



W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C

General Meeting Minutes - November 16, 2009

Date: November 16, 2009
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Westchester County Department of Emergency Services
Chairman: Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, MD

MEMBERS

Dr. Mark Silberman
 Dr. Ron Nutovits
 Dr. Carlos Flores
 Dr. Karlene Chin
 Dr. Robert Marcus
 Dr. Emil Nigro
 Dr. Joseph Ponticello
 Dr. Richard Marino
 Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis
 Dr. David Goldwag
 Dr. Tim Haydock

AFFILIATION:

Dobbs Ferry Community Hospital
 Hudson Valley Hospital Center
 Lawrence Hospital
 Mt. Vernon Hospital
 Northern Westchester Hospital
 Phelps Memorial Hospital Center
 Sound Shore Medical Center
 St. John's Riverside Hospital
 St. Joseph's Medical Center
 Westchester Medical Center
 White Plains Medical Center

ATTENDANCE

Present
 Present
 Present
 Excused
 Present
 Excused
 Present
 Present
 Present
 Present
 Present

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

VACANT
 Dr. Joli Yuknek
 Dr. Richard Gallager
 Ray Cordi
 Roland Faucher
 Chief Anthony Chiarlitti
 VACANT
 VACANT

Medical Specialty (Trauma)
 Medical Specialty (Pediatrics)/WPHC
 Medical Specialty (Psychiatry) / WMC
 EMS – Proprietary
 EMS – Voluntary / MVFAVAC
 Police / Pleasantville PD
 Fire - Career
 Fire - Volunteer

VACANT
 Present
 Absent
 Present
 Excused
 Present
 VACANT
 VACANT

GUESTS

Dr. Michael Canter
 Donald Cottle
 Rich Robinson
 Jeff Casas
 Dr. Erik Larsen
 Malcolm Dixon
 Daniel Olmoz

Greenwich Hospital
 Westchester EMS
 NYSDOH BEMS / MARO
 Port Chester Rye Rye Brook EMS
 White Plains Hospital / LNNY
 TransCare
 WCDES

MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 AM by Chair Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis. It was determined that a quorum was present.

The minutes from the October meeting were disseminated to the members electronically and were approved as written.

SEMAC

Dr. Haydock reported that the next SEMAC meeting will be held on December 1st.

SUBCOMMITTEES/TAG Reports

PARAMEDIC PROTOCOLS – D. Olmoz reported on the following: *Protocol is still working on the development of the test questions and that's basically in its final phase here, I believe, although it was intended to bring questions forward to this meeting, there's still a little last minute review going on. Dr. Stuhlmiller has supplied the committee with an abundance of comments, so it's going to take a little while to sort through. So by the next meeting or if not before, it is believed the committee will have something finalized.*



EVALUATION – Dr. Haydock indicated that there was nothing to report.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT – Dr. Yuknek reported on the following: *The committee met on November 4th and reviewed the process of what's going on currently in the region. The members on the committee have been asked to review the current QI plan in an effort to streamline things and then reach out to all the agencies just to really reintroduce the whole process. Agencies will be asked to submit updated plans along with any updates on projects undertaken.*

STEMI TAG – Dr. Goldwag reported that plans are underway to establish another meeting date.

INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT TAG – It was reported that the TAG planned a meeting for November 20th.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

HUDSON VALLEY / WESTCHESTER HELICOPTER COMMITTEE – It was mentioned that no report was available but that the committee met on October 30th.

HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC) – A meeting was held on October 22, 2009. Discussion reportedly included finding alternative ways to meet. Since attendance was so poor, suggestions were made to include case presentations to stimulate interest. It was noted that due to a lack of financial support, the committee struggles to advance.

DIVERSION REPORT - D. Olmoz mentioned that materials regarding the recent updates to the diversion website were distributed by the Department of Emergency Services. One of the significant changes is that there will be a pre-determined triage capability indicated on the website now for disaster situations that could be manipulated by the individual hospital depending on the situation at hand.

