Region 4 EMS Council
Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026

Republic County, KS EMS Facility

Those attending included:

Dave Beam, DK Co EMS
John Christensen, Concordia FD/EMS
Nathaniel Florian, EW Co EMS
Pam Kemp, Region IV EMS
Levi Whitley, RP Co EMS
Nathan Komarek, Salina FD/EMS
Joe House, KBEMS
Karl Leech, Minneapolis EMS
Vincent Urbaniak, JW Co EMS
Amy Havel, RP Co EMS
Alec Trembath, Cy Co EMS
Brenda Kolbaba, EMSC/ KDHE

Call to Order / Additions to agenda– The meeting was called to order by Karl Leech, President at 1000 at Republic County EMS meeting room.

Approval of Minutes of August 2026 meeting – MSA Beam/ Urbaniak to approve the June 9, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

Treasurer Report – Pam Kemp distributed the financial report. MSA Whitley/Chrisentsen

Old Business:

- **Edu Grant Updates for August KEMSA event** – Pam distributed the list of registrations processed for the event. The KEMSA Core Conference is coming up soon. Be sure people are using the Grant Workbook posted on the website and sent to service directors if they wish to apply for that event. That conference is November 6-8 in Hutchinson and registration details haven't been received yet. Details will be on the KEMSA Website.
- **Critical Care 8 hour course discussion** tabled from June meeting – Levi Whitley – Levi reached out to a vendor for information on the region sponsoring a one or two day workshop. It was MSA Christensen / Trembath to allow Levi Whitley and Nathan Komarek to get scheduling for both one day and two day and bring a detailed plan back to the October meeting.

New Business:

- **Homeland Security Regional Council EMS appointee replacement –** Nathanial Florian reported that Missy McGinnis resigned her position on the NC Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council. Her position was one of the two appointments by the Region IV EMS Council. After discussion it was MSA Leech/Whitley to appoint Alec Trembath to the Regional RHS Council as our replacement representative. Pam will draft the appointment letter for Karl's signature and submission to the RHS Council.
- **Review and Discuss new Regional reporting needs and requirements by KBEMS –**Pam presented old grant information from a Rural Health Options Grant received by the region many years ago. Whitley, Christensen, Trembath, Komarek will be on committee to develop outline for plan and will meet with Pam on Sept. 8 at 1000 in Concordia to draft a submission to KBEMS.
- **Review and Discuss Region IV Education Grant allowances**- **member concern** - Nathan Komarek voiced concerns about limitations currently in the Region IV grant, he suggests that the Region IV grant should pay for pre-conference expenses as well as pay the non-member pricing for registrations. Levi Whitley moved to amend the current guidelines to rescind the bullet point stating we will only pay member rates on registrations. John Christensen second. Motion passed with 2 opposed.

- **BEMS meeting report** – Joe House or KBEMS representative Currently 7 regulations in Public Comment. Authorized activities changes will have to go to legislature so will be after February. State fair coming up Sept. 11. If anyone would like to work the EMS Booth let Joe know. Board will be doing a strategic planning meeting. 1% are not meeting the educational reporting submission deadlines, all who are late have been contacted several times for resolution. Federal Department of Transportation new EMS standards are under review. Regulatory changes went into effect July 31, so Nebraska EMS personnel can now come into Kansas to work under the changes in the interstate compact. Reorganized air ambulance provider regulations to include allowing ground service to ask for tail number and air ambulances are required to turn on technology to allow tracking.
- **EMS - C Update –** Brenda Kolbaba introduced herself and gave an overview of the program. Goal is to meet each region background in nursing and administration. Heartland EMS Coalition is 6 Midwest states and they are offering virtual pediatric training. Brenda will work with agencies to try to get continuing education credit. There is a class coming up on August 25 on pediatric burn care. Joe indicated that any of the heartland EMS Coalitions education is eligible for retroactive CEU through KBEMS. Brenda asks for any specific education or equipment ideas that would benefit Region IV services. She has funding. The issue of transportation devices and training was mentioned.

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 Leech** – DK has added some PRN personnel into the program to help keep covered. Karl reported that insurance coverages etc are still being worked through. There will be an MIH track at the KEMSA conference.
- Regional Healthcare Coalition – delete from future agendas since this organization does not include EMS
- **EMS-C Updates – EMS-C – Brenda Kolbaba, KDHE**
- **Regional Homeland Security Council –** Nathanial Florian reported he is in the process of replacing CO monitors with the current project. If your service has added staff vehicles or ambulances let Nathan know so he can get the CO Monitors for those new vehicles ordered. Also RHS discussion of this project for the next grant cycle is proposing full gas monitors for 2027 for fire departments in the region as well as all EMS vehicles.
- **KRAF grant – Amy Havel**- Amy reported grant awards have been made. Services should follow the instructions received.
- **Regional Trauma Council – Nathanial Florian –** October 7 state trauma council meeting in Salina at Webster Conference Center.

Round Table Discussion –

RP Co EMS – Whitley reports they have one new AEMT**.** There are new binder lifts 2.0 that are available for purchase. If anyone wants to try them contact Levi, he has a couple from the vendor. There is a discount he will be eligible for and other services that buy after trying it out through him. They did an Active Shooter class and did Water rescue class with Concordia. Working on getting a deployable trailer.

CY Co EMS – Trembath reported CY CO EMS will take over Clifton's area on January 1. Clifton has RN and EMR pay levels that CY is working on. All the legal work is done, now working the logistics. Have several CPR and PTLS instructors that have been very busy and are also doing AED Distributions. Bus MCI incident with the school district will happen this week. The service has been looking at online training platforms.
Concordia FD/EMS – Christensen reports they have been working with Mitchell Co with training and first response in the Glasco area. Still one person short. Have some in training
JW County EMS – Urbaniak reported they are still one short and have one out on extended sick leave. Two new EMT's progressing in their training.
Minneapolis EMS – Leech reported they are picking up a few more part time personnel. Still trying to work a sales tax for EMS support in November ballot to help staffing issue and equipment issues.
EW Co. EMS – Florian reported they have 3 in paramedic and some in AEMT class right now. County Commission agreed to add more positions to meet call volume and increased transfers eventually having 4 persons per shift.
DK Co EMS – Beam reported that they had planned to have a truck in December but it was a budget cut and pushed back a year. Have an AEMT or paramedic position open and others in training.
Salina FD/EMS – Komarek reported the department moved into new station 4 yesterday which is a big upgrade. In July they took delivery of a new medic unit. They are moving to all aluminum cabinets instead of wood. Currently they have 2 in paramedic school and another starting soon and 3 starting in January. Graduated 6 personnel out of their local academy.

There being no additional business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1210.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Kemp, Coordinator
Region IV EMS

2026 Meeting Dates
October 13, 2026 – Smith County
December 8, 2026- Concordia

2027 Meeting Dates
February 9, 2027 - Minneapolis
April 13, 2027
June 3, 2027
August 10, 2027 Clay Center
October 12, 2027 Belleville
December 14, 2027 Concordia