COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
4300 CHERRY CREEK DRIVE SOUTH
DENVER, COLORADO 80246

STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEMTAC)
April 12, 2012
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
Chief Dan Noonan, SEMTAC Chair

Chief Dan Noonan, SEMTAC Chair, called the April 12, 2012 Colorado State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC) to order at approximately 9:01 a.m. at the Glenwood Springs Community Center, Sopris Rooms A, B & C, 100 Wulfsohn Road, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601.

Roll Call
Randy Kuykendall, SEMTAC Secretary

Randy Kuykendall, SEMTAC Secretary, conducted the roll call. A quorum was established.

Members Present	Dr. Jeff Beckman, Dr. Walt Biffl, Mr. Brandon Chambers, Dr. David Dreitlein, Ms. Nancy Frizell, Commissioner Lew Gaiter, Ms. Arlene Harms, Mr. Robert Hudgens, Mr. Ray Jennings, Commissioner Linda Joseph, Mr. Randy Lesher, Dr. Ed Lopez, Ms. Kathy Mayer, Mr. Fred Morrison, Dr. John Nichols, Chief Daniel Noonan, Mr. Travis Polk, Ms. Dale Quimby, Dr. Lara Rappaport, Mr. Larry Reeves, Dr. Joel Schaefer, Commissioner Nancy Stuart, Chief Ralph Vickrey and Mr. Todd Wright.
Members Excused	None.
Members Absent	Dr. Eugene Eby
Ex-Officio Members Present	Mr. Kevin Eldridge, Ms. Carol Gould, Mr. Randy Kuykendall and Mr. Zane Laubhan.
Ex-Officio Members Excused	None.
Ex-Officio Members Absent	Mr. Michael Carter and Sheriff Don Krueger
EMTS Section Staff Present	Ms. Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, Ms. Krystel Banks, Mr. Sean Caffrey, Mr. Rio Chowdhury, Dr. Art Kanowitz, Ms. Margaret Mohan, EMTS Section Chief Michelle Reese, Ms. Grace Sandeno.

Approval of Minutes
Chief Dan Noonan, SEMTAC Chair

The draft minutes of the January 12, 2012, SEMTAC meeting had been e-mailed to each of the SEMTAC members for their review and approval. These minutes are also available for viewing at www.coems.info/semtac.

MOTION

MOVED BY RAY JENNINGS, SECONDED BY JOEL SCHAFFER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 12, 2012, SEMTAC MEETING.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence
Randy Kuykendall, SEMTAC Secretary

A letter dated January10, 2012 from three hospitals geographically located within the Western RETAC (WRETAC) was read. In summary, the letter stated that "the goals of WRETAC do not coincide with the strategic efforts of our facilities" but that these hospitals remain committed to work with regional partners (i.e., EMS, Public Health and Emergency Management).

Chief Noonan expressed that the situation has been examined and Dr. David Dreitlein remarked that this was truly an issue of misalignment of goals and that WRETAC has looked at this issue and is working to make changes. Based on these changes, Dr. Dreitlein indicated the facilities would consider rejoining WRETAC in the not-too-distant future.

Public Comments
Chief Dan Noonan, Chairman

None.

OLD BUSINESS

SEMTAC Meeting Dates 2012 and 2013
Chief Dan Noonan, Chairman

2012 SEMTAC Meetings:
July 12; October 4
2013 SEMTAC Meetings:
January 24; April 11; July 25; October 24

Chief Noonan requested that the group provide feedback to staff regarding having one of the quarterly SEMTAC meetings outside Denver Metro area.

NEW BUSINESS

SEMTAC Vacancies
Randy Kuykendall, SEMTAC Secretary

Mr. Kuykendall reported a number of terms are up for re-appointment. The application is at www.coems.info and applications will be accepted through April 13, 2012. Appointments are expected to be made mid-June; however, the process might take longer. As such, current members need to be prepared to continue as members until the governor announces the appointments.

CO Trauma System Rapid Improvement Event
Nancy McDonald, HFEMSD Division Director

Nancy McDonald updated the committee on the Rapid Improvement Event. The name of the process has been changed to "Rapid Planning Event." A LEAN methodology was employed with the intention to return a deliverable to the Council with a number of recommendations for consideration. Initial meetings happened in March 2012. Members of the RPE includeSEMTAC Chairman Dan Noonan, Dr. David Drietlein, Commissioner Lew Gaiter, Dr. Ed Lopez, Dr. John Nichols, Dr. Joel Schaefer, Dr. Walt Bifl, Ms. Dale Quinby, Mr. Travis Polk and Dr. Eugene Eby.

