

July 2023

Emergency Medical & Trauma Services Branch Activity Report

Presented to the
State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council

Report For Period:
April 2023 - June 2023




Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch Activity Report to the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council

This report is submitted as a record of key activities by the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch for the period of April 2023 - June 2023.

EMTS Branch Chief	1
EMTS Branch Summary	1
Operations Section	3
Table: Scope of Practice Waivers (Active)	3
EMS Certification & Licensing	3
EMS Education Programs	5
Table: EMS Education Programs	5
Table: NREMT Cognitive Exam Performance	5
Colorado EMT Program Performance	6
Colorado Paramedic Program Performance	7
Air Ambulance Licensing	8
Table: Air Ambulance Agencies	8
Table: Exigent Circumstance Air Ambulance Flights	8
Path4EMS	9
Trauma Section	10
Trauma Reviews/Designations	10
Table: Colorado Trauma System Facility Designations	10
Table: Trauma System Designated Reviews Conducted	10
Trauma Consultations and Outreach Visits	11
Table: EMS Ground Agency & ePCR Data	12
Office of Cardiac Arrest	13
Investigations & Enforcement	14
Table: EMS Personnel Enforcement	14
Table: Air Ambulance Agency Enforcement	14
EMS for Children	15
EMSC State Partnership Grant:	15
EMS for Children Survey	15
Colorado Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (COPECC)	15
Colorado Pediatric Preparedness for the Emergency Room	15
Colorado Rural Expansion Program	16
Pediatric Care Committee	16
Funding Section	17
Committees, Councils & Task Forces	17
Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council	19
Designation Review Committee	19
Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee	20

EMS System Sustainability Task Force	20
Office of Public Safety Communications	22
EMS Compact	24
Table: Colorado EMS providers with multiple state licenses	24
EMTS Branch Personnel Roster	25

Data Table Icons

 = Decrease from prior period.	 = Increase from prior period.	 = No change from prior period.
---	---	--

EMTS Branch Chief

xxx Branch Chief,

EMTS Branch Summary

Colorado EMTS Branch Highlights

- The EMTS Branch Chief, Donnie Woodyard, has been offered a tremendous opportunity to further advance EMS on a national level with a position with the National Registry. We are very excited for him and sad to lose such a valuable member of the team. In the interim, Peter Myers, Deputy Division Director, will be the acting Branch Chief. Donnie's last day with CDPHE will be August 4th. Until that time, Donnie will continue to be the Executive Sponsor of the EMS Sustainability Task Force. Congratulations Donnie!
- The EMTS Branch congratulated Tim Petriet on accepting the Grant Funding Manager position. Tim had previously been in the role of Path4EMS manager.
- Maintaining a steady cadence of meetings, the EMS Sustainability Task Force has made considerable progress during the second quarter of 2023:
 - The finance workgroup has developed a financial model, designed to pinpoint and analyze the actual costs of providing Emergency Medical Services in Colorado, marking a significant stride in understanding the financial landscape of EMS.
 - The Task Force requested and thoroughly examined data reports regarding EMS call volumes, interfacility transfers, and the percentage of patient encounters that do not necessitate transport, adding valuable insight into the operational intricacies of EMS in the state.
 - The Governance workgroup has initiated its meetings and started a comprehensive study of state EMS governance models from several states, including Minnesota, Tennessee, and North Carolina. In addition, the workgroup scrutinized the Colorado Revised Statutes, identifying at least six provisions allowing various governmental units in Colorado to organize, operate, manage, or provide ambulance services.
 - In the latter part of Q2, the primary focus of the Task Force pivoted from data analysis to the collation and organization of their findings. Their efforts are aimed at composing the first legislative report of the Task Force, a crucial document in addressing the EMS challenges in Colorado. This report is scheduled for submission on September 1st.

- The Ground Ambulance Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis. The most recent meeting, on July 11th, continued the development of the ground ambulance rules and began discussions about licensing fees. These meetings continue to have great stakeholder support.
- The EMTS branch is currently in the process of filling two vacancies: the Peer Support (Path4EMS) Coordinator and the Boards and Commissions Coordinator. These positions are in various stages of the hiring process and are hopeful they will all be filled very quickly.
- On June 23rd, a public meeting was held to present a consultative report for Morgan County. That meeting was well attended by members of the public, participants in the reports, and representatives from CDPHE. The report findings were tremendously valuable to the community.

National EMS System Updates

- The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) has introduced scaled-score reports for candidates who did not pass their initial NREMT examination. This new approach offers accurate, transparent, and standardized feedback to better equip candidates for subsequent attempts. The reports include a unique score, reflecting the candidate's performance relative to the success benchmark in future attempts. Further details are available on the NREMT [website](#).
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be terminating the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model two years ahead of schedule, on December 31, 2023. Launched in 2021, ET3 was an innovative initiative aimed at minimizing unnecessary ED transports by promoting alternative care pathways like on-site treatment, telehealth services, and non-ED destinations.
- The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) passed two resolutions at its annual meeting in June. The first acknowledged the significance of the National EMS Museum (<https://emsmuseum.org/>), and the second urged NEMSIS to standardize the race and ethnicity data fields nationally.
- The U.S. Fire Administration is increasing its resources and personnel dedicated to Emergency Medical Services, which includes the introduction of more courses focusing on EMS management.
- The EMS Compact has welcomed two new member states - Nevada and Oklahoma. This increases the total number of Compact states to 24, with over 500,000 EMS personnel now part of an EMS Compact Member State.

