



W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C
 General Meeting Minutes - May 19, 2008

Date: May 19, 2008
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. 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

Absent
 Absent
 Present
 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
 Excused
 Absent
 VACANT
 Excused
 Present

GUESTS

Ray Cordi
 Joseph Bilotto
 Beth Sanger
 Robert Prianti
 Kevin Gage
 Richard Robinson
 Jeff Casas
 Dr. Michael Guttenberg
 Anthony Sutton
 Dan Olmoz
 John Jackson
 Katherine O'Connor
 Michael Volk

Empress EMS
 Harrison EMS
 North Salem VAC
 NYPH
 NYSDOH BEMS / MARO
 NYSDOH BEMS / MARO
 Port Chester Rye Rye Brook EMS
 St. Joseph's Medical Center
 WCDES
 WCDES
 WCDES
 WCDES
 WCDES

MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM by Chair Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis. Initially it was determined that a quorum was not present. Dr. DeRobertis continued with the discussion of some items not requiring a vote. The minutes from the past few meetings are available for review but cannot be voted on.

ATTENDANCE

This is the third meeting without a quorum. The committee is missing several physician representatives. Dr. DeRobertis will make phone calls to those physicians who are repeatedly absent. If attendance does not improve, letter will be sent out to the CEOs of the hospitals. If a quorum is not made in June, then the REMAC will need to meet during the normal summer hiatus.

CPAP SURVEY – Surveys are still missing from a couple of the hospitals. The survey will need to be resent out to those hospitals. Chair asked Port Chester Rye Rye Brook EMS representative if Greenwich Hospital has CPAP available in the



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ER. Mr. Casas indicated that the ER has to request a CPAP unit from RT and it usually is available in less than 10 minutes. It was recognized that EMS turn-over of patients receiving CPAP at the hospital is a problem if the mask system used is not disposable.

SUBCOMMITTEES

PARAMEDIC PROTOCOLS – The draft Paramedic Protocols had some modifications after the last meeting. The changed sections will be re-posted on the website before the next meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC) – Dr. Goldwag reported on the last RTAC meeting. Questions had come up regarding the trauma reporting placards distributed by Westchester Medical Center to all the EMS agencies in the seven county trauma region. The RTAC is not sure if all the agencies received it, if the agencies posted it in their ambulances and if the EMTs are using the format for their reports. To determine the effectiveness of the tool it was discussed if the RTAC should query the ambulance personnel who are using it or the hospitals that are receiving the reports.

HUDSON VALLEY / WESTCHESTER HELICOPTER COMMITTEE – Katherine O'Connor reported that the committee is meeting on May 30th. She reminded everyone that currently there is a state-wide survey of air medical service use underway and it is hoped that the data will be available at the next meeting.

NOTICES OF INTENT

A report of PAD notices received since the last meeting was unavailable. It will be provided at the next meeting.

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

No applications for special permissions were received.

OLD BUSINESS

DIVERSION GRAPH – A graph representing the number of diversions requested by area hospitals over the last month was distributed by Michael Volk. It was noted that a couple of facilities are experiencing numbers of requests far beyond that of the other hospitals in the county. For the purpose of our diversion tracking system there are 2 types: specialty diversion (which indicate the lack of a specific resources, i.e. CT, critical care) and closed to ambulances (which is a request for diversion of EMS due to volume). Mr. Volk will put together a YTD report for the next meeting.

Discussion regarding the fact that increases in diversion problems is a national trend. Hospitals in other parts of the country are doing away with diversion altogether. Hospitals in general are being urged to take measures internally to prevent the need to request diversion. Dr. Goldwag described his experience in California where the hospitals were required to create an internal alert/disaster type mode before seeking any sort of diversion. This process was required to be documented and the county/state authority controlled it.

Locally, it was recognized that some hospitals seem to handle the internal processes to prevent diversion better than others, or they just may be putting up with conditions that would normally lead to a diversion request. Different hospitals have different relationships between the ED and administration leading to very different experiences when trying to assess / help diversion issues. It was also recognized that in New York only the DOH has the authority to make the hospitals do anything. Since the DOH collects information on ED statuses every week, perhaps they should brought into the conversion. It is possible that the data being collected will be used in the next year to push the agenda regarding ED overcrowding issues.



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Suggestion raised again regarding adding the names of the hospitals to the graphs (currently the results are randomized and anonymous.) Commissioner Sutton reiterated that assurances were given to the hospital administrations that reports with names would not be released in order to get them to agree to use the system.

Dan Olmoz offered that he is meeting with OEM to review hospital operations during a county emergency or MCI.

Determination that letters may have to go to the CEOs regarding their particular hospital's current diversion rate and its comparison to the rest of the system. The letters should include the need for a tighter internal controls for requesting diversion, the development of a surge plan and that the REMAC is considering releasing the report of the diversion requests with the names of the facilities included. The REMAC should try to be added to NORMET's meeting agenda to directly address this issue to the hospital administrators who will be present.

A TAG was appointed by the Chair to review the issues and work on some suggestions for addressing them: Dr. Goldwag, Dr. Guttenberg, Michael Volk and Joseph Bilotto (Harrison EMS). Liaisons will be offered to the OEM group looking at hospital operations. The next meeting is on June 25th at the TMC. Will ask that Dr. DeRobertis, Dr. Goldwag and Dr. Guttenberg be invited.

EPCR – The draft policy being considered for approval by the REMSCO at its next meeting was distributed. The document is currently being used for review of applications / notices.

CHEMPAK – Dan Olmoz reported that the plan was being finalized. Once done we can invite the DOH to come in to do the Atropen rollouts.

CAPNOGRAPHY – The REMAC will need to determine a plan for handling the need for extensions for compliance with the SEMAC deadline that have been identified by some of the agencies.

GREATER WESTCHESTER EMS CONFERENCE – The conference on 5/17 was well received. Plans are being made to hold a 2-day conference next year.

ED DIRECTOR SEMINAR – Dr. Goldwag reminded everyone that the seminar for ED Directors being hosted by Westchester Medical Center is being held at the Hotel Thayer on 6/11.

EMS WEEK – Reminder that EMS Week is being celebrated this week (5/18 – 5/24).

STEMI – Dr. Haydock brought up that the REMAC hasn't addressed the issue of STEMI regionally. The state has kept the entire project held up for a couple of years now with no directions to the systems on how to handle it. New York City has begun working with a modified program regarding STEMI patient destination decisions determined by OLMC. The REMAC needs to begin work on something similar.

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGES – The Chair suggested that perhaps a change in date / time would improve the attendance at the meetings. Alternate days of the week and times were discussed as well as the thought of moving the meeting to every other month. To be discussed further.

NEXT MEETING – Session was adjourned without a quorum at 10:30 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008 at 9:00am. If no quorum in June, then a meeting will be scheduled for July.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine O'Connor