OFFICERS

Kim Schallenberger explained that the bylaws call for election of officers at the first meeting of the year with Chair and Secretary during even numbered years.

Kim noted that Tim Dienst is the current RETAC Chair and has expressed interest in continuing if the Council agrees. Kim asked for any other nominations for the position of RETAC Chair. With no other nominations, Tim Dienst will serve as the RETAC Chair for the next two years.

Kim noted that Rachel Carson is the current RETAC Secretary and has expressed interest in continuing if the Council agrees. Kim asked for any other nominations for the position of RETAC Secretary. With no other nominations, Rachel Carson will serve as the RETAC Secretary for the next two years.

III. CONSIDERATION OF October 21, 2025 MINUTES

Minutes of the October 21, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Eric Murray moved to accept the minutes of the October meeting as presented. Kenny Echols seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. CONSIDERATION of FINANCIAL REPORT

Kim Schallenberger presented documents reflecting the financial activity of the regional office for October, November, and December. Kim provided some explanation of the documents and asked for questions. Caroline Joy moved to accept the financials as presented. Bri Kent seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Kim presented a document showing the expenditures of the one-time \$50K funding provided by the state for FY26. Kim spoke about the budget for these funds and the benefits of those categories.



V. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

VI. REPORTS

A) Officers

No Officer reports at this time.

B) Regional Coordinator

Kim Schallenger informed the Council that many items would be covered during the regular agenda. He also spoke about several items which have occupied significant amounts of time this past quarter.

- EMS Financial Conference
 - Next Conference scheduled for September 16-17, 2026
 - Pikes Peak State College Rampart Campus
 - Will use outside catering and will work with local hotel to keep costs down
 - Continued collaboration with EMSAC CMD group for Human Resources education
- Critical Care & Community Paramedic Symposium
 - Scheduled for May 14, 2026
 - Pikes Peak State College CHES Campus
 - One day with two tracks for CC and CP
 - Will use outside catering and will work with local hotels to keep costs down
- Pulsara
 - Regional Status
 - Kim worked with the SC HCC to confirm funding for Jan-Mar 2026
 - Statewide Status
 - As noted in previous meetings, the Joint Budget Committee voted to fund Pulsara statewide but there has to be legislation passed to support that issue. Continued work to get a bill written to support the effort
- BLS Conference
 - Scheduled for April 25-26, 2026 at Limon High School
 - Conference Committee meeting in early February to develop agenda
- Rural Trauma Team Development Course
 - Common Spirit provided an RTTD course in Cheyenne Wells on October 7th
 - Good attendance from eastern Colorado hospitals
 - RETAC supported project by providing books and lunch
- Regional and Statewide Whole Blood Project
 - The program in Colorado Springs is approaching two years this May. Nearly 200 units of blood provided
 - The program in Teller County is doing well with several units provided.
 - Security FPD and City of Fountain Fire Department are working together to consider a program. Jared Cass indicated it will likely be 2027 before it can be developed due to funding costs.
 - The statewide program continues to grow with support from the Colorado Whole Blood coalition
- Lincoln County Collaboration
 - Stakeholders in Lincoln County continue to work together to enhance their EMS system



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- Collaboration among three entities is moving forward with good prospects; these include Lincoln Health, Limon Ambulance Service, and Agate FPD
- Council & Stakeholder Travel
 - Kim reminded the Council about the budget line items from the Supplemental Funding which includes funding to support travel for statewide meetings such as:
 - RETAC Forum, March 4-5, Golden
 - SEMTAC Meetings, April 8-9, Denver
 - EMSAC EMS at the Capitol event, February 10, 2026
- Kim spoke about efforts to create Emergency Medical Task Force regions in Colorado. This project is being lead by the Plains to Peaks and Foothills RETACs. The program would use programs developed in Texas to support the development of Ambulance Strike Teams in Colorado. Funding would be needed to support this effort but plans are progressing along all avenues.
- Kim informed the Council that after working with the RETAC Executive Committee, the RETAC worked with the state OEPR office to become the fiscal agent for the South Central Healthcare Coalition. This project will facilitate programs developed by the SC HCC and will support other programs such as the EMTF and RMOG

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A) State Council Report

Kim provided the Council with his notes from the recent SEMTAC meeting. Kim expanded on some of the topics.

- Jason Martin with UCH Trauma received the Positively Collaborative award from Martin Duffy
- EMPAC hosted a special meeting on January 22nd to consider changes to the Chapter Two Scope of Practice rules
- The CREATE program developed new standard educational course fees and this schedule was approved by SEMTAC
- The SEMTAC considered significant funding challenges with the HUTF fund as the balance is decreasing with pressure from rising costs, Path4EMS, and requests from RETACs for stable funding. There will be a special meeting of SEMTAC on February 4th to discuss options.
- The Grant Improvement Task Force continues to make updates to the program. The most significant was changing the timeline to ensure that grant awardees will have 12 months to complete projects. Kim reminded all that the shift has taken effect for FY27 and the hope is that funds will be available by July 1st.
- The State Trauma Advisory Committee is taking suggestions for updates to the Chapter Three Trauma Designation Rules. The rule set won't be open for changes until 2027 but the group is working to develop options prior to that date so the work can be considered more quickly.

B) Board of Health Rules

When the Chapter Two Scope of Practice rules are closed, they will go before the Board of Health for consideration. This should happen in late 2026 or early 2027

C) Legislative Update

Kim Schallenberger spoke about legislation currently being supported by EMSAC which includes

- A bill to establish EMS as an Essential Service is being considered. The EMSAC Advocacy Committee is working with the legislator to craft appropriate language
- A bill to pay for Treatment in Place and Mobile Integrated Health is also being considered. HCPF is likely in favor of the measure as they have seen the financial benefits.



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D) State Provider Grant

The FY27 Regional Grant Hearing is scheduled for March 11, 2026 from 1000-1200. This will be a virtual meeting hosted via Zoom. Kim asked for volunteers to review grants as there need to be reviewers from each county in the RETAC.

- Eric Murray (Teller), Kenny Echols (Cheyenne), Bri Kent (Cheyenne), Caroline Joy (El Paso), and Lana Currance (Kit Carson) all volunteered to review grants.
- Kim will reach out via email to other Council members for additional support.

E) Statewide RETAC Forum

The next RETAC Forum will be in Golden on March 4-5. The RETAC approved funding to support stakeholder travel to these events. Kim will get the information out to the community.

F) Pediatric Issues

No specific report but Kim did note that Sarah Cross is the new Trauma Program Manager at Children's Hospital Colorado-Colorado Springs.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A) South Central Healthcare Coalition Partnership

- a. Kim updated those present on the status of all healthcare coalitions
- b. Kim noted that the SC HCC was in need of a new fiscal agent when funding became available. After discussions with the Executive Council, the RETAC offered to be the fiscal agent with the support of Cheyenne County
- c. Kim presented the state approved budget for the SC HCC and described the work being done.

B) Roundtable Discussion

- a. Caroline Joy asked about the status of Secure Transport ambulance licensing. Kim will research and get information back to Caroline.
- b. Shane Dixon introduced himself as the new director of Kit Carson County Ambulance Service
- c. Lana Currance noted that Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital will be hosting a TNCC course soon.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Sherry Steffen adjourned the meeting at 1424.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be April 21, 2026 at 1200 with the site to be determined. This will be a hybrid meeting via Zoom

Kim E Schallenberger, Executive Director