NOTICES OF INTENT

PAD – General Electric Corp.

APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS (i.e. Albuterol, Mark I, EMTD) – Tarrytown VAC (Albuterol and EMT-D). It was mentioned that Tarrytown had a lapse in ambulance certification requiring re-application and approval of their special permissions.

EMS agency representatives were advised to review all previous approval paperwork related to special permissions to ensure copies are complete and on file. The Regional Office has been advised that review of all agency paperwork is ongoing by the State DOH, Bureau of EMS.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion regarding H1N1 preparedness. There was some confusion regarding type and quantity of vaccine received by EMS agency medical directors from the county. Some agencies received injectable vaccine while others received only nasal. Dan Olmoz clarified that based on information received from Chief Volk and Katherine O'Connor who managed the distribution process, vaccine was distributed on a first come first serve basis to EMS agency medical directors. Initial supplies received from NYS included a small amount of injectable vaccine but mainly nasal. Additional supplies of injectables are expected shortly so medical directors should contact Katherine with questions. Formal notification in this regard has been made to all EMS agency medical directors.



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NY State DOH, Bureau of EMS Representative, Rich Robison provided the following in response to numerous questions brought up regarding alternative providers administering vaccine: *The bureau was advised that the standardized training curriculum for the just in time JIT training of other disciplines authorized to vaccinate under the executive order that the governor signed has been finalized by the state Ed department and the DOH. This JIT training program is the only training program that meets the conditions outlined in the governor's executive order. This training program and its components are available for use by local health departments to conduct training should they decide to increase the number of authorized vaccinators to meet their local needs and pods. Again, the bureau wants to be clear that it will be a local health department decision to utilize and train any other disciplines to assist in vaccination as authorized in the executive order.*

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. DeRobertis reported on the following – cardiac care regulation changes now require written agreements between hospitals and EMS agencies to ensure a transport mechanism exists to transfer patients to cardiac care facilities when appropriate. Cardiac care centers are also now required to participate in quality improvement activities with EMS.

It was mentioned that a letter was distributed by the State Health Commissioner clarifying the state's position on N-95 mask use. *One of the interesting things contained in the statement is that they list under item D of number 3 that out of an abundance of caution New York State Department of Health had previously recommended nebulizer treatments to be considered, aerosol generating procedures. To be consistent with the CDC guidance New York State no longer considers nebulizer treatments to be an aerosol generating procedure.*

There was a brief discussion regarding the growing financial crisis throughout the state and how it may soon be impacting the EMS system. Recently, it was identified that the many EMS program agencies around the state were on the verge of closing down as a result of not receiving state reimbursement. Although the state is hoping to release funds prior to any program closing, the problem amplifies the outdated funding mechanism used to support the EMS system. Regional EMS Programs have been asked by NYSDOH to develop contingency plans for possible program agency closures. It was clarified that without EMS program agencies, the Council and REMAC would ultimately need to manage day to day functions associated with coordination and oversight of the EMS system. It is believed that regional quality improvement, PCR distribution, education, and advanced life support credentialing would be severely impacted without the program agency.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the recent election of a new Westchester County Executive. Since the Regional Council has enjoyed a good relationship with the outgoing executive, it is hoped that the incoming executive will be as supportive.

It was reported that the SEMSCO will be meeting only 3 times per year next year as a result of the state's financial crisis. Meetings will occur in February, May, and October. This prompted a brief discussion about reducing the number of REMAC meetings as well. It was suggested that the REMAC meet every other month and that subcommittee activity be increased. Dr. DeRobertis will review all suggestions bring them forward at the next meeting in December.

It was mentioned that the State DOH, Bureau of EMS was hosting a retirement dinner for Ed Wronski at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, New York, on December 1st.

NEXT MEETING – Session was adjourned at 10:12am. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 21, 2009 at 9:00am.