



Plains to Peaks

Emergency Medical & Trauma Service Region



Kim E.

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RETAC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 21, 2026

Location: Virtually via Zoom

Attendance: See attached list

A quorum was present. Tim Dienst called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

I. CONSIDERATION of DRAFT AGENDA

Chair Dienst asked the Council to approve the draft agenda. Rick Pelton moved to approve the agenda as presented. Eric Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed.

II. CONSIDERATION OF April 28, 2026 MINUTES

Minutes of the April 28, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Sherry Steffen moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting as presented. Eric Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. CONSIDERATION of FINANCIAL REPORT

Kim Schallenberger presented documents reflecting the financial activity of the regional office for April, May, and June. Kim provided some explanation of the documents and asked for questions. Jared Cass moved to accept the financials as presented. Eric Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Kim informed the Council about an issue which had arisen during the previous quarter regarding the County Designated funds which are held at the RETAC level but controlled by the individual County. It has been the practice of the RETAC to allow Counties to postpone use of these funds to allow them to accumulate and thus fund larger projects. This has worked well for the member counties but has recently caused a problem with the budgeting process. As there was no definition about the amount of funds a county could request each year, the budget presented always reflected the \$13,500 which is what accumulates annually. When two member counties chose to fund larger projects in the same quarter, that put the RETAC in a position of not having the cash flow to cover the expense due to all expenses which come due and the delay in receiving reimbursements from the state of Colorado. This causes Cheyenne County to routinely create a budget amendment due to the RETAC. The Council agreed that each county should request all funds each year for budgeting purposes which would eliminate the need for an amendment to the Cheyenne County budget. Commissioner Pelton will discuss the solution with the other commissioners.

Kim presented a document showing the expenditures of the one-time \$50K funding provided by the state for FY26. Kim noted that there would be no additional funds available in FY27 as they were not approved by the SEMTAC and CDPHE.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence



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V. 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
 - Kim noted that since losing the supplemental funding from the state, it would be difficult to continue with the EMS Financial Conference. He explained the costs and current efforts to collaborate with both the Mile-High RETAC and EMSAC to continue the educational event.
 - The Council agreed that the best option at this time was to cancel the EMS Financial Symposium for 2026 and continue pursue other options.
- Critical Care & Community Paramedic Symposium
 - Conducted on May 14, 2026
 - Pikes Peak State College CHES Campus
 - One day with two tracks for CC and CP
 - Good evaluations but limited attendance.
 - Kim will continue to work with statewide stakeholders on this educational need and the most appropriate avenue to provide the resource.
- Pulsara
 - Statewide Status
 - The RETAC and the SC Healthcare Coalition have obtained a grant to fund Pulsara through June 30, 2027. With this funding, the RETAC and SC HCC will need to conduct a Patient Tracking MCI event in the Spring of 2027.
- BLS Conference
 - Completed April 25-26, 2026 at Limon High School
 - 50 participants each day with good evaluations
 - Kim thanked UC Health, Common Spirit, Children's Hospital Colorado Springs, and Ute Pass Regional HSD for providing instructors for this annual event.
 - This was the 25th annual event.
- Regional Medical Operations and Emergency Medical Task Force Development
 - Participating in the development of the RMOC and EMTF concepts in Colorado.
 - Working with the Foothills RETAC director at the state level to confirm the EMTF program.
 - Implemented the EMTF program during the April 22nd NDMS exercise in Denver
- Regional and Statewide Whole Blood Project
 - The program in Colorado Springs has been in place nearly two years with over 200 units provided.
 - The program in Teller County is doing well with several units provided.
 - The statewide program continues to grow with support from the Colorado Whole Blood coalition
 - EMPAC added Liquid Plasma to the EMT scope and the guidelines should be approved in August.
- Lincoln County Collaboration
 - Stakeholders in Lincoln County continue to work together to enhance their EMS system
 - Collaboration among three entities is moving forward with good prospects; these include Lincoln Health, Limon Ambulance Service, and Agate FPD



