

**TRINIDAD AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONTHLY MEETING**

February 25, 2026

Attendance: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Audra Garrett, Lynette Bates, Chief Moreno, Deputy Chief DeTray, Barbara Fisk, Lt. John Velasquez, Paramedic Jason Stodghill

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION
Call to Order/Pledge	Meeting was called to order at 4:38pm by Audra Garrett.
Roll Call/Proof of Quorum	There was a quorum with four (4) board members in attendance.
Adoption of Agenda	MOTION adopt the agenda as presented was made by Joe Richards. SECOND: Lynette Bates YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Audra Garrett, Lynette Bates NAY: ABSTAIN: The agenda adopted as presented.
Review Minutes	MOTION to approve the January 28, 2026 meeting minutes as presented was made by Joe Richards. SECOND: Lynette Bates YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Audra Garrett, Lynette Bates NAY: ABSTAIN: The January 28, 2026 minutes were approved as presented.
Director & Operations Reports	Chief Moreno started his presentation by responding to comments made by Audra Garrett, noted below from the approved minutes for the January 28, 2026 meeting. He reiterated, there are no litigation proceedings involving Trinidad Ambulance District that the Board is not fully aware. Ms. Garrett asked if the District was involved in any litigation to which the Chief responded the Board is fully aware of all legal matters in which the District is involved. She continued to imply there was something looming. He informed the Board that Dr. Becker will be here to teach classes for the annual refresher continuing education credits. The tenant at 939 Robinson Ave. is, again, late with the rent and hasn't changed the utilities to their name. The status of the AFG grant is unknown but the CDPHE EMTS grant is prepared to request for reimbursement. The first check has been

received for the OeHI Grant in the amount of \$230,000. Secure Transports continue to go smoothly. We've reached out to Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) to see if they would like to partner with us. They are the statewide provider of Medicaid.

Financial Overview

General Fund \$2,051,891.16
Enterprise Fund \$1,867,408.41
Total Cash on Hand \$3,919,299.57

TAD Net Income \$156,931
TADE Net Income \$110,770
YTD Net Income \$267,701

2026 January Billing Performance

Total EMS Trips (not calls for svc)	139
Gross Charges	\$413,218
Average Charge/Trip	\$2,973
Collections	\$24,017
Cash/Trip	\$172.79
Net Collections Rate	7.1%

Whole Blood Initiative. An option to carrying whole blood may be to stock plasma. The main differences between whole blood and plasma are 1) plasma does not carry oxygen like whole blood but still has the clotting factor and 2) plasma can be frozen and has a much longer shelf life. The Blood To Go Program is costly but provides help implementing prehospital blood transfusion capabilities. It provides specialized equipment, training, and logistical support for bringing whole blood to the field.

EMS at the Capital. Both Chief Moreno and Deputy Chief DeTray attended EMS at the Capital February 9-11, 2026. The attended many beneficial meetings and came away with very promising opportunities. The Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF) is developing a grant process for Rural Health Transformation Fund (RHTF) which is expected to provide \$1 billion to initiate new programs through rural and super rural hospitals, clinics, ambulance services, etc. The District is looking at several programs such as a tele-health system within its service area and regional dispatch for inter-facility transfers.

Joe Richards, as a board member of the Trinidad Health Service District, asked if, once de-Bruced, they might be eligible to receive funds through the RHTF. Gabe will provide RHTF information to Joe.

There were several innovative systems showcased. One was AI Glasses which is operational in 30 countries. Glasses are able to detect and analyze patient status while emergency provider is walking up to the patient. Another innovation was the ability to deliver whole blood via drone.

Legislative Updates. The Treatment-In-Place Bill, HB26-1096 was heard at the House Health and Human Services where it passed 13-0. It will now move on to the Appropriations Committee. The Essential Services Bill 26-1238 establishing EMS as an essential service has a hearing scheduled for March 3, 2026 with the House Health and Human Services.

Government Shutdown. The most recent shutdown did not affect the District but the government approved the supplemental Medicare payments through 2027.

Chief Moreno provided national and statewide information about agency's funding challenges, closures, staffing shortages, accidents, provider assaults

Deputy Chief DeTray narrated a Power Point Presentation with graphs to share data and information on the Operations Report.
Transport statistics on services provided for the month of January 2026.

Calls for Service	197(down 22 from Dec 2025)
On Call	2 w/transport
Chief	0
Deputy Chief	0
Inter-Facility Transfers	35 (3 to home)
Transports Delayed	0
IFT Not Transported	3 cancelled prior to TAD arrival
IFT 59,947	
YTD IFT Transports	345
Secure Transports	4

Mobile Integrated Health/Community Paramedic Program. The District is working toward a contract with Rocky Mountain Health Plan (RMHP) who is the statewide Medicaid provider. Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) is the Medicaid plan for children (newborn to age 18), adults aged 19 to 65 and pregnant Members who live in Colorado and meet income and other requirements. Every Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) Member belongs to a regional accountable entity (RAE), (sometimes called regional organization). Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP), a UnitedHealthcare Company, is the RAE (Region 1) for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program). Members have a primary care provider that is located in the following counties:

Alamosa, Archuleta, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Fremont, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, La Plata, Lake, Las Animas, Mesa, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Routt, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel, and Summit. Rocky Mountain Health Plans is the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan for Colorado.

Naloxone Project. The representatives of the Naloxone Project approached the District to partner with them in a four year grant which could provide one vehicle and one Community Paramedic. Las Animas and surrounding counties have reportedly high opioid deaths per capita.