Initial meetings were ones of discovery, including the review of data. The group discovered that the current system works reasonably well. Along with the establishment of a starting point, a discussion involving what is the ideal state occurred. The committee also discussed how to get to this ideal state, given the current status. Ms. McDonald opened up the discussion to questions and thanked the group for its collaborative hard work.

The format of the RPE was discussed, and although the process does not allow for ongoing input from audience members during the actual work sessions, time blocks are available throughout the day when anyone can provide input. Following this event, the recommendations will be thoroughly discussed at the Council level where stakeholder feedback will be accepted.

The next meetings will take place on May 9, 10, and 11, 2012. After these meetings, recommendations will be presented to SEMTAC for review.

CREATE Program Update
Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, EMTS Provider Grants Program Manager

Ms. Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse reported the CREATE program has handled over 165 applications this fiscal year. There is still approximately $100K for education help for fiscal year 2012 and interested parties are encouraged to apply.

Discussion clarified that out of state requests are reviewed on a case by case basis.

FY 2012 SEMTAC Provider Grant Reviews
Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, EMTS Provider Grants Program Manager

Grant reviews will occur on May 16 and 17, 2012. Ms. Bakehouse requested that any changes to the evaluator schedule be submitted to her as soon as possible. Chief Noonan reminded SEMTAC members of the obligation to be part of the review process.

One hundred fifty (150) grant applications were received, requesting $8 million. There were thirty-five (35) requests for financial waivers; financial waiver requests are from applicants that cannot meet the pre-requisite 50% match for funding and request a reduced amount matched by the organization. Seven (7) requests did not pass initial screening, reducing the total requested amount by $800,000. There is approximately $6 million available to award.

Discussion centered on the financial review process. 35 requests is the highest number in recent years, and the percent of those failing waiver this year was higher than the last couple of years but lower than a few years ago. In general, waiver requests do not pass the review if they lack sufficient supporting documentation and financials.

Trauma Program
Grace Sandeno, Trauma Program Manager

Level I Trauma Center Designation Recommendation: St. Anthony Hospital

Ms. Grace Sandeno reported that all state criteria have been fully met. No site review issues pending.

MOTION

MOVED BY MR. RAY JENNINGS, SECONDED BY CHIEF DAN NOONAN, TO RECOMMEND REDESIGNATION AS A LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTER FOR ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL.

Dr. Charles Mains of St. Anthony's Hospital thanked SEMTAC for support.

MOTION PASSED WITH KATHY MAYER ABSTAINING.

MOTION PASSED

Level I Trauma Center Designation Recommendation: Denver Health and Hospital Authority

Ms. Grace Sandeno reported that all state criteria have been fully met. No site review issues pending.

MOTION

MOVED BY DR. JEFF BECKMAN, SECONDED BY CHIEF RALPH VICKERY, TO RECOMMEND THE REDESIGNATION OF DENVER HEALTH AND HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AS A LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER.

Dr. Patrick Green of Denver Heath and Hospital Authority thanked SEMTAC for support.

MOTION PASSED WITH DR. WALT BIFFL ABSTAINING.

MOTION PASSED

Positively Collaborative Award

Ms. Grace Sandeno announced that the recipient of the Positively Collaborative award for this quarter is Dr. Holly Hedegaard. Ms. Sandeno remarked that there was a ground swell of enthusiasm regarding Dr. Hedegaard's nomination and unanimous support. The trauma services community expressed its gratitude and acknowledged Dr. Hedegaard for her contributions to this community and beyond.

Committee, Task Force and Workgroup Reports

Injury Community Planning Group

Nancy Frizell, Injury Community Planning Group Co-Chair

Ms. Nancy Frizell reported that the Injury Community Planning Group (ICPG) met on April 11, 2012. An education piece and a program piece highlighting best practices were presented.

The Program highlighted motor vehicle safety programs in Larimer County. It was presented by Janet Wurst from Poudre Valley Hospital Systems. Programs cover the spectrum of initiatives from car seats to teen driving to older adult drivers.

