



## RETAC Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 17, 2023

**Location:** Hybrid Meeting via Zoom  
Penrose Hospital  
Loo Cancer Center Pavilion  
2222 N Nevada Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

**Attendance:** See attached list

A quorum was present. Tim Dienst, called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM. Introductions from all attendees were completed.

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

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

### **II. CONSIDERATION OF July 18, 2023 MINUTES**

Minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Eric Murray moved to accept the minutes of meeting as presented. Heather Finch seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **III. CONSIDERATION of FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kim Schallenberger presented documents reflecting the financial activity of the regional office for July, August, and September 2023. Kim provided a more in-depth description of the revenue provided to the RETAC as there were several in attendance who may not have been aware. Kim further explained that the expected funding from the state office was not being sent in a timely fashion. The reasons for these delays are varied but are frustrating for all RETACs. Kim explained that the initial use of County Designated Funds for Operations approved by the Council were now being replaced into the County Accounts due to expected funding from the state office. Eric Murray moved to accept the financial report as presented. Jared Cass seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

No Correspondence

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No Announcements at this time



## **VI. REPORTS**

### A) Officers

Tim Dienst spoke about events during the most recent SEMTAC meeting in which the proposed Ground Ambulance Licensing Rules were opposed by several groups in the community. Kim and Tim will provide more information later in the agenda.

Wendy Erickson spoke about the statewide Whole Blood Coalition work. She answered some questions and then suggested that this should be a standing agenda item. The Council agreed.

### B) Regional Coordinator

Kim Schallenberger 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.

- SB225 EMS Sustainability and Ground Ambulance Licensing
  - Kim noted that since these two task forces were initiated by legislation, they have consumed a lot of time for many people. The group wants to move quickly but those actions need to be tempered with concern about how the rules affect the EMTS community. Kim has been asked to serve on numerous sub-committees during the process.
- Whole Blood Coalition
  - Kim and Wendy spoke about the structure of the group and the goals.
- Pulsara and Statewide Patient Tracking Task Force
  - Kim spoke about the process followed by the Task Force and the results of their work. It is expected that the state OEPR office will ultimately purchase the product for the state but they are waiting on funding to move forward. Kim updated the Council on the progress within the region. This did raise some questions about training for dispatch. Kim will look into this further.
- EMS Financial Symposium
  - October 26-27 at the Doubletree in Colorado Springs.
  - Good registration so far

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### A) State Council Report

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

- Dr. Jeff Beckman will be leaving his position as the state Medical Director in December
- The Public Policy and Finance Committee reviewed the eleven RETAC Financial reports and deemed them to be adequate.
- Kim noted that the SEMTAC had approved the formation of three Task Forces during the July meeting to support EMT IV Curriculum, IFT Safety, and Lowering the Age for EMT to 16. None of these groups have had a meeting yet due to no support from the EMTS Branch. As a governor



appointed Council, all meetings are public and must be staffed by state staff. Interim Branch Director Peter Meyers indicated they were working to get the groups staffed but have not yet been able to make that happen.

- The Public Policy and Finance Committee had established goals in the July meeting and decided to pursue the goal of increasing the HUTF account to support the EMTS Branch, EMTS Grants, RETACs, etc. When they requested a task force be stood up to address this funding issue, Peter Meyers indicated that wouldn't be a problem and the group would get started soon.
- The majority of the meeting included discussion of the Ground Ambulance Licensing Rules which had been submitted to the Board of Health. Numerous groups wrote letters to SEMTAC and the Department requesting that the process be paused to allow for more discussion and changes to the proposed rules. Ultimately, no vote was taken to approve the draft rules. A motion to convene at least three special SEMTAC meetings to address the concerns passed. The current rules have significant issues in sections 9 and 14 plus the funding section is still blank with no plan of how to fund the \$1.4M project with 9-10 employees. The rules need to be approved for final review by the Board of Health on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### B) Board of Health Rules

No current rules before the Board of Health

#### C) Legislative Update

Tim Dienst discussed potential legislation to set pricing standards which must be followed by insurance companies. There is also consideration of making EMS an Essential Service but Tim is concerned about passing rules with no funding to support the project. Tim further spoke about the second year of the Sustainability Task Force which will be looking at "Access".

#### D) State Provider Grant

Kim Schallenberger updated the group on the FY24 EMTS Provider Grant

- There are still a few grants without purchase orders and it's October. This is an ongoing problem.

#### E) Statewide RETAC Forum

Kim and Tim spoke about the Forums. Tim invited Council members to attend the meetings. The next meeting is in Loveland in December followed by Gateway in March

#### F) Pediatric Issues

Nothing at this time

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### A) RETAC Educational Training Group



**Kim E. Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, 2910 N Powers Blvd, Suite 355, Colo Spgs, 80922**  
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Eric Murray had made a request for the Council to consider the RETAC forming a training group to support education and agencies across the region. Kim provided the group with a document showing the basic requirements to have a training group. The topic spurred some excellent discussion and support for the concept. Ultimately, the Council decided to form a sub-committee to research the subject and come back with data for the next meeting in January. Motion made by Wendy Erickson and seconded by Jared Cass. Motion passed. Persons who volunteered to be on the committee included: Jared Cass, Maureen Bradley, Jessica Manzo, Eric Murray, Jason Martin, Wendy Erickson, Harold Smith, Rachel Smith, and Jeff Force. Eric Murray was appointed by Tim Dienst to convene the initial meeting and lead the group until a formal chair is elected.

**B) Additional Supplemental Funding Approved by SEMTAC**

Tim Dienst reminded the Council that during the July SEMTAC meeting, the Council approved a one time additional supplemental funding amount of \$50K per RETAC for the FY24 cycle. While those funds have not yet been provided to each RETAC, it is anticipated they will arrive in November over three payments. Tim asked the Council to consider options for the most appropriate use of this one time windfall. Tim made the initial recommendation to provide the Regional Coordinator with a \$20K bonus as the Council has consistently tried to increase the salary but were restricted by available funds. The Council members agreed with this idea. Kim thanked the Council for their consideration of the bonus. Kim further noted that he had discussed options for supporting education and quality improvement with the directors of the two EMS Liaison offices. Both Jeff Force and Maureen Bradley felt their programs would benefit from this support. Kim also suggested that some of the funds could be used to support the development of the Whole Blood program in the RETAC. Dr. Matt Angelidis spoke about this program and the needs. Tim asked the Council to consider setting aside a small portion of the funds to support travel expenses for Council members and stakeholders to attend statewide meetings such as the SEMTAC and RETAC Forum. A final suggestion that \$2500 be set aside to support the newly formed Education Subcommittee was heard. Kim noted for the Council that if they supported the Whole Blood Program, it might be best to utilize some of the El Paso County Designated Funds since the program will initially only be implemented in the Colorado Springs area. The Council generally agreed with the discussion. As discussion began to conclude, Wendy Erickson made a motion to divide the supplemental funding as follows:

- \$20K to the Regional Coordinator as a bonus to be split over two periods and not to be considered as salary
- \$5K to be used to support travel expenses for Council members and stakeholders to attend statewide meetings
- \$22.5K to be used to the EMS Liaison offices to support education and QI
- \$2500 be used to support the work of the Education Subcommittee

Eric Murray seconded the motion. Since the motion involved committing funds, Tim requested a roll call vote which passed unanimously.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, Tim Dienst adjourned the meeting at 1430.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be January 16<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln County. The virtual option will also be available.



# Plains to Peaks

*Emergency Medical & Trauma Service Region*



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Kim E Schallenberger, Executive Director

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