



## RETAC Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 17, 2023

**Location:** Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and at  
Limon Ambulance Service  
110 A Avenue  
Limon, CO 80829

**Attendance:** See attached list

A quorum was present. Tim Dienst, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. Introductions from all attendees was completed.

### **I. CONSIDERATION of DRAFT AGENDA**

Tim Dienst presented the proposed agenda. Rachel Smith moved to accept the agenda as presented. Wendy Erickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **II. ELECTION of OFFICERS 2023**

As the officer terms are two years, the positions of Chair and Secretary are elected during the odd numbered years. Tim Dienst turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Wendy Erickson to conduct the election. Wendy Erickson noted that both Tim Dienst and Rachel Smith were the current officers and had expressed interest in continuing in those positions. Wendy Erickson asked if there were any additional nominations for the positions of Chair and Secretary. No additional nominations were provided. Wendy Erickson declared that Tim Dienst and Rachel Smith were duly elected by acclamation for the next two years as the Chair and Secretary respectively. Wendy Erickson turned the meeting back over to Tim Dienst.

### **III. CONSIDERATION OF October 18, 2022 MINUTES**

Minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Eric Murray moved to accept the minutes of meeting as presented. Jared Cass 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 2022. He went through the document and explained the various income and expenses. Eric Murray moved to accept the financial report as presented. Wendy Erickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Kim Schallenberger noted that the Cheyenne County BoCC had sent a letter to the Council requesting an increase in the fiscal agent administrative fee from \$942 to \$1000 per month. Kim Schallenberger read



the entire letter to all in attendance. After discussion about the request, Wendy Erickson made a motion to approve the request effective February 2023. Eric Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed. Kim Schallenberger was tasked to communicate with Cheyenne County and implement the increase with thanks from the Council for their services.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No Announcements at this time

## **VII. REPORTS**

### A) Officers

Tim Dienst informed the Council about discussions among all of the RETACs in the state regarding funding for the RETACs from the HUTF fund. Tim Dienst reminded everyone that this is the only source of sustainable funding available to the RETAC at this time. There were two meetings including Council members from all RETAC regions during this process. Ultimately, the decision was made by the group to make a request to the Public Policy & Finance Committee of SEMTAC and the whole SEMTAC to increase the Supplemental Funding for RETACs by \$50,000 annually. This request would be a short-term solution pending recommendations by the SB225 EMS Sustainability Task Force. The letter provided by the Plains to Peaks RETAC was crafted by the Executive Council and submitted to Public Policy & Finance. The request will receive full consideration during the April SEMTAC meeting. The Plains to Peaks letter was provided to the full Council for consideration. Eric Murray made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Jared Cass seconded the motion. Motion passed with Wendy Erickson abstaining as the author of the letter.

No reports from other officers at this time.

### B) Regional Coordinator

Kim Schallenberger informed the Council that many items would be covered during the regular agenda. He also provided a memo with the following topics and expanded on his work within each area:

- Contract Deliverables
- Education
  - The EMS Financial Symposium was held in November with good attendance and reviews
  - 2023 ALS Conference planning is underway. March 10-11, 2023 at the CHES campus of PPSC
- Advocacy
  - Upcoming EMS at the Capitol event scheduled for February 7, 2023
- Mental Health
  - Working with RMCP for education about the pending 988 crisis line
  - RC sitting on a national committee for implementation of the line
- Statewide Meetings
  - Significant funding available for initial education of EMT and Paramedic level



