



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

General Meeting Minutes - May 16, 2011

Date: May 16, 2011
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. Paul Koltovich
 Dr. Robert Marcus
 Dr. Emil Nigro
 Dr. Joseph Ponticiello
 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

Excused
 Present
 Absent
 Absent
 Present
 Present
 Absent
 Present
 Present
 Present
 Present

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Dr. Carrado Marini
 Dr. Joli Yuknek
 Dr. Richard Gallager
 Ray Cordi
 Roland Faucher
 VACANT
 Eugene Kelly
 VACANT

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

Present
 Excused
 Absent
 Excused
 Present
 VACANT
 Excused
 VACANT

GUESTS

Michael Volk
 Daniel Olmoz
 Anthony Sutton
 Don Cottle
 Robert Demodna
 Rory Brannigan
 Malcolm Dixon
 Gary Kaplan
 Rich Robinson
 Kevin Gage
 Rich Dalessandro
 AK Zambrano
 Sam Lubin

WCDES
 WCDES
 WCDES
 WEMS
 White Plains DPS
 White Plains DPS
 TransCare
 BoundTree Medical
 NYSDOH BEMS
 NYSDOH BEMS
 Sleepy Hollow VAC
 Sleepy Hollow VAC
 Ossining VAC

MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 AM by Chair Dr. DeRobertis. It was determined that a quorum was present.

The minutes from the March meeting were disseminated to the members electronically. There were no corrections requested.

Dr. DeRobertis introduced Dr. Marini, Director of Trauma from Westchester Medical Center as the newest member of REMAC and fulfilling the Medical Specialty-Trauma position that has been vacant for some time.

It was noted that it was National EMS Week and participants were asked for a moment of silence for those individuals being added to the State EMS Memorial in Albany, NY on Wednesday, May 18th.



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SEMAC

Dr. Haydock reported that SEMAC met on March 29th. It was noted at the meetings that several regions have begun collaborating on development and utilization of regional protocols. Dr. Haydock suggested that REMAC consider joining in that process along with the Hudson Valley REMAC to consolidate efforts and work towards standardization.

SEMAC has re-convened the interfacility transport subcommittee to continue with the large amount of work that was previously done by the committee members. Dr. Funk was asked to continue as chair.

A discussion ensued regarding following the state's lead on interfacility transports since it was identified by the REMAC's subcommittee that it will take a significant effort to develop a local process.

SUBCOMMITTEES/TAG Reports

PROTOCOLS – Dr. DeRobertis reported that he will be assisting Dr. Cordi with the committee and hopes to establish more frequent meeting so the AHA Guidelines can be incorporated into the protocols.

There was a brief discussion regarding post ROSC therapeutic hypothermia. A survey was distributed to hospitals by the Regional EMS office to ascertain which facilities have already instituted or are considering therapeutic hypothermia programs. It was noted that 5 out of 11 hospitals responded to the survey indicating that 4 are already capable and 1 plans on initiating the process shortly.

Discussion followed regarding having the protocol committee begin developing post ROSC hypothermia protocols for pre-hospital use. However, it was suggested by Dr. Goldwag that the STEMI TAG assume that responsibility since the participants assembled for that TAG would be instrumental to the process. It was also recommended that the Hudson Valley REMAC be offered the opportunity to participate in the discussions so a collaborative process can be established.

EVALUATION –Dr. Haydock reported that the provider evaluation process has been updated to allow better management of complaints and investigations that come into the Regional office. It was found that due to the REMAC meetings occurring every 2 months, there was a need to streamline the process and give more authority to the Regional Medical Director/REMAC Chair so action could be taken in a timely fashion.

A vote was taken on the policy revision and it was approved.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT – D. Olmoz reported that in continuation with the Regional Quality Improvement Committee's efforts to reinvigorate the process, the first Quality Improvement Workshop was scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, May 18th. The workshop is for all EMS agency Quality Improvement Coordinators and EMS supervisors to attend and to receive information about why the QI Plan was revised in the first place. Mr. Olmoz stated included would be a discussion of the first regionally focused evaluation of the new QI Plan, C-Spine Immobilization protocol compliance. The QI Committee members will also be providing information on the process of quality improvement, with a question and answer session immediately following.

STEMI TAG – No report.

INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT TAG – It was decided to discontinue the TAG and review the newly reconvened state committee guidance as it become available.

Discussion took place regarding use of 911 ambulances for emergent transfers when services contracted by hospitals are not readily available. Concerns were made regarding special training and equipment that may not be available when accessing the 911 system based units.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

HUDSON VALLEY / WESTCHESTER HELICOPTER COMMITTEE – It was noted that the committee is seeking information from all dispatch centers and county EMS coordinators, regarding utilization of a helicopter standby, and what each county's standby criteria would be.



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HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC) – No report

DIVERSION REPORT – It was reported that on April 15th, a TAG was put together and they met to discuss the ongoing diversion situation in the region. And ultimately, there was agreement that the current diversion process be modified so that diversions would no longer be allowed in the Westchester region, unless there's a failure of the technology or equipment necessary for the provision of specific emergency medical care, such as CAT scans for stroke, etc.; or if the facility is experiencing an internal disaster that has triggered the implementation of the hospital's internal disaster plan.

Dr. DeRobertis requested discussion on the matter and indicated that the TAG could be asked to make any updates the REMAC deems necessary. A brief discussion ensued in this regard. Concern was voiced regarding what effects on the EMS agencies may occur if hospitals no longer can request diversion when EDs are backed up. It was suggested that the importance of EMS turn around not being adversely affected be included in the policy. It was also recommended that each ED Director inform their hospital CEO that the concept is being considered. Dr. DeRobertis agreed to bring the concerns of the group back to the TAG for discussion.

NOTICES OF INTENT

PAD – None.

APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS (i.e. Albuterol, Mark I, EMTD) – None.

OLD BUSINESS

A discussion took place regarding EMS mutual aid and the practice of withholding available EMS units due to the fact that they were manned by paid staff specifically hired to cover the agency's primary service area. It was recommended that the REMAC draft a statement prohibiting this practice. Additionally, the REMAC was asked to work with the REMSCO to develop criteria for what constitutes mutual aid abuses since over utilization of mutual aid can also adversely affect the system. It was further suggested that the County Mutual Aid Plan be modified to include a remediation process for dealing with disputes such as these.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion regarding how Dr. Marini could advocate for the trauma system throughout the entire Hudson Valley area. It was pointed out that the Regional Trauma Advisory Committee had served as the platform to do just that in the past. It was recommended that efforts be made to reinvigorate that process. Dr. Marini asked that anyone with suggestions contact him directly.

It was reported that White Plains Department of Public Safety was once again seeking the REMAC's approval for continuation of the ALSFR program. The Department's Rescue Medical Team was approved by REMAC at that level in 2009 when it applied for and received a municipal certificate of need from the NYSDOH. In accordance with the municipal CON process, re-application must be made by the applicant prior to the conclusion of the 2-year temporary period. Although the department's CON technically expired in March, the process continues to for re-approval of the program at the ALSFR service level.

A vote was conducted and the matter was approved.

Dr. DeRobertis mentioned that he would like participation from the REMAC to review and update the Bylaws, specifically regarding executive committee functions.

NEXT MEETING –The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 18, 2011** at 9:00am.

Session was adjourned at 11:40am.

A webcast of this meeting is available at www.wremSCO.org

Respectfully submitted by D. Olmoz