The Education portion covered a program known as SBIRT; this piece was presented by Bree Reinman. The program name is an acronym for "screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment." This is a program that trauma centers can use to screen all patients for the potential to become addicted to or dependent upon illicit drugs or alcohol. Of the more than 150,000 patients screened, approximately 25 percent were demonstrated to be at risk and a brief intervention was conducted. This approach appears to be successful as statistics show a 40 to 45% decrease in the usage of alcohol and/or illicit drugs at 6 months, based on self-reported data.

New items include:

- Motor vehicles – there is a conference in Colorado Springs in July. Action teams will develop action plans for bringing various initiatives back to their communities.
- Carol Gould reported on the CDOT grants in relation to motor vehicle safety with an emphasis for the next fiscal year on teen driving, adult seat belt use and older adult drivers.
- The suicide prevention initiative - the use of the suicide prevention training developed for EMS providers is encouraged. Sean Caffrey will spearhead.
- Sports concussions programs are being rolled out throughout the state after the February webinar was presented.
- Injury prevention infrastructure and funding noted that there were 6 provider grants and 1 system grant for injury prevention in current round of grant requests.
- There is a website www.coprevent.org that posts information for prevention activities across the state.

Commissioner Linda Joseph asked if there is a way to track data about the efficacy of the suicide prevention initiatives. Ms. Frizell answered not at this time.

Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC)
Will Dunn, Chair

Chairman Will Dunn provided a report from the Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC). Thirty-eight (38) waiver reviews were presented at the previous quarter's meeting on February; twenty-eight (28) were approved, one (1) was approved with conditions and five (5) were withdrawn.

One committee membership change to report from 1st Q 2012. Dr. John Abbot acting as a representative for a physician from a rural or frontier EMS service has resigned. The governor's office is recruiting for that position. Applications for this position were being taken through Friday, April 20, 2012.

EMPAC initiated a process to update the EMS Practice Rules. Given the scope of the project, a formal adoption of these rule changes is expected to occur by 2nd Q 2013.

A task force was created to develop standards and clinical practice guidelines for pediatric RSI. The group has expert representation from pediatricians and EMS professionals. An update of this group's progress will be provided at the next EMPAC meeting in May.

The waiver application process is undergoing an update. It is anticipated that these updates will be in place by late May and will be available to use for the 3rd Q 2012 EMPAC meeting.

Additional parking lot items for future EMPAC discussion are available online. Any feedback on these items can be directed to Mr. Sean Caffrey via email at sean.caffrey@state.co.us.

Chief Ray Jennings asked if waivers will be made available online in the future. Michelle Reese indicated the section will consider the request.

Chief Dan Noonan requested that once draft pediatric RSI guidelines are developed that they be made available for review and comment. Mr. Dunn indicated that various stakeholders have been involved and working hard to ensure all interested parties are encouraged to weigh in on the development of these guidelines. Dr. Art Kanowitz added that the first formal task force meeting will occur on Monday, April 16, 2012. Dr. Kanowitz also noted that in developing these guidelines that the task force is viewing this from a global perspective of pediatric airway management, with pediatric RSI being the pinnacle. The intention is to develop the state pediatric RSI guidelines and the QI case report form for the pediatric component.

The next EMPAC meeting will be on May 14, 2012, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Designation Review Committee
Dr. Charles Mains, Chair

The DRC met on April 11, 2012. Dr. Mains reported for this past quarter there were a small number of designations to be reviewed. There were three (3) trauma centers that were designated without reservations. Additionally, two (2) facilities were recommended for designation with a plan of correction. The plans of corrections for these facilities are currently in place. Hence, the DRC recommended to the department that these two facilities be designated.

Pediatric Emergency Care Committee
Dr. Lara Rappaport, Chair

Dr. Rappaport reported on topics the PECC is currently undertaking. The pediatric RSI discussion is on-going and the PECC is appreciative of the task force. The committee applied for a mobile simulator trailer through the grants program. There are continued updates to the EMSC's website and appreciation was expressed to those who sent in education event information. Additionally, education material is continually being uploaded to the website, including a new journal blog about pediatric EM/EMS topics. The next committee meeting will be held on April 26, 2012, in Denver, Colorado.

SEMTAC Chairman's Report
Chief Dan Noonan, SEMTAC Chair

Nancy McDonald announced that Randy Kuykendall has been named the Deputy Director for the Health Facilities and EMS Division and that Michelle Reese has been named Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section Chief.