Operations Section

Mike Bateman, Section Manager, michael.bateman@state.co.us

The Operations Section is responsible for certifying and licensing EMS providers, registering Emergency Medical Responders, licensing air ambulance agencies, recognizing EMS and EMR education programs, and coordinating the EMS peer assistance program, Path4EMS. Section staff also provide technical assistance to EMS medical directors, agencies, and providers regarding EMS provider scope of practice and provide administrative support for meetings of the Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council and Regional Medical Directors Committee.

Table: Scope of Practice Waivers (Active)

	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
Waivers (BLS)	4	7	5	3	4
Waivers (ALS)	273	312	308	278	337
Waivers (BLS + ALS)	49	56	50	67	46
Total	326	375	363	348	387

EMS Certification & Licensing

Jennyfer Nguyen, Licensing Specialist

The number of EMS personnel with a current Colorado license or certification is stable, with a 2.2% increase in the past year, however the number of personnel actively engaged in the EMS workforce is unknown. Although the EMT-Intermediate level was sunsetted many years ago, individuals with a current EMT-Intermediate certification may maintain the certification level for the duration of their career (if all requirements are fulfilled).

Table: EMS Personnel

Level	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
Registered EMR	381	388	378	383 ▲	415 ▲
EMT	13,952	14,002	14,170 ▲	14,226 ▲	14,521 ▲
Advanced EMT	363	375	386 ▲	406 ▲	432 ▲
EMT-Intermediate	325	314	303 ▼	294 ▼	287 ▼
Paramedic	5,354	5,422	5,481 ▲	5,543 ▲	5,604 ▲
Total EMS Personnel ²	19,997 ▲	20,113 ▲	20,340 ▲	20,469 ▲	20,844 ▲

1- The EMT-Intermediate level has been sunsetted. Existing personnel may maintain/renew certification; no new certifications are issued.

2- Total EMS Personnel excludes registered EMRs Table: Subset of EMS Personnel With Endorsements or License

Level	2022 21	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2032 Q2
EMT Licensed	881	963	1,044 ▲	1,103 ▲	1,180 ▲
AEMT Licensed	32	36	39 ▲	39 →	45 ▲
Paramedic Licensed	580	614	652 ▲	684 ▲	720 ▲
Paramedic Critical Care Endorsement	512	519	538 ▲	556 ▲	573 ▲
Paramedic Community Paramedic Endorsement	37	37	41 ▲	42 ▲	45 ▲
Paramedic Critical Care + Community Paramedic Endorsements	19	22	26 ▲	27 ▲	30 ▲

*Data presented in this table are a subset of the total EMS personnel presented in the table above.

EMS Education Programs

Eric Lucas, EMS Operations Specialist

Colorado continues to actively engage with EMS education programs, and provide technical support to programs. EMS education recognition is provided by education centers that offer initial education and education groups that offer continuing education and recertification. Year-to-date there has been an increase in the number of education programs to levels observed in Q2 2022. This includes both recognized EMS education centers and education groups.

Table: EMS Education Programs

	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
Education Programs	220	214	216	214	219 ▲

