



### **RETAC Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** October 20, 2020  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting Online  
**Attendance:** See attached list

A quorum was present. Tim Dienst, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Kim Schallenberger announced all those present on the phone for the meeting and they provided brief introductions.

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

Tim presented the proposed agenda. Eric Murray moved to accept the agenda as presented. Elizabeth Spradlin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021**

Kim reminded the Council that a bylaw change in 2020 moved the term for each officer to two years and that the Chair and Secretary would be elected in odd numbered years. The Vice Chair to be elected in even numbered years.

Kim assumed control of the meeting for the election of the Chair. Wendy Erickson nominated Tim Dienst for the position of Council Chair. Kim asked for additional nominations; hearing none, nominations were closed and Tim Dienst was reelected by acclamation.

Tim Dienst reassumed control of the meeting for the election of the Council Secretary. Wendy Erickson nominated Rachel Smith. Tim Dienst asked for additional nominations; hearing none, nominations were closed and Rachel Smith was reelected by acclamation.

#### **III. CONSIDERATION of October 20, 2020 MINUTES**

Minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Eric Murray moved to accept the minutes of July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Rachel Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION of FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kim Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, presented documents reflecting the financial activity of the regional office for October, November, and December 2020. Jasmine Shea moved to accept the financial report as presented. Eric Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed. Tim Dienst, Wendy Erickson, and Rachel Smith abstained.

Kim Schallenberger 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.



**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Kim indicated there was no correspondence during the last quarter.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements from those in attendance

**VII. REPORTS**

A) Officers

No reports from the officers at this time.

B) Regional Coordinator

Kim Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, 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
- Advocacy
- Mental Health
- Statewide Meetings
- Awards
- Local Meetings
- COVID19
- Other
- Biennial Plan Goals

**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:

- Seven open positions on SEMTAC. Deadline to apply is April 9<sup>th</sup>. Kim encouraged all to consider applying or recommending someone
- Lana Martin was presented the Positively Collaborative Awards by Martin Duffy
- 58 paramedics have transitioned from certified to licensure since January 1<sup>st</sup>
- UC Health Memorial is providing virtual Stepping On courses
- EMTS waiver request to do virtual Trauma Designation reviews; passed by SEMTAC

Kim provided a copy of the EMTS Branch Quarterly report for review. Kim also provided a copy of the waiver requested by the EMTS Branch for Trauma Designation Reviews.



B) Board of Health Rules

Kim noted the only BoH rules deadline of which he is aware is the HF Chapter 13 rules draft expected to be ready in mid-2021. These rules are being updated to include language about Free Standing Emergency Departments.

C) Legislative Update

Tim Dienst spoke about current initiatives of which he is currently aware.

- February 5<sup>th</sup> is the Medicare Rate Review Committee meeting and they will be discussing EMT and NEMT transport rates. They will also be discussing the potential for an FRA.
- The Division of Insurance is taking complaints currently regarding underpayments from insurance companies as a result of previous legislation HB 1174
- Potential state legislation to designate EMS as an essential service
- Potential state legislation to establish a “Nurse Triage Line” in an effort to reduce 911 calls
- Recent federal legislation regarding COVID relief also included language about “surprise billing”
- EMSAC will be starting up the weekly advocacy calls soon

D) State Provider Grant

Kim spoke about the EMTS Provider Grant

- The state grants manager indicated that FY21 Quarterly Reports were generally late. Kim encouraged grant applicants to get their required reporting done quickly
- FY22 EMTS Provider Grant
  - Grant opened on December 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Grant workshops were held
  - Regional Grant hearing is March 10<sup>th</sup>, 0900-1200, Virtually via Zoom
  - Tim Dienst requested volunteers from the group to review grants
  - Tim Dienst also asked Kim to make the grant reviewer video instructions available
- Grant Reviewers
  - Cheyenne: Jasmine Shea, Scott Nyman
  - El Paso: Wendy Erickson, Lana Martin, Elizabeth Spradlin, Sherry Steffen, Val Brockman
  - Kit Carson: Korena Laue
  - Lincoln: Rachel Smith, potentially Ken Stroud
  - Teller: Eric Murray, Tim Dienst

E) Statewide RETAC Forum

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

F) Pediatric Issues

Lana Martin indicated there was no update at this time.



#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A) Potential System Improvement Grant Application

Kim spoke about a current project by all of the RETACs to survey ambulance services about Recruitment and Retention. He provided some details about the anecdotal results. Kim then asked the Council for permission to write a System Improvement Grant to expand on the results of the survey. The project would include money to build the survey appropriately, conduct the survey, and then analyze the results. Tim Dienst indicated he had seen the previous results and supported the project. Other Council members voiced their support for the project. Eric Murray made a motion to approve the Plains to Peaks RETAC writing a System Improvement Grant to research Recruitment/Retention. Elizabeth Spradlin seconded the motion. Motion passed

##### B) Regional EMS CQI Project

Kim updated the Council on the Regional EMS CQI project being spearheaded by the Co-Regional Medical Directors: Dr. Matt Angelidis and Dr. Jeremy DeWall. Kim noted that the group is using the expertise of two medical school grad students to help build the project. Ultimately, the contracted CQI Analyst will be able to provide data back to agencies and allow them to benchmark themselves against other similar agencies.

##### C) Virtual EMS Conferences

Kim informed the Council that the BLS Conference usually held in Limon will be provided through a virtual format. The committee has lined up 8-10 high quality speakers who will provide recorded lectures on a wide variety of topics. Kim informed the group that there will be no charge for the education and that he hopes to have the final product ready for delivery in late April 2021.

Kim reminded the group that the ALS Conference scheduled for March 2020 in Cripple Creek had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Plans to move forward with a virtual ALS Conference in April 2021 have also been derailed as the prime component of the conference is the ability to provide hands on education. The committee will work to resume the conference in Jan-Feb of 2022.

##### D) Other

Kim asked the Chair for a couple minutes to bring forward some excellent work by agencies/facilities in the eastern counties of the region. Due to the ongoing drought, numerous agricultural fields are barren and ripe for creating Dust Storms during high wind events. This has happened on three separate occasions resulting in a 10 car, 4 car, and 40 car pile ups in recent weeks. Kim provided some details about the events and his experience working with the agencies/facilities dealing with these events. Rachel Smith with Lincoln Community Hospital recounted details of 18 patients arriving at their facility. Scott Nyman spoke about how his agency responded to dealing with the transport of eight patients from a single event. The Council applauded all stakeholders for their exceptional work during these events.



*Plains to Peaks*  
*Emergency Medical & Trauma Service Region*



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E) Roundtable Discussion

Eric Murray thanked UC Health and Centura for their collaboration to provide the annual Paramedic Refresher Course virtually. Dates for the course were provided.

Wendy Erickson reminded everyone about the upcoming Penrose-St Francis Virtual Trauma Symposium on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

No other participants had any additional information to bring forward at this time.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, Tim adjourned the meeting at 1:27 PM.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be April 20, 2021.

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Kim E Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator