



Plains to Peaks

Emergency Medical & Trauma Service Region



Kim E.

Schallenberger, Regional Coordinator, 2910 N Powers Blvd, Suite 355, Colo Spgs, 80922
Phone: 719-344 5585 Cell: 719-342-5562

RETAC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2026
Location: Virtually via Zoom
Attendance: See attached list

A quorum was present. Tim Dienst called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

I. CONSIDERATION of DRAFT AGENDA

Chair Dienst asked the Council to consider an amended agenda. The requested changes included moving the discussion of the FY27 Budget directly after the quarterly financial report. Additionally, Tim asked to add discussion about pending statutory changes and discussions at the SEMTAC level which may require a letter from the RETAC Council.

Sherry Steffen made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Jared Cass seconded the motion. Motion passed

II. CONSIDERATION OF January 27, 2026 MINUTES

Minutes of the January 27, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Eric Murray moved to accept the minutes of the January meeting as presented. Kenny Echols seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. CONSIDERATION of FINANCIAL REPORT

Kim Schallenberger presented documents reflecting the financial activity of the regional office for January, February, and March. Kim provided some explanation of the documents and asked for questions. Caroline Joy moved to accept the financials as presented. Rick Pelton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Kim presented a document showing the expenditures of the one-time \$50K funding provided by the state for FY26. Kim spoke about the budget for these funds and the benefits of those categories.

IV. FY27 RETAC Budget Discussion

Kim Schallenberger presented documentation about the current and projected expenditures for the RETAC as the end of FY26 approaches. Kim answered questions about the projections and the group discussed the additional funding made possible by the collaboration with the South-Central Healthcare Coalition.

Kim and Tim then presented a draft FY27 budget for discussion by the Council. Kim reviewed beginning and ending balances based on the projections from the previous FY26 discussion. Revenues and expenditures were reviewed to include the additional South-Central revenue and expense. Kim noted that the draft budget reflects approximately \$26,000 in "indirect" fees provided to the RETAC for being the fiscal agent for the South-Central Healthcare Coalition. Of this amount, Kim noted that an additional \$6000 is provided to Cheyenne County for the extra work due to the additional work.

Tim Dienst made a motion to increase the Regional Coordinator salary by a 3% cost of living adjustment for FY27. Tim further requested the Council to consider a \$5000 bonus be included to support the position. Eric Murray seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 10 to 1.



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Eric Murray moved to accept the revised budget for FY27. Kenny Echols seconded the motion. Motion passed.

V. SEMTAC STATUTORY CHANGES & FUNDING ISSUES

Tim Dienst thanked the Council for their flexibility in changing the meeting date. The reason for the change was due to potential legislative changes which could reduce the role of the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council. Tim noted that a bill which would support payment for “treatment in place” for ambulance services was moving through the legislative process when CDPHE added an amendment which would change the role of SEMTAC after 25 years. The change would remove the “review and approve” verbiage and change the language to “review and recommend approval or denial”. The change is proposed by CDPHE due to SEMTAC being a Type II board which normally would not have those powers of approval. This change likely would not have a substantial impact on current processes but the lack of transparency and seemingly “back door” policy changes raised significant concerns from the EMTS community.

Tim and Kim spoke about the recent decision by SEMTAC to not consider a funding request. This lack of action removed \$50,000 in funding from each of the RETACs even though the Public Policy & Finance Committee had recommended funding. The lack of discussion was viewed negatively by the community and especially the RETACs who are planning to express their displeasure via an official correspondence which would be signed by all of the RETAC Councils. As the letter is not yet ready to review, The Council was asked if the Executive Committee could provide official approval for the letter after review by the Council. Eric Murray made a motion to allow the Executive Committee to proceed. Kenny Echols seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tim Dienst had to leave the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Vice Chair Sherry Steffen assumed control of the meeting.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

VII. 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
 - Next Conference scheduled for September 16-17, 2026
 - Pikes Peak State College Rampart Campus
 - Will use outside catering and will work with local hotel to keep costs down
 - Continued collaboration with EMSAC CMD group for Human Resources education
- Critical Care & Community Paramedic Symposium
 - Scheduled for May 14, 2026
 - Pikes Peak State College CHES Campus
 - One day with two tracks for CC and CP
 - Will use outside catering and will work with local hotels to keep costs down



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- Pulsara
 - Statewide Status
 - As noted in previous meetings, the ongoing funding for Pulsara statewide is still being considered with no current plans. The Region is funded through the end of June 2026 with additional funding options being considered.
- Rural Health Transformation Project Funding
 - The state of Colorado is in line for \$200M annual funding for healthcare initiatives across the rural counties from five year federal program.
 - The project is being lead by HCPF but there has not been an Request for Proposals brought forward yet.
 - There is actual concern that the state of Colorado could miss out on funding due to inaction despite the fact that other states have already started projects.
- 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
 - Some consideration by EMPAC to add Plasma to the EMT scope
- 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
- 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, June 3-4, Denver Tech Center
 - SEMTAC Meetings, July 8-9, Denver
- Kim provided a summary document of potential changes being considered by the EMPAC for changes to the Chapter Two Scope of Practice.
- Kim informed the Council that he is considering retirement at the end of 2027. Kim and Tim have spoken and are working on a potential transition plan after January potentially.

VIII.

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.

- Rachel Carson completed her term on SEMTAC. Kim thanked Rachel for her time and service.
- St Francis Woodmen completed their Level III Trauma Designation Review and passed without any issues.
- The new potential Chapter Two rules will include the option for all levels of EMT to provide Community Paramedic Services.

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



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- Much discussion about the funding for Path4EMS and the ongoing concerns with the EMTS Account.

B) Board of Health Rules

When the Chapter Two Scope of Practice rules are closed, they will go before the Board of Health for consideration. This should happen in late 2026.

C) Legislative Update

Kim Schallenger spoke about legislation currently being supported by EMSAC which includes

- A bill to establish EMS as an Essential Service is being considered. The EMSAC Advocacy Committee is working with the legislator to craft appropriate language
- The treatment in place bill was discussed earlier along with the potential changes to SEMTAC's role.

D) State Provider Grant

The updated timeline for the EMTS Provider Grant should allow for grant funding announcements to be made by May 1st. Kim reached out to Tim Pietre and was told that they would likely come out on May 4 or 5. This shift will allow for agencies to have a full twelve months for projects.

E) Statewide RETAC Forum

The next RETAC Forum will be in Denver Tech Center on June 3-4. The RETAC approved funding to support stakeholder travel to these events. Kim will get the information out to the community.

F) Pediatric Issues

No specific report

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A) South Central Healthcare Coalition Partnership

- a. Kim updated those present on the status of all healthcare coalitions
- b. Kim also noted that funding for the next cycle has been approved so the relationship should continue into FY27.
- c. This relationship benefits both the RETAC and the SC HCC.

B) Roundtable Discussion

- a. Lane Elliott introduced himself as the new OEM for Lincoln County and Public Health.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Sherry Steffen adjourned the meeting at 1330.

The next meeting of the Plains to Peaks RETAC will be July 21, 2026 at 1200 likely in a virtual format.

Kim E Schallenger, Executive Director