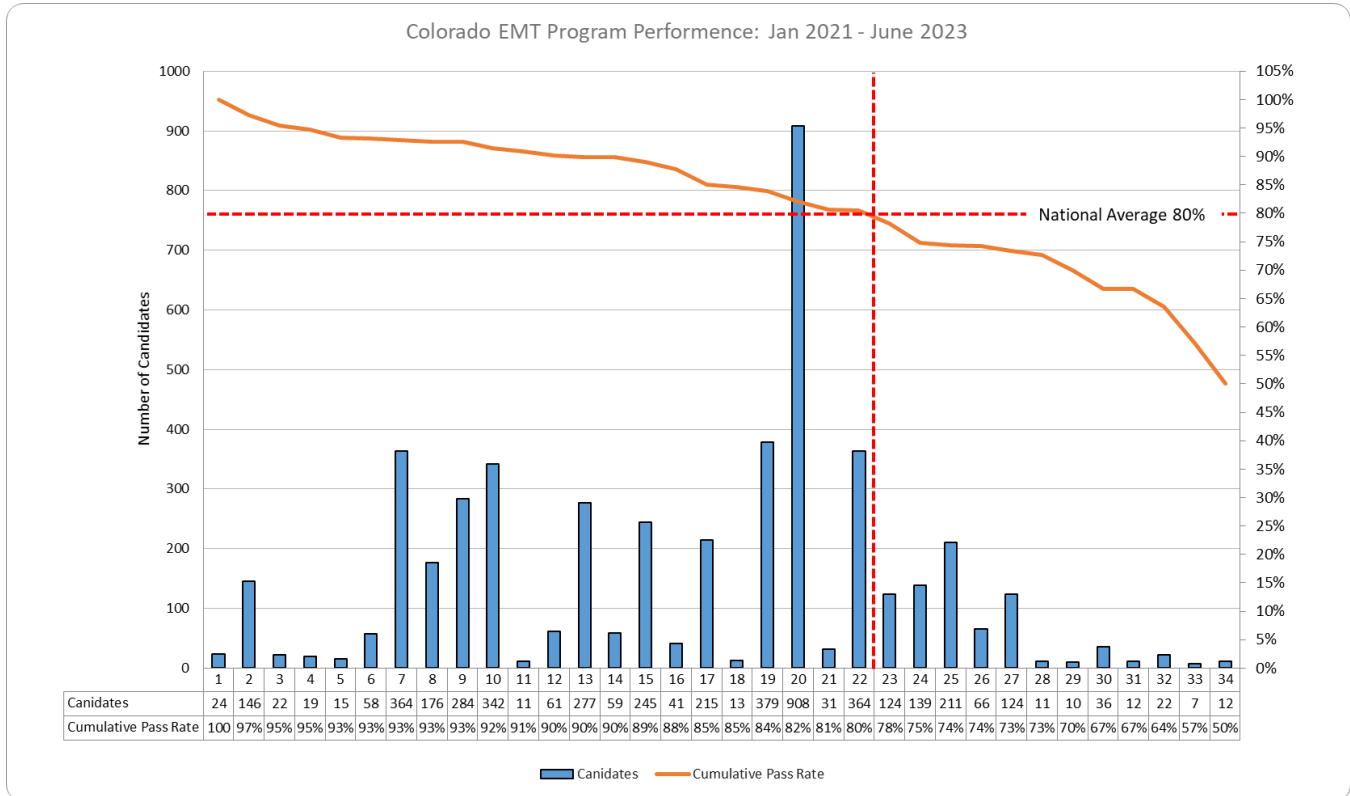
Table: NREMT Cognitive Exam Performance

	National First Attempt Pass				Colorado First Attempt Pass		
	2020	2021	2022 YTD		2021	2022	2023 YTD
EMT	67% ↔	68% ↔	71% ▼	EMT	76% ↔	77% ▼	81% ▼
AEMT	58% ↔	56% ↔	61% ▼	AEMT	91% ▲	58% ▼	71% ▼
Paramedic	69% ↔	70% ▼	74% ▼	Paramedic	85% ↔	87% ▼	85% ▲
	National Cumulative Pass Rate				Colorado Cumulative Pass		
	2020	2021	2022 YTD		2021	2022	2023 YTD
EMT	81% ↔	80% ▲	77% ▼	EMT	85% ↔	86% ▲	84% ▼
AEMT	79% ▲	71% ▲	69% ▲	AEMT	91% ▲	78% ↔	76% ▼
Paramedic	89% ▲	87% ▲	84% ▲	Paramedic	95% ↔	96% ↔	94% ▲

** Data report provided by NREMT.org "Pass/Fail Report"; data for the prior 24 months will change as candidates test. Updated 7/1/2023

Colorado EMT Program Performance

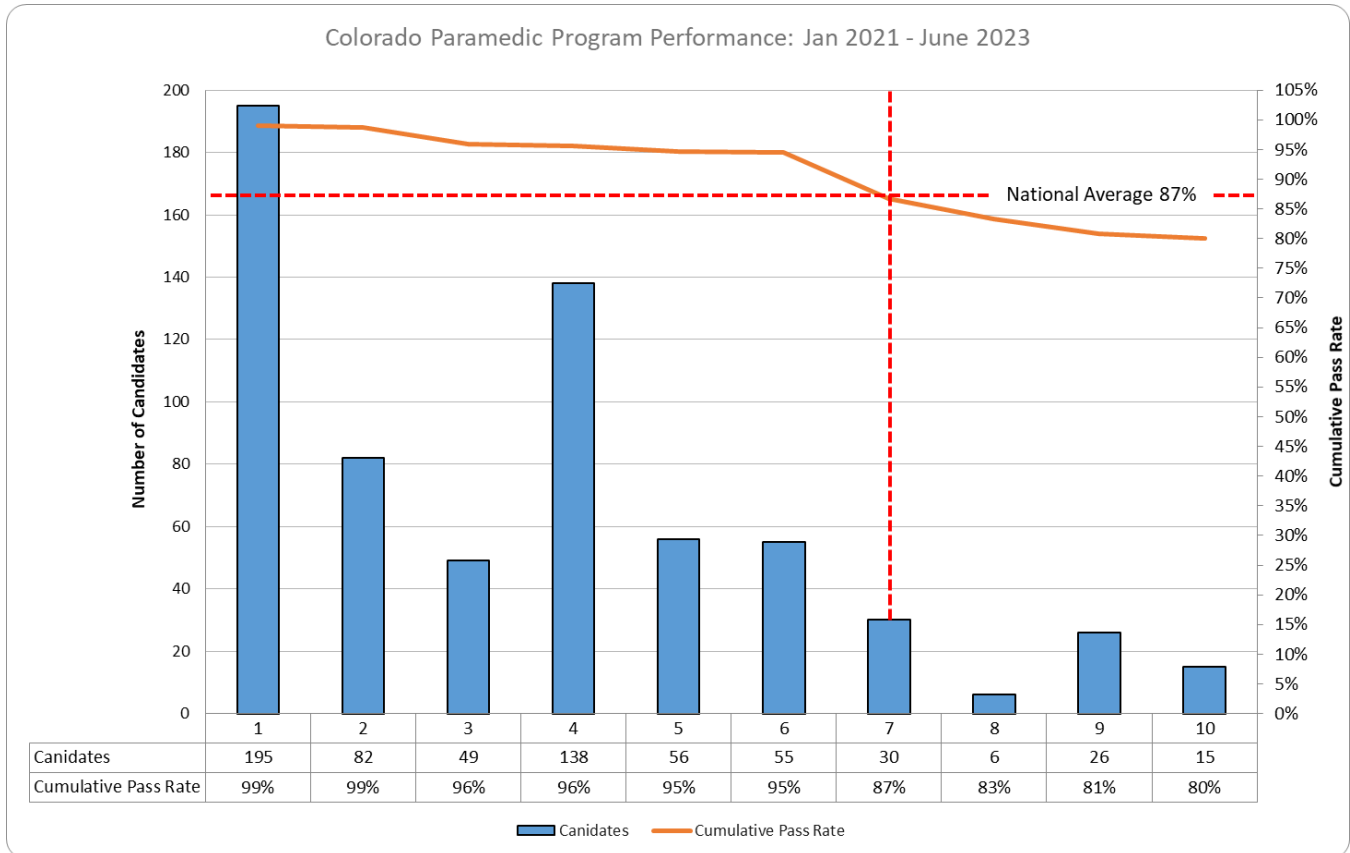
Colorado has one of the highest statewide cumulative pass rates for EMT programs in the United States. Of the 22 EMT programs with candidates taking the NREMT EMT national certification exam between January 2021 and June 2023, twenty-three programs meet the “High Performing Program” criteria; this is exceptional. (A high performing program is a program with a pass rate greater than the national average for the same time period.)



