



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

## General Meeting Minutes - January 26, 2009

**Date:** January 26, 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:**

Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry  
 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  
 Absent  
 Absent  
 Absent  
 Present  
 Present  
 Present  
 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  
 Present  
 Present

**GUESTS**

Ray Cordi  
 Beth Sanger  
 Dr. Michael Canter  
 Joseph Bilotto  
 Gilbert Styles  
 Craig Castioni  
 Richard Robinson  
 Kevin Gage  
 Sam Lubin  
 Ted Tully  
 Michael Volk  
 John Jackson  
 Daniel Olmoz  
 Dan Blum  
 Dr. David Stuhlmiller  
 Dr. Erik Larsen  
 Clint Thornton

Empress EMS  
 North Salem VAC  
 Greenwich Hospital  
 Harrison EMS  
 Hudson Valley Paramedics  
 LNNY/Stat Flight  
 NYSDOH BEMS / MARO  
 NYSDOH BEMS / MARO  
 Ossining VAC  
 Westchester Medical Center  
 WCDES  
 WCDES  
 WCDES / Regional EMS Office  
 Westchester REMSCO  
 WMC / LNNY  
 WPHC / LNNY / Stat Flight  
 Mohegan VAC

**MEETING**

Meeting was called to order at 9:17 AM by Chair Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis. It was determined that a quorum was not initially present and the meeting would proceed for informational purposes.

Minutes from the December 15, 2008, meetings were disseminated to the members. It was noted that a quorum was now present.

**COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AT DOBBS FERRY**

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming dissolution of the Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry (CHDF) and the establishment of a demonstration project by St. Johns Riverside Health Care at the CHDF site. It was mentioned that a letter from the REMSCO was sent to the DOH requesting information regarding what, if any, changes may occur at the



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facility to better understand how the EMS system could be affected. It was reported that no response has been received from the DOH at the time of this meeting. A description of the transitional process was presented by Dr. Silberman who indicated that it is the position of CHDF that there should be no change to the facility's capability of accepting ambulance patients. Dr. Silberman also mentioned that there have been ongoing discussions with local EMS agencies about the transition. It was reported that the CHDF will transition to a pavilion of St. Johns Riverside Health Care on April 1, 2009, however it is expected that all services currently available to EMS will remain unchanged.

Discussion continued and included suggestions that a technical advisory group (TAG) be formed to evaluate any EMS system related issues that may arise with regard to the CHDF dissolution. The TAG will be asked to report back to the REMAC at the next meeting. It was also mentioned that the TAG should consider other institutional downgrades as well as the potential for non-hospital based medical care center ambulance transports during its discussions. An additional suggestion made was that the TAG study the secondary ambulance transfer process as it is anticipated that additional facility downgrades will adversely affect secondary transfer capabilities currently in place in the county. A motion was made and seconded to establish the TAG to focus immediately on the CHDF changes and then consider the other proposed items.

### **EMS STUDIES**

It was mentioned that information pertaining to several EMS studies would be collected and distributed to the members for discussion at the next meeting.

### **SEMAG**

Dr. Haydock reported that the next SEMAG meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2009.

### **HOSPITAL DIVERSION**

It was mentioned that hospital diversion reporting responsibilities have been reassigned and that a report would be compiled and distributed for review prior to the next meeting.

### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

**PROTOCOLS** – It was mentioned that at the previous REMAC meeting it was reported that the regional ALS protocols were approved by SEMAG/SEMCO with some requested changes. A list of changes will be forwarded to the Protocol Committee for inclusion into the draft protocols.

It was also mentioned that discussion continues in regard to the possibility of implementing a regional protocol for pre-hospital cooling of post-cardiac arrest patients. A letter will be sent to all the hospitals so as to advise them that this practice is being investigated for pre-hospital use and would need to be continued on the hospital side.

**EVALUATION** – It was reported that the subcommittee convened to review two complaints this period. The subcommittee presented its findings in regard to a case involving false documentation of an ALS procedure and recommended that the paramedic's ALS credentials be revoked. A motion was made to accept the recommendation and the motion was approved. A second case involved a paramedic who failed to initiate resuscitative measures for a patient in respiratory/cardiac arrest on arrival of the emergency department. The subcommittee presented its findings and recommended that the paramedic's ALS credentials be placed on probation until they complete an ACLS original course and complete 160 hours of direct supervision by an agency designated paramedic. A motion was made to accept the recommendation and the motion was approved.

**STEMI TAG** – Dr. Haydock reported that a preliminary draft protocol was initiated by the TAG after discussion at a meeting that took place on January 15, 2009. A copy of the draft protocol will be made available to the members for additional discussion.



# W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C General Meeting Minutes - January 26, 2009

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## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)** – There was no meeting this period.

**HUDSON VALLEY / WESTCHESTER HELICOPTER COMMITTEE** – A meeting was held on January 2, 2009 where a resolution was made in regard to a situation in the Hudson Valley region. It was reported that differences between pediatric RSI capabilities exist between medevac units covering that region as a result of the paramedic protocols permitting RSI of adults only. It was mentioned that there were at least three known instances where pediatric patients were unable to receive RSI as a result of this protocol. It was determined that a change would be made to the Hudson Valley protocols that would permit RSI for trauma patients 14 years of age and older. Additionally, if it is known that the patient is younger than 14, the call would be assigned to other medevac units staffed with a paramedic/nurse configuration capable of pediatric RSI.

## **NOTICES OF INTENT**

No PAD notices were received since the last meeting.

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

No notices were received since the last meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was a brief discussion regarding reducing the number of paper handouts used for meetings as all county governmental offices/departments are transitioning to a paperless process. It was mentioned that all meeting handout materials will be distributed through e-mail and will be posted on the WREMSO website.

**NEXT MEETING** – Session was adjourned at 10:40 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2009 at 9:00am.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A web cast of this meeting is available on-demand and may be viewed at <http://www.wremsco.org/>

Respectfully submitted by Daniel Olmoz