

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

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

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## **State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council**

Apr. 10, 2014  
DRAFT MINUTES

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chief Daniel Noonan, SEMTAC chair, called the Apr. 10, 2014, State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC) to order at approximately 9 a.m. at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver, CO 80246. Chief Noonan welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them to sign in and turn their phones off.

### **Roll call**

Mr. Randy Kuykendall, SEMTAC secretary, conducted the roll call.

Members present: Dr. Kathy Beauchamp, Dr. Jeff Beckman, Dr. Andrew Berson, Dr. Walter Biffel, Dr. Christine Darr, Dr. David Dreitlein, Dr. Eugene Eby, Ms. Stephanie Eveatt, Mr. James Felmler, Commissioner Lew Gaiter, Chief John Hall, Mr. John Harney, Ms. Stephanie Harrison, Captain Robert Hudgens, Commissioner Linda Joseph, Chief Randy Lesher, Dr. Edward Lopez, Chief Richard Martin, Mr. Fred Morrison, Ms. Deborah Moynihan, Chief Daniel Noonan, Mr. Carl Smith, Mr. Jimmy Taylor, Ms. Patti Thompson. A quorum was established.

Members excused: Commissioner Buddy Schmalz.

Ex-officio members present: Mr. Michael Carter, Ms. Carol Gould, Mr. Randy Kuykendall, Mr. Zane Laubhan, Captain Brian Lyons, Mr. Bill Voges.

Ex-officio members absent: Sheriff Don Krueger.

Emergency Medical and Trauma Services (EMTS) Branch staff present: Ms. Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, Mr. Marschall Smith, Ms. Joni Briola, Ms. Crystal Cortes, Ms. Tamara Hoxworth, Ms. Margaret Mohan, Mr. Matthew Paswaters, Ms. Grace Sandeno, Mr. Andre Smith, Dr. Art Kanowitz, Ms. Alexandra Haas, Mr. Matt Concialdi, Ms. Eileen Shelby.

## **Introduction of Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of the department**

Mr. Kuykendall introduced Dr. Wolk, who addressed the committee by giving a short history of his experience and a summary of his vision and goals.

## **Member appointment update**

Mr. Kuykendall announced a new SEMTAC member to replace Dr. Dennis Vollmer. Dr. Kathy Beauchamp will serve as the board-certified neurosurgeon providing trauma care at a level I or II trauma center. Randy mentioned that applications were being accepted by the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions for nine positions on the council. Currently, membership is limited to two terms.

## **Approval of minutes**

Chief Noonan indicated the draft minutes of the Jan. 29, 2014, SEMTAC meeting had been emailed to each of the SEMTAC members for review and approval, and that these minutes are also available for viewing at [www.coems.info](http://www.coems.info). The following changes were noted: Chief Hall voted "no" on the Valley View Hospital waiver and the Board for Critical Care Transport Paramedic Certification (BCCTPC) exam costs \$235 for members of the International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics (IAFCCP) and \$335 for non-members.

**MOTION BY CHIEF JOHN HALL, SECONDED BY MR. JIMMY TAYLOR, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JAN. 29, 2014, MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **Correspondence**

Mr. Kuykendall indicated that there were no items of correspondence received this quarter.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **SEMTAC meeting dates**

Chief Noonan reminded everyone of the remaining 2014 meeting dates and said that the 2015 dates were shown on the agenda.

### **Offsite meeting discussion**

Mr. Kuykendall stated the October 2014 meeting would once again be held outside of the Denver Metro area. He thanked Chief John Hall for agreeing to host the meeting in Grand Junction.

## **Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council**

Mr. Will Dunn presented the Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC) report from the Feb. 10, 2014, meeting. There were 14 new waiver requests. After review, 10 requests were recommended for approval, one was withdrawn, and three were tabled until the May 2014 meeting. There are currently 439 active waivers in the state. Dr. Art Kanowitz presented information regarding his review of the 2013 RSI waiver data collected by the department. After much deliberation EMPAC voted unanimously to recommend to the executive director that the scope of practice for the paramedic with a critical care endorsement would include those acts that are currently the most frequently waived for independent practice by paramedics – a) manual transport ventilators; b) blood chemistry interpretation; and c) adult

rapid sequence intubation (RSI -- age 13 & over). The formulary of medications reflects those used and/or maintained for RSI and necessary to maintain patient care that has already been initiated in a health care facility during transport.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Trauma Program**

Ms. Grace Sandeno presented the results of the re-review at Littleton Adventist on March 18. The initial review was completed on March 4 and 5, 2013. At the re-review, all deficiencies were corrected. **MOTION BY CHIEF RICHARD MARTIN, SECONDED BY DR. WALT BIFFL, TO APPROVE THE RE-REVIEW DESIGNATION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. DR. EUGENE EBY AND MR. CARL SMITH ABSTAINED.**

Ms. Sandeno then presented information on the trauma rule change hearing before the Board of Health on April 16 that changed the volume criteria for patients with an Injury Severity Score of 16 or greater from 400 to 320. Current level I hospitals are Denver Health, St. Anthony Hospital and Swedish Medical Center. The issue of volume criteria has been vetted over the last several years. Chief Noonan recognized all the work the council, general public and community has put into getting the rule to the Board of Health.