*Data provided by NREMT.org “Pass/Fail Report”; Jan 2021 - June 2023. Updated July/1/2023; a “High Performing Program” is defined by the modified Margolis Method, as a program above the national pass rate.

Colorado Paramedic Program Performance

Colorado also has one of the highest statewide cumulative pass rates for Paramedic programs in the United States. Of the 10 Paramedic programs with candidates taking the NREMT Paramedic national certification exam between January 2021 and June 2023, seven programs meet the “High Performing Program” criteria. (A high performing program is a program with a pass rate greater than the national average for the same time period.)



*Data provided by NREMT.org “Pass/Fail Report”; Jan 2021 - June 2023. Updated 07/01/2023; a “High Performing Program” is defined by the modified Margolis Method, as a program above the national pass rate.

Air Ambulance Licensing

Vanessa Brazee, Licensing Specialist

The Air Ambulance Licensing program engages stakeholders to ensure public safety through comprehensive licensure and data reporting of air ambulance transport agencies. The Air Ambulance program also engages with stakeholders to encourage compliance with Colorado statutes and rules and advises the state enforcement unit when those requirements are not met. Further, assistance is available 24 hours a day to agencies that are not licensed in the state but require permission to perform an urgent transport through the Exigent Circumstance program.

Table: Air Ambulance Agencies

	2022 Q21	2022 Q32	2022 Q43	2023 Q41	2023 Q21
Licensed	13	20	21	21 →	21 →
Recognized	10	10	10	9 ▼	9 →
Total	31	30	31	30	30 →

Table: Exigent Circumstance Air Ambulance Flights

	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q41	2023 Q2
Approved	1	0	0	0 →	0 →
Denied	0	0	0	0 →	0 →

Martin Duffy, Section Manager, martin.duffy@state.co.us

Trauma Reviews/Designations

The trauma section completed one level I, four level III, and seven level IV, designation reviews in the second quarter of 2023. These reviews were completed with a combination of remote and in-person platforms. The remote platform has been used successfully to accommodate combined reviews with the American College of Surgeons and/or out of state reviewers as needed. Remote platforms have resulted in unanimously supported improvements to the pre-review preparations and designation process that supports a more thorough analysis of documents and charts, and allows facilities more opportunity to provide additional information as needed.

Table: Colorado Trauma System Facility Designations

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total Designated	Non-designated
Number	7	12	25	37	4	85 →	38 →

Table: Trauma System Designated Reviews Conducted

Designation Level	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
Level 1	3	1	0	0	1
Level 2	1	2	0	1	0
Level 3	1	4	1	5	4
Level 4	4	10	7	1	6
Level 5	0	0	1	0	0
Total	9	17	9	7	11



Trauma Consultations and Outreach Visits

The trauma section provided technical assistance to a wide range of stakeholders in Q2 of 2023. Staff facilitated registry webinars providing education on data submission and the ImageTrend platform. Trauma section staff collaborated with ImageTrend to provide education on report writing to assist with trauma registry data analysis. Trauma section staff hosted a TNC orientation webinar and attended the Central Mountain RETAC conference where they presented on performance improvement and trauma program priorities. Trauma section staff also attended the Denver Health trauma conference. The trauma section provided guidance to several facilities currently on a plan of correction. Staff visited three facilities and provided technical assistance in collaboration with the health facilities section on a complaint investigation. Focused consultation and outreach has been provided to seven facilities pursuing trauma designation and/or changing their designation level. The trauma section has noted an increase in plans of correction as facilities endure recovery from the pandemic. In Q2 of 2023 the department accepted 4 plans of correction and 4 were closed. We currently have 23 facilities on an active plan of correction.

Technical assistance has also been initiated to support the non-designated integration platform. Non-designated facilities have been submitting data and show exemplary compliance. Future work will include data quality reports to the entities involved to improve collaboration and communications with the department, non-designated facilities, and key trauma system stakeholders.

In Q2 of 2023 staff attended the National Association of EMS Officials conference in Reno. The department and trauma section was well represented and provided Colorado's perspective on a wide range of trauma and pre-hospital topics.

Data Section

Amber Viitanen, EMTS Data Section Manager, amber.viitanen@state.co.us

Throughout the previous fiscal year, the data section, in collaboration with other members of the EMTS Branch compiled several data projects to help describe the landscape of emergency medical care across the state. One such project titled, “Where Are They Now: Linking Colorado’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Provider Database with Labor and Wage Data to Inform Recruitment and Retention Practices for a More Sustainable System” was presented at the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Conference and was awarded third place in the research competition. This project utilized novel approaches to understand where licensed and certified EMS providers are employed in Colorado.

Beginning January 1, 2023, all licensed ambulance agencies were required to begin submitting the latest version of NEMSIS, Version 3.5.0. As the first state in the nation to make this transition, the data team provided several trainings, technical assistance, and multiple reports to ensure agencies were well equipped to understand and overcome issues. Staff also worked very closely with multiple patient care reporting software companies utilized across the country to ensure adequate communication was provided as well. As of June 30, 2022, 227 agencies have successfully submitted EMS data in the new version.

