



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

## General Meeting Minutes - October 15, 2007

**Date:** October 15, 2007  
**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. Lawrence Klecatsky  
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

**Alt. - Dr. H. Cordi**  
**Present**  
Excused  
**Present**  
Absent  
Absent  
Absent  
Absent  
**Present**  
**Present**  
**Present**

### NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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

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

VACANT  
Absent  
Absent  
VACANT  
Excused  
**Present**

### GUESTS

Ray Cordi  
Kevin Brown, MD  
Beth Sanger  
Richard Robinson  
Anne Castioni  
Jeff Casas  
Malcolm Dixon  
Katherine O'Connor  
Anthony Sutton  
Erick Larsen, MD

Empress EMS  
General Public  
North Salem VAC  
NYSDOH BEMS / MARO  
Phelps Memorial Hospital ELSP  
Port Chester Rye Rye Brook EMS  
TransCare  
WCDES / PA  
Westchester County DES  
White Plains Hospital

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by Chair Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis.

### **PRESENTATION**

**CPAP – Port Chester EMS** – Jeff Casas gave a short presentation regarding the CPAP system that Port Chester Rye Rye Brook EMS (PCRRBEMS) will be starting a pilot study on in conjunction with their Service Medical Director, Dr. Tim Haydock. The CPAP system that PCRRBEMS will be using is the Boussignac System. This system differs from that being studied currently by Empress EMS in that it uses a circuit that works under the venture principle and does not need a specific unit, but instead can be hooked onto any existing oxygen system. PCRRBEMS outlined a 2 hour training process for all the providers and the company would be providing in-servicing to both the EMS agency as well as the receiving hospitals.

Discussion regarding the experience that Empress EMS has had in putting the CPAP into their system. Ray Cordi explained that the agency was still fine-tuning some issues that they were working with the manufacture to address. A new report of data will be provided at the December meeting.

While it is generally expected that the data will show a decrease in ETT for certain patients, it was noted that it will be interesting to see a comparison of the 2 different CPAP systems and how they were able to be integrated into the operations of the organizations. The costs associated with initial setup vs. ongoing use are different with each – Empress has more upfront equipment costs



for their units, however the circuits being used by PCRRBEMS are twice the cost of the ones being used by Empress.

- o **Motion made by Dr. Haydock and seconded by Dr. Nutovits to approve the study. Motion approved.**

## MEETING

Minutes of the September 17, 2007, meeting were disseminated to the members. .

- **Motion to approve the minutes with the amendment noted was made by Dr. Haydock and second by Dr. Cordi. Motion approved.**

## QI STUDY TOPIC

Katherine O'Connor brought up the topic of this year's QI Study. She explained that the Hudson Valley Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) would be undertaking a review of trauma patient transports within the Westchester and Hudson Valley EMS Regions. It had been discussed at the last RTAC meeting that having EMS data to go along with this review from the hospitals would be helpful. Ms. O'Connor will be working with the RTAC to develop a companion QI study piece to be done during the same time frame as the RTAC's study – January to June 2008.

## SEMAC

Dr. Haydock reported on the activities of the last SEMAC meetings held on September 25, 2007.

**Protocols** – The SEMAC approved the changes to several regional ALS protocols. Of note, NYC REMAC had added facilitated intubation to their protocols. The SEMAC determined that in any cases of facilitated intubation, capnography was to be required for ongoing monitoring of the patient's respiratory effort. It was understood that there was costs involved in getting the equipment and they would allow for a modified version to get the program started, but expects that all the agencies would move forward to complying with this requirement.

Also in the NYC protocols, a "STEMI" protocol was approved, but is under the discretion of OLMC to direct the EMS unit to the closest appropriate hospital. Every single case of a "diversion" must be reviewed. It is anticipated that only 2 – 5 cases a day will be "diverted." Discussion regarding difficulty to know which hospitals have the capabilities since there is no NYSDOH designation as yet.

**Cyanide** – There is a new product to help with cyanide poisonings. It works very well, but it is very expensive and has a shorter shelf life than the old kit.

**Specialty Care Transports (SCT)** – An SCT TAG is working on guidelines for NYS. The hot issues are the need for approval for paramedics to give blood products – however it is not addressed in the paramedic curriculum. NYS is starting to explore the possibility of advance practice paramedics.

**Trauma Triage Protocol** – The last version was finally approved. There was a strong debate regarding the definition of "High Risk Patients." Also discussed at length was the use of certain physiological criteria, especially pulse rate. The NYSDOH will be creating and distributing an educational piece for the new protocol.

**12 Lead for BLS** – The final word was given that BLS 12-lead EKG was NOT approved. Improving the capability of ALS services to provide 12-lead will be focused on instead.



## CERTIFIED AGENCY UPDATES

The Regional EMS Office continues to work with agencies regarding the completion of the NYS BLS Aspirin and information updates for certified services. Progress on both, despite requests for completion by July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, respectively, remains slow.

## SUB-COMMITTEES

**Protocols** - Still under development. The committee will be meeting again this week.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### Hudson Valley Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC)

The committee will be meeting again on November 15, 2007.

### Hudson Valley / Westchester Helicopter Committee –

The committee will be meeting again on October 29, 2007.

## NOTICES OF INTENT

### PAD

The following PAD notices of intent were received by the Regional Office since the last meeting:

APPLICANT	CITY	SERVICE TYPE	DATE
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### Epi-pen

No Epi-Pen notices of intent were received by the Regional Office since the last meeting.

## APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS (I.e. Albuterol, Mark I, EMTD)

No applications for special permissions were received other than those noted under the EMS Agency Update.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Trunked Radio System

DES Commissioner Sutton stated that the new system was intended to be a link to all facets of the emergency services system in the county – fire, PD, EMS, and hospitals. There have been problems contacting personnel at the hospitals for installation of the radios in the emergency departments. It is intended that the radio system will enable online medical control to be provided on a taped, secured line. The system has been “turned on” since early September and some agencies are already using it.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Impact of Specialty Hospital Designations



Commissioner Sutton expressed his concern that no one has been evaluating the impact that the hospital specialty care designations are having on drawing EMS agencies out of their home response areas. The EMS Advisory Board has met with the County Executive to discuss staffing and system issues. A letter will be drafted that will be part of a notification to all local municipalities regarding what questions they should be asking when evaluating their local EMS resources. It is anticipated that call volumes will continue to rise due to our aging population. The county will be conducting an RFP for a study to evaluate performance indicator, such as response times.

Discussion regarding the historical impact of specialty designations, especially when the trauma system was started. While an increase in volume can certainly cause ambulance services to be stretched thin, it was also noted that there is a level of misuse in regard to 911 ambulances being requested to skilled nursing facilities when contracted services are not available.

### **Greenwich Hospital**

Dr. Brown announced that he was no longer affiliated with Greenwich Hospital and that a new interim director had been named. Dr. Brown offered to give the Regional EMS office the new contact name and number so that he could be invited to come to the next meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am. The next meeting will be Monday, November 19, 2007 at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine O'Connor