The Designation Review Committee was in need of a new member and re-appointment of two other members. Chief John Hall was appointed as the pre-hospital/general public member, Ms. Patti Thompson was re-appointed as the health care facility administrator and Mr. Eric Schmidt was re-appointed as the RETAC representative. **MOTION BY MR. FRED MORRISON, SECONDED BY MR. JOHN HARNEY, TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION OF APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JOHN HALL and RE-APPOINTMENT OF MS. PATTI THOMPSON AND MR. ERIC SCHMIDT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MS. PATTI THOMPSON AND CHIEF JOHN HALL ABSTAINED.**

### **Positively Collaborative Award**

This quarter the positively collaborative award was awarded to Dr. Pat Thompson, regional medical director of the San Luis Valley RETAC. He has been very active in streamlining ground and air transport in the Valley and in encouraging greater cooperation among the services. He was given an award and a gift certificate.

## **EMTS Funding Section**

### **CREATE Update**

Ms. Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse reported a vacancy on the CREATE Expert Review Committee's financial waiver group and that a volunteer was needed. Mr. Carl Smith volunteered to fill the vacancy. There is a small group working on revising and updating the CREATE scoring tool, and recommendations will be presented to the Public Policy and Finance Committee at its July 9 meeting.

### **EMTS Funding Update**

Ms. Bakehouse reminded the council of the provider grant reviews on May 15 and 16. She stated the department received 133 applications, which was 50 less than last year, possibly due to the consolidated, statewide equipment applications submitted by RETACs.

### **Professional Standards Section**

Mr. Marschall Smith reported that the new on-line certification will go live in the near future and will be called OATH (Online Application Tracking Hub). He also stated that the proposed rules for Paramedic with Critical Care Endorsement will be going in front of the Board of Health on May 21.

### **Chair and vice chair election**

Per a resolution approved at the Jan. 29, 2014, meeting, the election of chairperson and vice chair was moved to the April meeting. Commissioner Lew Gaiter and Mr. Fred Morrison are on the ballot for the chairperson. Chief Richard Martin is on the ballot for vice chair.

**MOTION BY DR. WALT BIFFL, SECONDED BY DR. JEFF BECKMAN TO NOMINATE DR. KATHY BEAUCHAMP FOR VICE CHAIR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Elections were held, and results were that Mr. Fred Morrison was elected chairperson and Chief Richard Martin was elected vice chair.

### **Chair Report**

Chief Noonan presented a video clip of events that have occurred during his 17 plus years on the SEMTAC. He received a standing ovation.

### **Acknowledgement of Retiring Council Members**

Commissioner Linda Joseph, Dr. Walt Biffel, Dr. Eugene Eby and Chief Daniel Noonan were all issued a certificate and small gift by Mr. Kuykendall on behalf of the state and the department. There was then a video and special presentation to Chief Noonan for his years of service and dedication to Colorado's EMS and trauma community. He is the last member of the original SEMTAC, appointed in 2000.

### **Committee, Task Force and Workgroup Reports**

#### **Injury Community Planning Group**

Ms. Carol Gould presented the discussion items from the April 9 Injury Community Planning Group (ICPG) committee meeting. There was a presentation of Prevention Winnable Battle Awards to Swedish Medical Center and St. Anthony Hospital for leading the efforts to bring the evidence-based older adult fall prevention program *Stepping On* to all Centura and HealthONE trauma facilities. Stakeholders who work in injury prevention are urged to go to the website <http://vipreventionnetworkco.com/p/vip-winnable-battle-recognition-programs.html> and consider applying as an Injury and Violence Prevention Advocate and/or Program of Excellence.

There were presentations by Barbara Gabella, CDPHE Injury Epidemiologist, who is looking for hospitals in Colorado planning to do dual coding of hospital records using ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM. Lisa Ravielle of the Harm Reduction Action Center in Denver presented on Naloxone. Updates on the injury and suicide strategic plan priorities for motor vehicle, older

adult falls, suicide prevention, prescription drug overdose, infant safe sleep and systems, policy and legislation were all discussed during the meeting. The next ICPG meeting is July 9, 2014, at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment from 8 am to 9:45 am.