The team continued to refine its data quality improvement processes by adding several new reports to its communications with EMS and Trauma leaders. This quarter, hundreds of completeness reports were distributed to agencies with waivers to emphasize the importance of submitting complete, timely and accurate data. The team provided guidance across the branch in appropriate data collection, analysis and dissemination of EMS patient care data, trauma registry data, scope of practice waiver data, EMS personnel data, and organizational profile data. Specifically, the team produced several reports for the EMS system sustainability task force, ground ambulance licensing task force, SEMTAC prevention committee, Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee, and other key EMTS stakeholders.

Table: EMS Ground Agency & ePCR Data

	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
EMS Agencies Reporting	204	209	216	216 ▲
EMS Records Submitted	234,018	226,360	210,540	210,679 ▲

Office of Cardiac Arrest Management

Beth Penrod, Cardiac Arrest Program Administrator, beth.penrod@state.co.us

The role of State Coordinator for the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) has now transitioned from Jillian Moore to Beth Penrod, who is within the Office of Cardiac Arrest Management. The CARES 2022 Annual Report was published in May. It can be viewed [here](#).

The Office is currently working with a vendor to design a website dedicated to sudden cardiac arrest. The website will additionally contain CPR and defibrillator training that is held throughout the state. Methods of how one will register their training for the listing are still under discussion.

Investigations & Enforcement

Shelley Sanderman, HFEMSD Enforcement, shelley.sanderman@state.co.us

The EMTS Investigations Team continues to see a steady number of complaints and arrests of EMS providers. However, the team has seen a decrease in second quarter numbers. The enforcement team issued 6 certification/license probations, 3 temporary or summary suspension of certification/licenses, one certification revocation, and two application denials. Finally, the team continues to work with the Attorney General’s office on 11 cases involving EMS providers.

Table: EMS Personnel Enforcement

EMS Personnel	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
New Complaints /Investigations & Notifications of Provider Arrest	166	187	144	161	150 ▼
Application / Renewal Denial	1	0	0	2	2 ↔
Letter of Admonition	1	0	1	2	0 ▼
Probation	2	3	7	9	6 ▼
Suspension/Temp Suspension	1	1	4	1	3 ▲
Revocation	0	0	0	0	1 ▲
Relinquishment	0	1	0	0	0 ↔

* Dismissed/No Action includes complaints and reviews of criminal history for initial applicants, renewals, and FBI/CBI subsequent reports.

Table: Air Ambulance Agency Enforcement

	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2
New Complaints / Investigations	2	0	0	1	0 ▼
Closed Complaints/Investigations	2	0	0	1	0 ▼
Dismissed / No Action	2	0	0	0	0 ↔
Conditional License	0	0	0	0	0 ↔
Suspension	0	0	0	0	0 ↔
Revocation	0	0	0	0	0 ↔

EMS for Children

Nicolena Mitchell NRP, EMSC Program Manager, nicolena.mitchell@cuanschutz.edu

Kathleen Adelgais, MD MPH, EMSC Project Director, kathleen.adelgais@childrenscolorado.org

Colorado Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (COPECC)

Future workshops for new PECCs, prehospital and hospital who have not yet started their PECC program and pediatric readiness are in planning stages around the state.

In the summer and fall of 2023, COPECC committee members will be developing PREPARE, the **P**ediatric **R**Eadiness for **P**rehospital **C**ARE program. PREPARE is the prehospital counterpart to COPPER. PREPARE will follow the National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) [State Partnership Grants • EICC \(emscimprovement.center\)](#) checklist and toolkit. Committee members will meet monthly during the COPECC meeting.

Colorado Pediatric Preparedness for the Emergency Room (COPPER)

EMSC has continued to conduct monthly COPPER steering committee meetings. EMSC, with the help of the steering committee, has completed its first site visit. In May 2023, the members of the COPPER steering committee completed a hybrid in person and virtual site visit at Grand River Health in Rifle. Upon completion of the site visit and review of the committee's findings, EMSC is pleased to announce Colorado's first official COPPER-Verified Pediatric Ready ED. Grand River Health has been designated at Pediatric Advanced.

Work continues with the original pilot sites, as well as facilities who have begun their own pediatric readiness work. Delta Community Hospital (Delta), Gunnison Valley Health (Gunnison), Rose Medical Center (Denver), Swedish Medical Center (Englewood), Sky Ridge Medical Center (Lone Tree), Memorial Health (Craig), Medical Center of Aurora (Aurora) and North Suburban Medical Center (Thornton) have completed the initial application phase of the COPPER process. Rose Medical Center has its site visit scheduled for July 2023. Pilot sites continue to provide useful feedback on the application process and this information is being incorporated into new directions to better support facilities as they work to establish themselves as Pediatric Ready. Colorado EMSC is now also working to support American College of Surgeons verified trauma centers in meeting the new requirement of establishing pediatric readiness programs as their facility. This will affect 17 facilities in Colorado.

In 2020, Colorado participated in a pilot of the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment (NPRA) and current data reveals that 27 facilities in Colorado (out of 63 respondents) indicate that they have either a physician or nurse PECC. Colorado's results from the NPRA are posted on the EMSC website.

Pediatric Care Committee (PCC)

Colorado EMSC hosted the quarterly PCC meeting on April 12, 2023. Bylaws were updated and new members added to reflect the changes within the new bylaws. New members include a pediatric representative from the Colorado Office of Emergency Preparedness and a representative from Maternal Child Health Title V program.

Additional information is available on the EMSC [website](#).