With the excitement of all the new opportunities that are quickly appearing in emergency medical services, the District realizes there will be a slow roll-out of programs due to staffing and logistics but the changes are a national reality and the excitement of helping community members is tangible. Another hurdle is the lack of public awareness. It is hoped that grant funds will help launch a local campaign to make everyone aware of all the new programs, once initiated.

OeHI Grant. The first installment (\$230,000) has been received from the Office of eHealth Innovation (OeHI). Collaborating with the consortium will help provide data to substantiate the Treatment-In-Place initiative being reviewed at the capital.

Six of six vehicles are in service although the air conditioning isn't working on one.

Unfinished Business

Public Perception Campaign. Audra Garrett noted that all the state-level networking the Chief and Deputy Chief are doing will help with public perception. She reported an incident wherein she was able to explain to someone the reason the District didn't take a transport was because the patient needed to be flown, as a faster method of transportation, to a higher level of care.

Stryker Maintenance Agreement. After review of the agreement presented, it was advised to have the following statement written onto the agreement, "subject to annual appropriations."

MOTION to accept the Stryker Maintenance Agreement with the added verbiage, "subject to annual appropriations", included was made by

Lynette Bates.

SECOND: Joe Richards

YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Audra Garrett, Lynette Bates

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

The Stryker Maintenance Agreement was approved with the additional verbiage, "subject to annual appropriations" added.

Collins Cole Winn Ulmer Engagement Letter. The Board approved engaging Collins Cole Winn Ulmer at the January 28, 2026 meeting but the letter of engagement was recently provided for their review. Collectively, the Board agreed to support their previous decision for engaging the firm.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

Administrative Matters Resolution 2026. With the following amendments

1. Section 3, Sentence 1 to read: The Board directs its Accountant, the Budget Committee and the existing Executive Director to submit a proposed budget ...; and
2. Section 32, Sentence 2 change of date: December 31, 2026,

the Board approves the Administrative Matters Resolution 2026 **MOTION** to adopt the Administrative Matters Resolution 2026 with the amendments noted above was made by Joe Richards.

SECOND: Lynette Bates

YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Audra Garrett, Lynette Bates

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

With the noted amendments, the Administrative Matters Resolution 2026 was adopted.

Automatic Payments. The Board discussed the option of the District making monthly automatic ACH payments to specific vendors. Joe Richards stated he prefers to see all invoices. Audra Garrett supported the idea. She noted the City of Trinidad has periodic issues with mail delivery of payments where this would be a way of streamlining the accounts payable system. A process was discussed where those individuals setup to review invoices prior to payment would still have access to all invoices. **MOTION** to allow monthly, automatic ACH payments to vendors identified on the list provided to the Board was made by Joe Richards.

SECOND: Lynette Bates

YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Audra Garrett, Lynette Bates

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

Monthly automatic ACH payments will be allowed to specific vendors as provided to the Board (list attached to these minutes for reference).

Executive Director Spending Limit. Barbara Fisk reported that Zachary Shapiro had asked this be on the agenda for review. The current spending limit, of unknown origin and/or documentation, for the Executive Director is \$5,000. Speaking on behalf of Zachary Shapiro, Barbara Fisk reported the amount of \$10,000 had been suggested. The Board discussed the pros and cons of increasing the spending limit. Joe Richards and Lynette Bates voiced concern of the increase stating a special meeting could be called if circumstances required approval above the spending limit. A recent incident wherein a single part to repair an ambulance was \$8,000 and such a limit delaying the repair of the vehicle. Audra Garrett reported that the City Manager's spending limit was recently increased from \$50 to \$100,000. All agreed that Chief Moreno is very frugal and intentional with District funds and there is a high level of confidence in the current administrative staff.

MOTION was made by Lynette Bates to include an addendum to Chief Moreno's contract as Executive Director of the District stating, "The Executive Director's spending limit will be \$10,000 effective February 26, 2026 through May 31, 2026, at which time his contract will be reviewed, and annually reviewed thereafter.

SECOND: Joe Richards

YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Lynette Bates, Audra Garrett

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

The Executive Director's spending limit will be \$10,000 effective February 26, 2026 through May 31, 2026 when the contract will be reviewed and annually thereafter.

Review Resolution 14-009. Review of Resolution 14-009 revealed that Daniel Moynihan was specifically designated as the individual responsible for preparation and submission to the Board of the District's annual budget. After discussion on avenues to remedy the specificity of the resolution, it was decided to include the amended narrative in the Administrative Matters Resolution 2026.

MOTION by Joe Richards to amend the language in the Administrative Matters Resolution 2026, Section 3, Sentence 1 to state, "The Board directs its Accountant, the Budget Committee and the existing Executive Director to submit a proposed budget ..."

SECOND: Tom Murphy

YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Lynette Bates, Audra Garrett

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

The Administrative Matters Resolution 2026, Section 3, Sentence 1 will be amended to read, "The Board directs its Accountant, the Budget Committee and the existing Executive Director to submit a proposed budget ..."

Review By-Laws. The Board was provided a copy of the current By-Laws with amendment notation including, physical address of the District, election years, and authorizing the Executive Director to make purchases and choose, remove, or suspend employees.

MOTION was made by Lynette Bates to amend the By-Laws per provided documentation to the Board.

SECOND: Joe Richards

YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Lynette Bates, Audra Garrett

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

The By-Laws will be amended as provided in the attached copy.

Adjourn

MOTION to adjourn was made by Joe Richards.

SECOND: Tom Murphy


YEA: Joe Richards, Tom Murphy Audra Garrett, Lynette Bates

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

The meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.

Minutes approved by Trinidad Ambulance District Board of Directors March 25, 2026.



Audra Garrett, Vice Chairperson