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- Kim noted that James McLaughlin asked the RETAC to host the Colorado Medical Board meeting and Kim suggested that Lincoln County would be a good option to show off their progress and current efforts to enhance healthcare.
- 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, September 2-3, Boulder
 - SEMTAC Meetings, October 7-8, Granby

VI. 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.

- Dr. Angie Wright read the letter submitted on behalf of all 11 RETACs requesting an audit of the state EMTS Branch accounts.
- Peter Myers informed the SEMTAC that the recommendation provided last quarter to reduce the amount of sessions available for clients in the Path4EMS program from 15 to 10 was accepted. This is a cost saving measure and will be implemented October 1, 2026.
- Marci Dowis was elected as the Chair of SEMTAC for FY27. G Wagner was elected to serve as the Vice Chair.
- Michelle Reese informed the SEMTAC about changes to Chapter 1 EMS rules which will allow EMT, AEMT, and EMT-I to obtain endorsement as a Community Paramedic by passing the required test. They will still be limited to their scope of practice.
- Peter Myers spoke about Proposition 175 and HB 1430. The Council discussed potential effects of these.
- The SEMTAC did unanimously recommend a financial and functional audit of the EMTS Branch.
- The SEMTAC approved a special meeting of the Public Policy and Finance committee to provide a deeper review of the EMS Account.
- The SEMTAC recommended the department create a committee to support Interfacility Transport discussions.

B) Board of Health Rules

The Chapter Two EMS Scope of Practice rules will go to the CMO of CDPHE in August. If approved, they will take effect in October 2026.

C) Legislative Update

Tim Dienst spoke about a few legislative items for the Council

- Tim anticipates a new bill in the Colorado legislative cycle to take the place of HB1088 which was passed in 2025 but was vetoed by the Governor. This bill would establish minimum reimbursement rates while eliminating the potential for “balance billing”.
- Tim stated that there should be a companion bill to HB1069 from 2026 which allows Medicaid to pay for Treatment in Place. The new bill will attempt to require commercial insurance to do the same.
- Tim had updates from the national level to include the CARES Act which would include Treatment in Place for CMS and would establish some Community Paramedic grant programs. The EMS Counts Act was reviewed once again and Tim encouraged the Council to go to NAEMT Take Action to support the bills.
- Tim also noted that the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado is undergoing some significant changes which should allow them organization to serve the community better.

A cooperative partnership of the providers serving Cheyenne, El Paso, Kit Carson, Lincoln, and Teller Counties



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D) State Provider Grant

Kim noted that the updated timeline for the EMTS Provider grant is having the desired effect for many grant applications. As of July 9th, there were 77% of Purchase Orders out to agencies for signatures. This still needs to improve but is a vast improvement from previous years.

E) Statewide RETAC Forum

The next RETAC Forum will be in Boulder on September 2-3. Kim invited all to attend and stated the RETAC would try to support travel for Council and stakeholders.

F) Pediatric Issues

No specific report

G) South Central Healthcare Coalition Partnership

Kim updated the Council on the partnership between the RETAC as the Fiscal Agent for the HCC. The project is doing well with great collaboration as the SC HCC enters into Budget Period 3.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Rural Healthcare Transformation Program Grant

Kim spoke at length about the Rural Health Transformation Program grant opportunity currently open. There are four RETACs submitting applications which cover a variety of topic areas to include: EMS Education, AED Placements, Mobile Integrated Health, and Prehospital Whole Blood/Plasma. The Plains to Peaks RETAC is also submitting an application to fund Pulsara on a statewide basis. The application would also initiate a software program to support the Emergency Medical Task Force Strike Team concept and Interfacility Transfers. The grant is due on August 3rd with a performance period starting in October 2026.

B) Roundtable Discussion

- No specific updates from the Council or community in attendance.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Tim Dienst adjourned the meeting at 1330.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be October 20, 2026 at 1200 likely in a virtual format.

Kim E Schallenberger, Executive Director