Human Trafficking Screening Education

Colorado EMSC has partnered with Dr. Kristin Kim of the University of Colorado supported by an EMTS grant funded to Children’s Hospital Colorado to host training on the identification of child labor and sex trafficking. The Colorado EMSC website [Human Trafficking | EMSC Colorado](#) will house the training, “Positioned to Care: Improving identification of victims of Child Labor and Sex Trafficking”. Modules for emergency healthcare providers (both EMS and ED) and those who work alongside healthcare providers such as unit clerk, financial representative, research assistant, administrator, social worker, environmental services technician or do any other job, are available. CE is available for healthcare providers.

Grant Cycle 2023-2027

Colorado EMSC was awarded the EMS for Children State Partnership grant offered by HRSA/MCHB to continue the activities of Colorado EMSC for the years 2023-2027. New grant priorities established by HRSA:

1. Expand the uptake of Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Departments by establishing a standardized pediatric readiness recognition program for EDs, designating PECCs in EDs, and ensuring hospital EDs weigh and record children’s weight in kilograms. (COPPER)
2. Improve Pediatric Readiness in EMS Systems by establishing a standardized pediatric readiness recognition program for prehospital EMS agencies; increasing PECCs in prehospital EMS agencies; and increasing the number of prehospital EMS agencies that have a process for pediatric skills-check on the use of pediatric equipment. (COPECC/PREPARE)
3. Increase pediatric disaster readiness in hospital EDs and prehospital EMS agencies by ensuring that disaster plans address the needs of children. NEW
4. Prioritize and advance family partnership and leadership in efforts to improve EMSC systems of care by including and engaging family representatives who can speak to the emergency care needs of children in their community on EMSC state advisory committees. NEW

To meet these priorities Colorado will work to do the following:

Aim 1: Continue to expand pediatric readiness efforts for hospitals with a focus on:

- a. Weight in Kilograms
- b. Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators

Aim 2: Establish an EMS Pediatric Readiness Recognition program

Aim 3: Ensure that hospitals and EMS agencies have disaster plans that include pediatric consideration

Aim 4: Ensure the family perspective in all EMSC activities

Tim Petreit, Funding Section Manager, timothy.petreit@state.co.us

Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding Requests

The fiscal year 2023 funding cycle concluded on June 30. To date, 28 projects were completed and closed. Expenditures total \$1,635,203.61 so far with \$5,284,245.15 pending requests for reimbursement. A significant number of projects requesting emergency vehicles have been delayed by global supply chain disruptions and project completion is still pending. The Funding section is working with the Fiscal Services Branch to address these issues in compliance with state fiscal rules.

For the fiscal year 2024 funding cycle, 71 applications were submitted requesting approximately \$5.5 million in state dollars. There were 67 provider grant requests, three system improvement projects, and one request that included both types of requests. Eleven regional medical direction projects and the four System Improvement grants were reviewed by the Public Policy and Finance Committee in April. All other grant applications were reviewed by the RETACs during March and April and by a SEMTAC Review Committee in May. The regular funding source from vehicle registration fees will provide approximately \$4.8 million of EMTS grant funding in fiscal year 2024. Final grant awards totaling \$4,798,211 in funding for 68 projects were announced June 30.

CREATE Grant Program

The Colorado Rural Health Center continues to administer the Colorado Resource for EMS and Trauma Education grant program. There were no financial waiver requests submitted for review during the quarter. The Expert Review Committee evaluated 10 applications, for 11 individual courses. There were 9 courses approved with \$67,840 approved for award.

Emergency Grants

There were no emergency grant requests received in the last quarter.

Path4EMS

The Path4EMS program was realigned under the Funding Section on May 1, to coincide with the promotion of Tim Petreit. The Branch is in the process of hiring a new Peer Support (Path4EMS) Program coordinator, who will also be tasked with providing support to the many functions of the Funding Section. This quarter also marks completion of the first year of the updated Path4EMS program approach. Inquiries and involvement in the program remained relatively constant throughout the last quarter. There were 16 new requests for services, bringing the first-year total requests to 77. Of these 77, 10 did not schedule or participate in counseling services. There were also 10 participants that exhausted their allowable amount of program funds. Finally, there was the addition of another clinical program provider, bringing the total to nine.

Of the 10 participants that utilized their full allocation of services, five of them voluntarily completed an anonymous participant survey. While this is a relatively small sample size, we are able to see potential trends. Additionally, these surveys contain some subjective direct feedback about satisfaction with the program and services. So far, there is a wide representation of various personal and professional demographics. A small majority of participants are working full-time in an urban setting, which could be expected. We also noted that 60% of respondents indicated that they waited more than 30 days before requesting services; while this could be considered typical, it is not necessarily ideal. Once these participants did make a request, all respondents indicated that they were able to schedule services in a timely manner and all either saw their issues improve or they were continuing treatment through a different program or clinician. Finally, all indicated that they would recommend Path4EMS to a colleague or peer.

Technical Assistance

The Funding Section provides technical assistance to EMTS agencies, regions and systems. This assistance is provided via two basic mechanisms.

At the request of local governments and in conjunction with the regional emergency medical and trauma services advisory councils, staff members coordinate technical assistance services to local entities. There was one formal request and one emergency request for technical assistance this past year. The emergency request was received in late December 2022 and was completed in March 2023. The formal grant request was completed in June 2023. There was also one formal request for technical assistance received and awarded for fiscal year 2024. The department has performed 23 local EMTS system assessments since the program began. Copies of the final reports, with recommendations, are available from the department.

The Funding Section also welcomes informal requests to assist with all phases of grant funded activities. This includes the application process, completion of deliverables and reimbursement

invoicing. Difficulties are easier to manage early in the process and we encourage grantees to reach out whenever there is a concern.