### **Designation Review Committee Report**

Ms. Grace Sandeno provided the report for Dr. Charles Main who was unable to attend. The first quarter of 2014 was a slow quarter for the committee, and all monthly meetings were cancelled due to lack of agenda items requiring committee recommendations. One facility received an automatic designation recommendation by having no deficiencies and no items met with reservations. Five level III-V facilities are to be reviewed in the next quarter.

### **Pediatric Emergency Care Committee**

Dr. Christine Darr reported on the Pediatric Emergency Care Committee. The pediatric mobile simulation lab is ready for service. Information on the trailer can be found under the education tab at [www.emscolorado.org](http://www.emscolorado.org) including a request form. The latest EMS for Children grant year closed on Feb. 28. The second meeting of the Colorado Prehospital Pediatric Quality Council (CPPQC) was held in February with a review of statewide pediatric EMS care in 2013. The group discussed beginning a quality improvement project related to the care of children with seizures. The next CPPQC will be held Tuesday, May 13. Family Representative Emma Watt has connected with Parent to Parent Colorado, asking for PECC representation on their advisory board. The group further discussed increasing PECC engagement in disaster preparedness activities. Finally, the group reviewed the draft EMS for Children strategic plan.

### **Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee**

Dr. Walter Biffl reported on the Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting. The committee discussed the level I rule change to be heard by the Board of Health on April 16, 2014. Announcements were made for open positions for STAC membership, and updates for CQI and trauma registry were given. There was discussion on a waiver application from Valley View Hospital, and the committee decided to defer the recommendation to SEMTAC. They then discussed a waiver application from Memorial Hospital Central/Children's Hospital Colorado and recommended waiver approval to SEMTAC. Lastly, they discussed scope of care and will be meeting in April to look at the platform of services necessary to provide orthopedic care at each level trauma facility. The group will start with a list of issues and the nature of the platform that is required 24/7 to meet the needs of the patient.

### **Public Policy and Finance Committee**

Chief Randy Leshner reported that the Public Policy and Finance Committee heard and scored the system improvement funding requests. The committee also heard the regional medical direction project requests from the 11 RETACs. This is the first year of implementing the three-year set-aside of \$363,000 out of the system improvement pot. He stated that after discussion and review, the committee voted to recommend funding all 11 regional medical direction projects.

Mr. Randy Kuykendall then updated the council on a proposal to suspend air ambulance fees for two years. This is because the program has exceeded the 16.5% funding balance cap. Mr. Kuykendall indicated that a two-year suspension of fees should appropriately reduce the fund balance, and that although the air ambulance companies had not yet been contacted for their

input on the idea, they would be included in the discussion. Mr. Kuykendall stated the trauma program had exceeded its funding cap balance as well, but that it was due to the three-year cyclical nature of the designation process and that the department would be seeking an exemption from the cap through the legislature next year. **MOTION BY CHIEF RANDY LESHER, SECONDED BY CHIEF RICHARD MARTIN TO INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP AND INITIATE A PROCESS FOR A RULE CHANGE THROUGH THE BOARD OF HEALTH TO SUSPEND THE AIR AMBULANCE FEES FOR TWO YEARS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Safety Task Force**

Chief Noonan explained to the council that the definition of a task force was a group that worked to accomplish particular goals and then disbanded once the goals were complete. He noted that the Safety Task Force has been meeting for years and that safety is an important, ongoing issue. The council voted at the Jan. 30 meeting to make Safety a SEMTAC Committee starting with the July 2014 meeting. Ms. Shirley Terry then reported that the Safety Committee will continue its discussion on creating goals and structure at the July meeting. She indicated that initial committee membership will be determined at the next meeting of the group and that a chair will be elected at the October meeting.

### **Quality Assurance Bill**

Dr. Eugene Eby and Howard Paul of the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado (EMSAC) gave a short presentation on SB14-162, protection of providers through peer review by adding a level of confidentiality for those that chose to implement it. They asked for an endorsement from the council. **MOTION BY CHIEF RICHARD MARTIN, SECONDED BY CHIEF JOHN HALL FOR SEMTAC TO ENDORSE SB14-162. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch Report**

#### **EMTS Staffing**

Mr. Randy Kuykendall encouraged the council to read the branch report. He thanked Ms. Grace Sandeno for stepping in as the Branch Chief over the last year and stated she did a great job. He then discussed the division's new organizational structure and that division personnel will be re-aligned throughout the seven division branches starting in April 2014.

### **Data Presentation**

There was a presentation by Ginna Sanders, Mercy Regional Medical Center, on the ImageTrend hospital dashboard. The dashboard is for use by level I-V hospitals and allows more complete data to be transferred from pre-hospital to hospital. The data comes over State Bridge (ImageTrend) to those hospitals able to access the data.

**Adjourned meeting at 12:45 p.m.**