Chief Noonan gave a Power Point presentation to demonstrate the improvements that the department has made over the years. He also expressed his appreciation for the community and the collective passion for doing one's best.

Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee
Dr. Joel Schaefer, Chair

Dr. Joel Schaefer reported that STAC met on April 11, 2012. The committee is continuing to work on a re-write of Chapter Two of the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Care System Standards, which covers inter-facility transfer rules. A rough draft has been created. As a result of many discussions on the intermingling of transfer rules and how these overlap with trauma center designation, a decision was made to have many of the inter-facility transfer rules be included in Chapter Three. Chapter Three covers trauma center designation rules and has a process in place to handle specifics related to some of the challenges uncovered during the discussions.

The committee also reviewed a waiver request and information from the benchmarking group. The benchmarking group's emphasis is to collect and analyze data, which in turn is used to guide decisions.

Chief Dan Noonan asked if the RPE is a potential venue to look at the "Super III's" and might be able to lend assistance to the committee. Dr. Schaefer commented that the processes are pretty parallel and tackling similar issues. He also indicated that he hopes that there is some sort of intersection between the two and added that there is value to having both.

Public Policy and Finance Committee
Chief Randy Lesher, Chair

Chief Randy Lesher reported that the committee met April 11, 2012. The main focus of the meeting was to hear requests for system improvement funding. The committee also worked on the incentive category and discussed the RETAC opportunity paper, which will be re-reviewed in the fall.

Discussion centered on regional medical direction and conference support, as many of the system improvement funding requests were for these two types of projects. There is some thought that RMD needs a more stable funding source, and that both RMD and conferences need more discussion.

Waiver Request: St. Anthony North Hospital
Grace Sandeno, Trauma Program Manager

Ms. Grace Sandeno presented a special circumstance waiver request on behalf of St. Anthony North Hospital. Dr. Alan Rosenberger, Trauma Service Director, was present representing the facility. The facility is requesting a waiver be granted which would allow a non-board certified general surgeon to be able to continue to take trauma call. The surgeon is not certified as he obtained his medical degree and license prior to this being a requirement. Both he and the facility would like him to continue to take trauma call. However, because the facility is a Level III facility, all surgeons must be board certified. The facility has complied with the requirements of public comment. During the time of public notification via a posting of the waiver, there have been no comments. Additionally, the facility has provided paperwork demonstrated the doctor's credentials.

Dr. Joel Schaeffer mentioned that the STAC reviewed the waiver during the April 11th meeting. There was a unanimous vote with one (1) abstention to recommend approval of the waiver.

Dr. Rosenberger spoke on behalf of the facility. The hospital fully supports the waiver request for Dr. Pius Kamau. Dr. Kamau is a highly qualified surgeon, who has over 30 years of experience. He is a vital member of the community. The hospital sought out guidance on this issue from the American College of Surgeons, as the state does not have criteria for non-board certified surgeons. Dr. Kamau has met all the suggested criteria. Although the hospital can function as a Level III trauma center without Dr. Kamau, this waiver is important to the hospital, the community and Dr. Kamau.

MOVED BY MR. RAY JENNINGS, SECONDED BY CHIEF RALPH VICKERY, TO RECOMMEND TO APPROVE THE WAIVER FOR ST. ANTHONY'S NORTH HOSPITAL.

MOTION

Dr. Schaeffer made a point of a clarification in that the waiver only extends through the facility designation period.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION PASSED

EMTS Section Report

Randy Kuykendall, EMTS Deputy Director

Deputy Director Randy Kuykendall reviewed the EMTS Section Activity Report.

Several personnel changes happened during the last quarter. Dr. Holly Hedegaard has resigned. Celeste White, Krystel Banks and Rio Chowdhury all accepted promotions within the department.

Chief Michelle Reese discussed position redesigns. A handout was provided with the reconfiguration of the EMTS section. Although the current system works well, with the current vacancies there is opportunity to make some improvements. These changes will take effect as vacant positions are filled.

Mr. Kuykendall discussed the formation of a new data program. Because of the vacancy left by Dr. Hedegaard, the department has the opportunity to create a data collection unit for the entire division, with a Data Program Manager as the team lead. This will allow for increased efficiency, as well as integration between the EMTS and the Acute Care and Community Section data.

Mr. Kuykendall finished his report by requesting feedback on the non-Denver location. He also publically acknowledged Northwest RETAC for helping to arrange this particular meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.