

Region 4 EMS Council
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026
Mitchell County, KS EMS Facility

Those attending included:

Karl Leech, Minneapolis EMS
Pam Kemp, Region IV EMS
Vincent Urbaniak, JW Co EMS
Levi Whitley, RP Co EMS
Amy Havel, RP Co EMS
Nathaniel Florian, EW Co EMS

Missy McGinnis, MC Co EMS
Stacey Allen, MC Co EMS
Jacob Haberman, MC Co EMS
John Christensen, Concordia Fire / EMS
Joe House, KBEMS
Dave Beam, DK Co EMS

Call to Order / Additions to agenda- Meeting called to order at 1000 by Karl Leech, Region IV President. Add KEMSA Regional Training proposal and Mutual Aid to the agenda under new business.

Approval of Minutes of October 2025 meeting – MSA Whitley/Vincent

Treasurer Report – MSA after explanation of Amazon return Florian/McGinnis

Old Business:

- **Edu Grant Updates** – Pam Kemp- Service directors were reminded to ask their personnel to follow the deadlines for grant requests per the schedule in the posted Grant Workbook. The Grant Workbook is on the website (www.kansasemsregion4.org) under documents and has all the guidelines for applying for the grant. The grant application with instructions and the reimbursement policies and instructions as well as the reimbursement request form are all in that workbook. Please ask your personnel to pay special attention to the section of the documents that outlines their responsibility to submit timely proof of attendance after the event they attend.

New Business:

- **BEMS meeting report** – Joe House or KBEMS representative. Legislation update, Joe reports it has been a benign session so far.
 - **House Bills** that could affect EMS HB2720 Kansas surrogate medical decision act. 2719 HB rules and procedures. 2694 opioid patient's right to know act will affect EMS in some cases if it passes.
 - **Senate Bills:** SB477 First Responder scholarship program 6+ years with emergency services will qualify for up to 10 semesters of education. 12+ years for dependents to qualify. SB354 revamp of Kansas fire service training commission. SB 377 requires cardiac emergency response plan at recreational use facilities. SB#379 will establish statewide EMD and telephone CPR system. Current system survey shows 60% are using EMD which cover 2% of calls. Joe states they are looking for program that leverages current tech and maintains local control. Discussion of possibly routing those calls to regional dispatch centers with trained personnel. Full details of all pending bills is on the BEMS website.
 - **February board meeting** – Replacement board members. Ratified executive committee minutes from end of last year. Adopted the economic impact statement as revised. Minutes etc. are on the BEMS website. Committees: planning and ops is reviewing categories of vehicles frontline/reserve/backup to determine potential changes needed in regulation of equipment/supplies. Much discussion on service supply lists and process

per requirements for each licensed ambulance in their service. Challenges and concerns include potential wasted supplies on back up or last out ambulances during budget cuts in the majority of services which provide a varied level of response – both BLS and ALS.

Education, Examination Certification Committee: New law that allows other disciplines to supervise EMS trainees – language aligned to match current Investigations: only one felony application. Discussion included designing a “trial” tool to score inspection deficiency findings and other types of issues to ensure non-biased, fair and consistent decisions, disciplinary orders and policy revisions. As the process moves along get any feedback you may have directly to Joe House.

- **Questions** to Joe on hospital transfers and how to convince hospitals that those transfers are the hospital’s responsibility, EMS is not at their beck and call for them. EMS is subject to public call for emergencies and that is the priority. It was reported that some services have started billing hospitals for transfers instead of billing patients.
- **KEMSA Regional Training proposal** – KEMSA board has offered educational funding to each region to do localized regional training within the region. Bring ideas for this to the next meeting please.
- **Mutual Aid** – table to next meeting.

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) – no representative or report
- **Community Paramedicine project Update** – John Hultgren / Dave Beam – Dave reports DK Co EMS is seeing patients and a couple of patients have “graduated” seeing good results. Requires good communication and coordination between providers but is working good so far and is growing. They are trying to control that growth so they don’t become overwhelmed. Karl encourages other services to stay aware of possible future opportunities to participate in the program.
- Regional Healthcare Coalition — no representative or report –
- **EMS-C Updates** – EMS-C– no representative or report - Joe did get notification that a new Brenda Kolbaba (sp?) RN will be the new EMSC coordinator
- **Regional Homeland Security Council** – McGinnis/ Florian – running on schedule with the projects. Having discussion of doing 4-gas monitors too, but those are very expensive and are primarily a fire department tool.
- **KRAF grant** – Amy Havel – taking applications. Review will start the end of February
- **Regional Trauma Council** – Nathaniel Florian – Nothing is scheduled. There is a meeting next week. Annual meeting will be in Salina in May.

Round Table Discussion – All (as time allows)

JW Co EMS – have EMTs started from last class.

RP Co EMS – have one in medic school and other in EMT

Concordia EMS – 3 open positions. Doing another EMT class. Miltonvale EMS is closed Concordia and Clay County have split their territory.

MC Co EMS – fully staffed with 2 in Medic school. Should be getting new truck soon.

EW Co EMS – getting new unit tomorrow and one for 2029 will be ordered. Fully staffed and others in medic school. Will be doing mental health for responder families (not responders) class February 24 at 6 PM.

DK Co EMS – one opening for FT. They are working on training on the new Zoll monitors and will get them on the trucks after the upload issue with Image Trend is resolved.

Minneapolis EMS – nothing major going on. Still working on resolution to the pay scale issues in hopes it will help with recruitment and staffing.

Reminder on Service updates for website

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

There being no further business on the agenda it was MSA Whitley/Florian to Adjourn the meeting for lunch at 1240.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kemp, Region IV EMS Coordinator

2026 Meeting Dates

April 14, 2026 - Ellsworth
June 9, 2026 – Minneapolis
August 11, 2026 – Republic County
October 13, 2026 – Smith County
December 8, 2026- Concordia