

Plains to Peaks Medical Direction Committee

July 2, 2026

Summary Notes

Attendance:

VOTING		NON-VOTING	
Dr. Matt Angelidis	No	Carrick Patterson	Yes
Dr. Stein Bronsky	Yes	Kim Schallenberger	Yes
Dr. Tim Hurtado	Yes	Cameron Halverson	Yes
Dr. Eric Wu	Yes	Ginger Flynn	Yes
Dr. David Hakkarinen	No	Kaylinn Hathaway	No
Dr. Jessica Walsh	Yes	Caleb Hadfield	Yes
Dr. James Brown	Yes	Mark Warth	Yes
Dr. Sean Keenan	Yes		
Dr. Jeremy DeWall	No		
GUESTS:			

Review and approval of Meeting Minutes

- May 7, 2026
- June 4, 2026 Cancelled
 - Motion to approve Stein Bronsky/Seconded Sean Keenan

Soft Collars (Mark)

- Discussion to remove rigid collars and replace them with soft collars. Rigid collars can cause harm to patients.
 - Soft collars are cheaper but larger.
 - Selective Spinal Motion Restriction went live for AMR and CSFD where crews have the option to use whatever device. Rigid collars are a part of the option, however, can cause harm.
 - Hospitals may have an issue with the change, however, doing what is best for the patient is a priority. Hospitals should not guide us on what we do and how we do it when we have a reason for doing it. Hospital could put a collar on if they chose when the patient gets to the ED. Any pushback can go to the Medical Director group.
 - Medical Directors should send memos to Ginger and Maureen about education on what collars are recommended and how to talk to the ED staff.
- Committee has no opposition to removing the rigid collars and replacing them with soft collars.

- Carrick will work with Andrea on space in the ambulance and phasing in the new system.
 - Look at pediatric sizes as well.

Whole Blood Updates (Mark)

- 200th patient received Whole Blood and was our 1st reaction.
 - Education to help providers understand the timeline if concerned about potential reactions.
 - Pull case with timeline and share with Keenan for education.
 - Take temperature before and after infusion. If there is a 2 degree difference this may indicate a reaction.
 - There are reasons why most of the clinicians want to hear the vital signs to include the temp.
 - Hurtado documents the vital signs in notes to continue with patient care.
- LifeFlows
 - CSFD will be trialing 3 cases.
 - Should cut administration time by 50%.
 - Current infusion on average is 12 minutes.
 - Keenan states it may not be worth the price and would need proprietary tubing.
 - No data on if infusion times increase or decrease the patients outcomes.
- Warmers may be an unnecessary cost.
 - Specific outcome trial being done on non-warming data.
 - Patients at higher altitude and in cooler temperatures may benefit from warmers.
- Rural health transformation has a big funding opportunity. Colorado Whole blood coalition along with the Foothills RETAC is going to be putting together a huge package. Looking at 30 to 40 rural agencies that they can outfit mostly with plasma and equipment.
 - Due at the end of July and should know results by the end of September.
- UCHealth had a celebration of a traumatic arrest patient and whole blood recipient who survived.
- Ally Ludwig is no longer the blood coordinator. Mark is working with the hospital liaisons to help pull data.

Whole Blood UPRAD (Sean)

- First case of the summer was about a week and a half ago.
- Teller County Sheriff has been very aggressive in patrolling forest service road and giving out tickets which has probably contributed to how slow it has been.

AED Registry Update (Stein)

- Will be removed from agenda moving forward.
- Kim has sent out the state CARES data.

Plains to Peak RETAC update (Kim)

- July 1st was the deadline to be fully licensed as an ambulance service. Last 2 were completed on June 30th.
- SEMTAC meeting next Wednesday and Thursday
- RETAC meeting is on July 21st virtually.
- Financial Symposium will be on September 16th and 17th.
- St. Francis Interquest got their level IV Trauma Designation. The biggest thing that will change is probably less interfacility transports from there to the next level trauma centers because they can handle orthopedic injuries.

Pulsara Update – (Kim)

- Pulsara is fully funded for 1 year.
 - This is the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response money.
 - Due to getting the funds, Kim would like to work with the Healthcare Coalition and the MCI Committee to have a large patient tracking exercise in Colorado Spring to show how Pulsara is supposed to work.
- Kim is applying for a grant to fund Pulsara for 5 years. Would also be a grant that can build the EMTF out and will help with interfacility in rural/frontier areas. Approximately \$1.5 million per year.
 - Completion is August 3rd.

225 Task Force update

- Chapter 2 formulary still due in September
- 225 Task Force update for 4th phase is out for review. 5th phase due January 1st which would have recommendations for future funding.
- Legislation
 - 1069 for treatment in place is \$75.
 - Balance billing bill may come back this year.

- Proposition 175 still on the ballot and still in discussion. This proposition would force all the funding to be used for roads and bridges. The State would be responsible for certifications, etc.
- Leg passed another bill, preemptive strike, which would limit proposition 175. The people who wrote proposition 175 stated that it was never their intent to damage EMS or PD. Some interpretation states all funding would be removed.
 - Unknown effect but will start January 1, 2027 if it does pass.

Roundtable

- Kim, Keenan, and Caleb will not be at the August meeting.

Adjournment