

# STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor  
Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH  
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer



Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.      Laboratory Services Division  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530      8100 Lowry Blvd.  
Phone (303) 692-2000      Denver, Colorado 80230-6928  
Located in Glendale, Colorado      (303) 692-3090

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>

Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council Public Policy and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes July 11, 2012

**Public Policy & Finance Committee Members:** Brandon Chambers, David Dreitlein, Lew Gaiter, Ray Jennings, Linda Joseph, Randy Leshar, Kathy Mayer, Fred Morrison, Travis Polk, Nancy Stuart.

**EMTS Section Staff:** Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, Joni Briola, Sean Caffrey, Art Kanowitz, Lynne Keilman, Randy Kuykendall, Michelle Reese, Grace Sandeno, Bill Voges.

**SEMTAC and Members of the Public:** Kevin Burgess, Amy Carter, Tamara Connell, Dee Crump, Tim Dienst, Nancy Falleur, Nancy Frizell, Tina Gemelli, John Harney, Steve Hilley, Paula Holman, Nicola Hopkins, Rob Hudgens, Ed Lopez, Rich Martin, Lori McDonald, Mike Merrill, Melody Mesmer, Tessa Meunier, Jon Montano, Chris Montera, Kim Muramoto, Dan Noonan, Larry Reeves, Jeff Schanhals, Kim Schallenberger, Chad Seeburger, Eric Schmidt, Carl Smith, Dwayne Smith, Shirley Terry, Linda Underbrink, Phyllis Uribe.

**Call to order:** 10:05 a.m. A quorum was established.

### Introduction and meeting overview

Randy Leshar welcomed everyone to the Public Policy and Finance Committee meeting.

### Old Business

#### Review of minutes

The committee reviewed the April 2012 meeting minutes. Linda Joseph made a motion to accept them and Ray Jennings seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### Grants program

Lynne Keilman provided an update on the placemat and indicated that final fiscal year 2012 numbers would be available on the next update.

Jeanne-Marie announced that the Colorado Rural Health Center would provide an update Thursday at the full SEMTAC meeting on the Colorado Resource for EMS and Trauma Education (CREATE) program. One spot on the Education Review Committee has come open, and Rob Hudgens volunteered to fill that spot.

Jeanne-Marie updated the committee on fiscal year 2012 grants, which have the same status as Lynne indicated for the placemat. The year has not been finalized and closed out yet, so final numbers are not yet available.

For FY13, Jeanne-Marie distributed a draft report of the new awards sorted by category. \$684,838 was awarded for system improvement requests and \$5,451,487 was awarded for provider grants. More information, such as rural/urban and RETAC breakouts, will be available by next meeting.

For FY14, Jeanne-Marie indicated that the call for potential incentive category submissions had gone out, but that no submissions were received. Therefore, a ninth provider grant category with an automatically reduced match will not be included in the fiscal year 2014 grant cycle application.

### **New Business**

Randy Kuykendall and Dr. Kanowitz opened the discussion on regional medical direction. Dr. Kanowitz gave background and summarized activity across the state. Nine of 11 RETACs have individuals or groups serving as regional medical directors; 8 of 11 have CQI coordinators; and 7 of 11 have regional protocols. Randy Kuykendall mentioned that this topic was discussed at the June RETAC forum to get a sense of how the program was working and to begin discussions on whether a more permanent funding source should be found. Currently, regional medical direction is part of the annual competitive grant cycle as a category within the system improvement funding application. For fiscal year 2013, approximately \$350,000 was requested and awarded for regional medical direction.

Discussion revealed divided thought on whether regional medical direction should stay in the competitive arena or whether a predictable and dedicated source should be identified. There were several suggestions on how to proceed. First was a suggestion to form a task force to identify the core concepts and provide recommendations on funding, with advantages and disadvantages. Second, there was a suggestion to take an identified total amount, based on past awards for regional medical direction, and divide it equally among RETACs.

Dr. Kanowitz remarked that although each region has individual needs and approaches to regional medical direction, there are a few overriding commonalities across regions. These include developing avenues of communication, developing and promoting regional standardized protocols, holding regular meetings, and gathering and collecting feedback.

Further discussion centered on the importance of ensuring funds are directed to the highest value of use and that the competitive process works well for this as well as for keeping accountability.

There were two additional suggestions on how to proceed. First was a suggestion to hold a 2-day event to develop goals and deliverables, as well as produce a document at the end of the event to use for next steps. Next there was a suggestion to utilize an interim Public Policy and Finance Committee meeting as the vehicle for further discussions in an open forum.

David Dreitlein made a motion to hold an interim Public Policy and Finance Committee meeting in order to discuss future funding of regional medical direction and to arrive at recommendations to bring to the regularly scheduled PP&F meeting in October, then to the full SEMTAC in October. Linda Joseph seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The date and location of the interim meeting will be determined and advertised.

The next topic for discussion was conferences, and Randy Kuykendall indicated that this category consistently draws comments during the hearing process about long term sustainability and ongoing grant funding for conference events. Randy asked that the committee consider additional guidance to provide a more precise and clearer picture of what was expected, in order to help both applicants and evaluators in this category.

Discussion revealed that past conference requests for funding show two different needs in that a conference may be a new event in need of seed money, or it may be an established event needing continued funding for sustainability. Questions that consistently come up during grant hearings have to do with long-term sustainability, and whether grant dollars should be utilized year after year for supporting a conference. There was general recognition that some conferences just are not self-sustaining and need support every year.

There was a question on why the CREATE program can't be used for conference support, and it was determined that CREATE was built to handle the ongoing needs for training of EMS and trauma providers. The structure of the program was not designed to handle conference support requests.

David Dreitlein made a motion to expand the conference category grant guidance to describe the different types of funding for conferences, in that dollars can be applied for to develop a new and unique conference, or to support an established conference with justification of a demonstrated track record of success and demonstrated financial need. Lew Gaiter seconded the motion.

Further discussion brought out the fact that inconsistencies across evaluators over grant cycles make it difficult without specific guidelines and that even though there is not a time limit published in grant guidance, three year time frames seem to be the maximum before evaluators really question ongoing funding and support of a specific event.

It was identified that there is a larger overall policy question at issue here: is the grants program for one time projects or is it to be used to sustain the system?

The committee generally agreed that expanding the guidance for the conference category as asked for in the motion is a good start to identifying some more specifics, and that continued improvements to the grant guidelines in concert with the scoring tool will be beneficial. When called to question, the motion passed unanimously.

There was a suggestion to add the larger policy question related to the grants program as a future agenda item. Additionally, there was a suggestion to add the financial section of the applications to a future agenda item.

### **Meeting adjourned**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

### **Next regular meeting**

Oct. 3, 2012, Sabin Room, CDPHE