Colorado Poison Control Center

The Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA) administers the statewide poison control services and dissemination of poison control information through the use and benefit of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. They staff a 24-hour toll-free telephone number (800-222-12220) for Colorado. They also maintain a computer database of patient cases and generate various reports. Finally, they supply quarterly reports to CDPHE with the number of cases, break down of toxic and non-toxic exposure, and percentage of project cases for the year. There is a statutory requirement for an annual contract with CDPHE for \$1,415,876; which is paid in monthly installments of \$127,928.33.

Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council

Mike Bateman, Section Manager, michael.bateman@state.co.us

The EMPAC held its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting Monday, May 8, 2023 at CDPHE offices in Denver using a hybrid form, with remote attendance via Zoom. The council then reviewed draft guidelines for Nitroglycerin - IV Infusion waiver and recommended the guidelines to the department for approval. Draft guidelines for Phenylephrine were tabled for discussion at a future meeting. Currently, there are 387 active waivers, 4 for the BLS levels, 337 for the ALS levels, and 46 for both the BLS and ALS levels. Notably, of the 387 active waivers, 321 have been transitioned to the new agency-scoped waiver application and are subject to the 14 waiver guidelines that have been approved so far. The next EMPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, starting at 10 a.m. at the department's offices in Denver using a hybrid format. The next Regional Medical Direction committee meeting will be held the same day immediately prior to the EMPAC meeting, from 8 to 9:45 a.m. also using a hybrid format.

Designation Review Committee

Martin Duffy, Section Manager, martin.duffy@state.co.us

The DRC meeting in April was held in a hybrid format. Trauma program staff presented three facilities that were given an automatic recommendation on their designation and two

facilities that required DRC consideration. The DRC recommended continued designation of all facilities presented to the committee.

Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee

Martin Duffy, Section Manager, martin.duffy@state.co.us

The committee meeting in April was held in hybrid format. The trauma section is seeking trauma surgeons to assist in the designation process. The Emergency Medical Services for Children gave a presentation on the work carried out by that program in collaboration with the department. The committee went on to consider the modified brain injury guidelines from a rural perspective. Discussion centered on a presentation from Dr. Schroepell and Dr. Sheinberg at the STAC in Jan. The committee went on to discuss the system as a whole and post pandemic recovery. Committee discussion centered on response and stabilization of the system. Discussion centered on identified gaps within the system pre COVID, during COVID and now. The format of the discussion addressed people, places and things. The STAC chair then entertained stakeholder feedback regarding issues that affect trauma care as it related to post pandemic recovery with a focus on places. The STAC will continue exploring resources and collaborate with our partners in emergency response to build resiliency and redundancy in the system. Finally the committee discussed the utilization of advanced practice providers in trauma and the potential impact of SB 23-083.

EMS System Sustainability Task Force

Randy Kuykendall, MLS, Special Projects Manager, randy.kuykendall@state.co.us

The department is actively reviewing nominations for the EMS System Sustainability Task Force, created by SB22-225. The task force will make statutory, rule, and policy recommendations for how to preserve, promote, and expand consumer access to emergency medical services in the state, including recommendations:

- Regarding the regulation of ambulance service;
- To address inequities and disparities in access to emergency medical services;
- To address workforce recruiting and retention issues;
- To promote the financial sustainability of emergency medical services; and
- Regarding the long-term sustainability of emergency medical services.

The department has identified its internal work team to coordinate meeting activities and provide long-term staff support. The membership appointments are expected to be completed in July, with the Sustainability Task Force (STF) meetings to commence sometime in August. As one of the most

significant opportunities to arise regarding the long-term sustainability and reliability of Colorado’s EMS and trauma system, the department is wholly committed to the project’s success.

The appointment of membership to the EMS Sustainability Task Force was completed in August by Executive Director Hunsacker Ryan. A full complement of members represents statewide and industry wide representation to begin addressing the future of EMS system sustainability into the future. The first meeting of the EMS Sustainability Task Force was held on September 29, 2022. As the task force begins its organization and work plans, the dates/times of future meetings will be published and the work will get underway. All meetings of the Task Force are open to the public and input from across the state is welcome. This historic effort is designed to be a 5 year effort to review, recommend and implement policies to better support Colorado’s EMS and trauma care system. Certainly much more to follow. All material related to this work is available on the website.

As also required with the passage of Senate Bill 22-225, SEMTAC has appointed four members to the Ground Ambulance Licensing Task Force. The first organizational meeting of this group was held on September 27, 2022. The task force solicited public input as to the appointment of representatives of the various EMS/local government agencies to make up the full membership of this task force and will present their recommendations to SEMTAC for formal consideration at the October SEMTAC meeting. Pursuant to statute, this group will work to develop the rules and regulations for the statewide licensing of all ground ambulance services in Colorado. The work plan, schedules, etc. outlining this work is available at the website. With a deadline of having rules promulgated by January 1, 2024 and statewide implementation no later than July 1, 2024, the Ground Ambulance Licensing Task Force will be meeting regularly and all meetings are open to the public. Input from across Colorado’s ground ambulance industry is strongly encouraged.

