

**Region 4 EMS Council
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2025
Smith County, KS EMS Facility**

Those attending included:

Vincent Urbaniak, JW Co EMS

Keith Wangarin, SM Co EMS

Nathaniel Florian, EW Co EMS

Amber Robinson, MC Co EMS

Amy Mullis Havel, RP Co EMS

Levi Whitley, RP Co EMS

John Christensen, Concordia FD/EMS

Pam Kemp, Region IV EMS

Karl Leech, Minneapolis EMS

Call to Order / Additions to agenda? Called to order at 1001 by Karl Leech, add KEMSA update to agenda.

Approval of Minutes of August 2025 meeting MSA/Florian/ Wangarin

Treasurer Report – routine expenditures and grant reimbursements. MSA/ Wangarin/Florian

Old Business:

- **Edu Grant Updates** – Pam Kemp - core conference is coming up get grant application to the Region IV EMS office ASAP as Pam will be out of state for a couple of weeks very soon

New Business:

- **2026 meeting locations** – see date list at bottom of future agendas.
 - *Late change made after this meeting per e-mail with Minneapolis and Republic County EMS switching dates. If you marked calendars at the meeting be sure to make the change. The following is the corrected list of 2026 meeting locations.*
 - February 10, 2026, MC Co EMS
 - April 14, 2026, EW Co EMS
 - June 9, 2026, Minneapolis EMS
 - August 11, 2026, RP Co EMS
 - October 13, 2026, SM County EMS
 - December 8, 2026, Concordia EMS
- **BEMS meeting report** – Joe House – No KBEMS representative in attendance, so no detailed report. Some discussion from those that did listen in on the investigation committee.
- **KEMSA Update** – Karl reported on behalf of KEMSA president that she would like to be able to attend regional meetings to ensure the organization is doing things that are relevant to the personnel working in the state. KEMSA is contracting a legal counsel that can be called by KEMSA members needing legal advice with issues. Contact Karl Leech if you want the contact information for that counsel. KEMSA conference committee met and is looking at locations across the state that can accommodate the event. If there are projects or issues that individuals and services would like to see KEMSA involved in let them know. Their 30th anniversary is coming up.
- Additional discussion regarding an increase in transfer issues again. Some hospitals are requesting immediate transfer of self-pay patients and the transferring EMS ends up eating the costs when the patient does not pay.

Committee Reports – (These standing committee reports will be given if the committee has met or had business since the last Region IV Meeting)

- Salina Regional Health Center Updates (as needed)
- **Community Paramedicine project Update** – John Hultgren / Dave Beam – Karl reported they are working on the reporting issues they are trying to develop specific for MIH patients. Chrissy Bartel with Norwich EMS, who is also participating in the pilot project, posted they got their vehicle. Seeing patients should begin in the pilot programs within a month or two.
- Regional Healthcare Coalition –
- EMS-C Updates – EMS-C –
- **Regional Homeland Security Council** – McGinnis/ Florian – distributed CO monitors to the counties that requested the CO monitors for fire and law enforcement. Those disciplines will be included in the future projects with the scheduled replacements of the monitors.
- KRAF grant – Amy Havel – no updates
- **Regional Trauma Council** – Nathaniel Florian – statewide symposium last week went well. There were more EMS topics presented this year. Nathan is talking with Wendy O'Hare on education and equipment on tourniquets for pediatrics after an incident they had in EW County where the availability of that device definitively saved a young man's life.

Reminder on Service updates for website

- (check this page for accuracy <https://www.kansasemsregion4.org/agencies> – notify Pam ASAP of needed changes)

Round Table Discussion – All (*as time allows*)

Concordia – doing trainings on equipment. Have new EMT class finishing up and gaining some personnel which will bring them to full staffing

Mitchell Co EMS - vehicle updated. No word on the new potential location for the service still under discussion

Ellsworth Co EMS - fully staffed and more are in training so hopefully will soon have most staff as paramedics. Have a truck on order for March of next year. Going to keep the old truck and increase to 4 trucks in the fleet due to increased call volume. EMT class still underway.

Republic County EMS -doing well. Now have 4 full time paramedics. Community events are underway. Community CPR and possible stop the bleed. Will be sending a mutual aid policy to the other service directors. Staff will be doing some of the KEMSA workshops coming up. Discussion on some Medicaid billing per the government shutdown issues.

Jewell County EMS- still short staffed. Have a total of 6 full time. EMT class has finished up so hopefully will have more staff available. Looking at new ambulances but won't be purchasing for a couple of years. Discussion of features and likes/dislikes of various manufactured units was requested.

Smith County EMS- using new vents, service directors with questions can check with Keith on details. Getting approval to add an additional crew to the roster so they currently have openings for those positions. Doing an increased number of transfers to Omaha due to unavailability of room at other hospitals.

Minneapolis EMS – trying to get city and county officials adjusted to the mindset of doing full time personnel instead of volunteer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12 15 PM for the meal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kemp, Region IV EMS Coordinator

2025 Meeting Dates

December 09, 2025 – DK Co EMS

2026 Meeting Dates

February 10, 2026 - Mitchell

April 14, 2026 - Ellsworth

June 9, 2026 – Minneapolis

August 11, 2026 – Republic County

October 13, 2026 – Smith County

December 8, 2026- Concordia