- Additional funding available for larger projects. Kim Schallenberger requested approval from the Council to pursue funding to develop mobile simulation training tools which could be used across the region for both EMS and facility education. This request would include collaboration with the Southern and Southeast RETACs to create a more appealing project and support providers across three regions. The Council agreed with the request and tasked Kim Schallenberger to move forward and to keep them informed about progress.
- Awards
- Local Meetings
  - Kim Schallenberger informed the Council that he is working with the stakeholders in the eastern counties to provide a quarterly meeting similar to the Region IV PCC and the Pikes Peak Regional PCC. The initial meeting had good attendance and those stakeholders agreed with the concept. Additionally, a meeting to consider implementation of Pulsara in the eastern counties was held with a demonstration by the vendor. All in attendance agreed to move forward with the application. Kim Schallenberger will be working with agencies who could not attend to introduce the program to them and recommend implementation.
- Other
  - Revision of the existing MCI Plan by the MCI Planning Committee has been going well. Chief Sean Pearson will be presenting the document to the El Paso County Chief's Forum in January for consideration and input. The project to develop MCI bags for every fire/ambulance vehicle is underway and being funded by a grant from the Emergency Services Agency. Kim Schallenberger will be presenting the draft documents to other counties in the region for their consideration in the near future.
  - Kim Schallenberger has been tasked with doing some ambulance inspections as the previous inspector is not able to continue with the process. This has gone well so far and should be a temporary solution until the state of Colorado assumes the licensing of ambulances statewide.
  - Kim Schallenberger is looking forward to being able to travel and visit agencies/facilities more as the pandemic has lifted and allowed for more.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A) State Council Report**

Kim provided the Council with his notes from the recent SEMTAC meeting. Several topics were highlighted which included:

- The October 11-12, 2023 SEMTAC meeting will be held in Burlington
- Heather Finch received the "Positively Collaborative Award" for the quarter.
- Path4EMS has been updated and is doing much better providing support for stakeholders
- EMTS Branch quarterly newsletter was reviewed
- EMS Data from the Branch to support the SB225 Task Force was made available for all to review



B) Board of Health Rules

No current rules before the Board of Health

C) Legislative Update

Kim Schallenberger spoke about the upcoming EMS at the Capitol event scheduled for February 7, 2023. All are invited to attend.

D) State Provider Grant

Kim Schallenberger updated the group on the FY24 EMTS Provider Grant

- Preapplication is due February 8<sup>th</sup>
- Final complete application is due February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Financial Waiver Review is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup>
- The Plains to Peaks Regional Grant Hearing is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be virtual
  - Kim asked for volunteers to review grants. Wendy Erickson, Dave Hansher, Jared Cass, Eric Murray, and Rachel Smith volunteered. Kim will reach out to additional volunteers from the region

E) Statewide RETAC Forum

Kim spoke about the value of the Forum and the next meeting.

F) Pediatric Issues

Nothing at this time

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A) Biennial Plan Goals for FY24

Kim Schallenberger provided some background on the Biennial Plan requirement and how goals have been developed in the past. Kim asked the Council to provide more input into the goal development for the FY24-25 Plan. Kim will be sending out a survey asking Council members to put their thoughts to paper and provide feedback on potential projects/goals/objectives. Kim will get the survey sent out soon so that final goals can be voted on during the April meeting.

B) Regional Medical Direction Program Update

Kim Schallenberger provided history for the Council regarding the Regional Medical Direction and CQI programs. This history included a CQI conference, a Regional CQI Committee, and various efforts to implement a regional CQI program to support benchmarking at the agency level. Kim noted that the contracted CQI Analyst has done everything asked of him but the result has still been there is no regional program currently. Kim added that the regional medical directors and the analyst are resuming efforts to utilize the state collected data now with some encouraging results.



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Tim Dienst noted that there has been significant time and money put into this effort and he expressed concern that potentially the effort should be redirected to better meet the needs of agencies and medical directors. Sean Pearson noted that there is currently an effort with the El Paso County North Group to provide best practices for agencies when working with CQI. It appears that similar work is happening with other agencies.

Kim Schallenberger suggested that he should reach out to these current efforts and see how the RETAC might best support them and potentially work towards a regional program. Kim further asked that the current effort utilizing state data be allowed to continue. The Council agreed with the pathway and Kim was tasked to provide updates during each quarterly RETAC meeting.

C) Roundtable

Jessica Manzo reminded the group that the Centura Webinar Week for EMS CE will be January 30-February 3. Jessica also noted that the Paramedic Refresher course will begin in February

Heather Finch informed everyone that the Memorial UC Health Trauma Symposium will be August 23-25.

No comments from the other members or attendees.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, Tim Dienst adjourned the meeting at 1452.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be April 18, 2023 in Kit Carson County. The virtual option will also be available.

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Kim E Schallenberger, Executive Director