Office of Public Safety Communications

Pam Monsees, Program Manager, pam.monsees@state.co.us

Public access in the emergency medical services setting may be defined as the ability of an individual to secure prompt and appropriate emergency medical care. All counties in the state currently support enhanced or E-911 telephone services and less than a handful of 9-1-1 dispatch centers remain unable to receive ‘text-to-911’ calls. The transition of the legacy 9-1-1 network to a broadband digital, IP network (“Next Generation 9-1-1 Network,” also termed an “Emergency Services IP Network” or ‘ESInet’) will improve transfers and communication between Emergency Call Centers. This is how 9-1-1 calls from cell phones, internet phones, and any additional devices or systems are connected to the Emergency Call Center. The migration of Colorado’s Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) to the CenturyLink Emergency Services IP Network ESInet is nearly complete, with one PSAP operated by a military base still awaiting migration from the legacy 9-1-1 network to the CenturyLink ESInet. An ESInet allows public safety agencies to create a broad umbrella network to link all Emergency Call Centers, and facilitate inter-agency communication. An ESInet is more robust and survivable than a typical analog network and more efficiently transmits data. The ESInet may also be utilized to economically provide PSAP systems on a ‘hosted’ basis, where several 9-1-1 Call Centers with lower population census can share a central 9-1-1 telephone or computer-aided dispatch system.

The Colorado digital trunked radio system (DTRS) provides statewide, two-way interoperable communications to state, local, tribal and a limited number of federal government agencies over a shared communication platform. The DTRS in Colorado consists of 256 remote tower sites, serving in excess of 1,000 governmental agencies, including law enforcement, fire and EMS. There are currently over 125,000 subscriber units (individual radios) spread across six master zone control sites. The DTRS averages in excess of 8 million calls per month, with nearly 90% of those calls being voice calls on the system, and the balance being data calls on the system. The DTRS is a ‘system-of-systems’, meaning some local agencies invest in network infrastructure integrated into the statewide system, and thereby considered a shared resource for improved interoperability for all DTRS users.

Several new DTRS radio tower sites are under various stages of planning and construction. The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services grant-funding program continues to assist with improvement of local communications needs throughout the state. Funding has provided equipment to agencies to enable them to utilize the DTRS and in some cases, to sustain legacy communication systems.

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Chartered in 2012, its mission is to ensure the construction, deployment and operation of a nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety. AT&T was awarded the contract for the buildout and deployment of the FirstNet network. Public safety spent years

advocating for a nationwide broadband network for first responders following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. FirstNet/ATT continue to work toward contracted build out of sites in Colorado to improve broadband coverage. In addition to the original federal funding to stand up the infrastructure for the FirstNet/ATT network, subscriber fees are used for ongoing support of the network.

EMS Compact

Donnie Woodyard, Colorado Commissioner and Chair of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, Donnie.Woodyard@EMSCompact.gov

The EMS Compact currently has 22 participating member states with over 400,000 EMS providers. The EMS Compact allows qualified EMS personnel licensed in one compact state (Home State) to work in other compact member states (Remote State), within their scope of practice, on a short term, intermittent basis. The EMS Compact and the REPLICA legislation do not apply to EMS agencies.

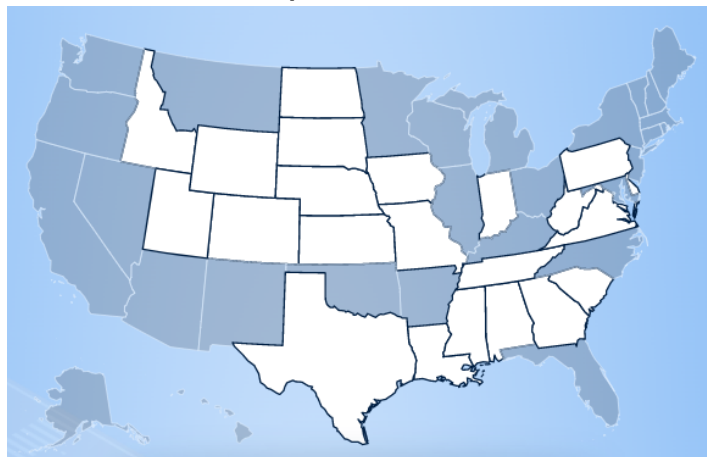
Employers and state licensing officials can validate an individual's EMS Compact privilege to practice [online](#) by entering the individual's National EMS-ID. The EMS-ID is printed on all Colorado issued EMS certifications and licenses, or it is available on an individual's National Registry of EMTs account.

All EMS Compact meetings are open to the public and stakeholders. Meeting information is published on the EMS Compact [website](#). Stakeholders can register to receive email notifications [here](#).

Table: Colorado EMS providers with multiple state licenses

2022 Q4	
Multiple State Licenses	1,283

EMS Compact Member States



EMTS Branch Roster

Name	Section	Position Description
Peter Myers	Branch	Interim Branch Chief
Amber Viitanen	Data	Section Manager
Jenna Seddon	Data	Data Quality Specialist
Scott Beckley	Data	Lead Data Analyst
Dale Knochenmus	Data	Statistical Analyst
Matt Pickler	Data	Management and Technology Advisor
Bill Clark	Data	EMS Data Consultant
Beth Penrod	Data	Office of Cardiac Arrest
Michael Bateman	Operations	Section Manager
Vanessa Brazee	Operations	Licensing Specialist
Eric Lucas	Operations	EMS Operations Specialist
Jennyfer Nguyen	Operations	Certification Technician
Martin Duffy	Trauma	Section Manager
Lisa Domenico	Trauma	Trauma Designation and Emergent Systems of Care Specialist
Kiva Thompson	Trauma	Trauma System Nurse Consultant
VACANT	Trauma	Administrative Assistant
Tim Petreit	Funding	Section Manager
Audra LeTurgez	Funding	EMTS Branch Program Assistant
VACANT	Funding	Boards and Councils Coordinator
Andre Smith	Funding	Grants and Communications Coordinator
VACANT	Funding	Peer Support Coordinator