



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 2008
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Westchester County Department of Emergency Services

OFFICERS Daniel J. Blum, Chair
 James O'Connor, Vice Chair
 Jeff Meade, Treasurer
 Dr. Tim Haydock, Secretary

MEMBERS

NAME		AFFILIATION	
Barca	Joseph	Yonkers Police Department	Present
Blum	Daniel	Chappaqua VAC	Present
Burke	Alison	Greater New York Hospital Assoc	Present
Collins	Brendan P.	Larchmont VAC	Present
DeRobertis	Nicholas	St. Joseph's Medical Center	Present
Faucher	Roland	Mohegan Vol. Fire Assoc. VAC	Alt. – John Dillon
Harding	Scott	Greenburgh Police Department	Excused
Haydock	Timothy	White Plains Hospital Center	Excused
Jackson	John	Westchester County Dept of Emergency Services	Present
Kalish	Chris	Tarrytown VAC	Present
Klecatsky	Lawrence	Sound Shore Medical Center	Present
Labriola	Luci	Armonk Independent Fire Company	Present
Lazar	Eliot	General Public	Present
Liverzani	Michael	Town of Mamaroneck Amb District	Alt. – Patricia Nodolski
Malone III	Eugene	Fairview Fire Department	Present
McGurty	John A.	Hudson Valley Hospital Center	Absent
Meade	Jeffrey	Phelps Memorial Hospital (ELSP)	Present
Minerva	Daniel	Empress EMS	Alt. – Ray Cordi
Nechis	Alex	Eastchester VAC	Present
Nechis	Barry	New Rochelle Fire Department	Present
Nielsen	Charles J.	Port Chester PD	Absent
O'Connor	Charles	Croton Fire Patrol	Absent
O'Connor	James	TransCare	Alt. – David Dawson
Parsons	David	Harrison VAC	Excused
Simpkins	Gilbert	Vista FD	Present
Volk	Michael	Westchester County Dept of Emergency Services	Absent

GUESTS

Cordi	Heidi, MD	NY Presbyterian Hospital EMS
Doering	Garrett	WMC / RRC
O'Connor	Katherine	WC Dept. of Emergency Services / Program Agency
Perez	Cesar	Katonah Bedford Hills VAC
Smalley	Phyllis	WC Dept. of Emergency Services / Program Agency
Sutton	Anthony	WC Dept. of Emergency Services

Chair Daniel Blum called the meeting of the Westchester Regional EMS Council to order at 6:08 P.M.

DES Commission Anthony Sutton was asked to lead the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Katherine O'Connor conducted the roll call and determined that the attendance met the quorum requirement of sixteen (16) delegates.

The minutes of the November 29, 2007, general meeting were disseminated to the members.

- **Motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. DeRobertis and seconded by Ms. Burke. Motion approved.**



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CHAIR'S REPORT - Chair Daniel Blum reported on the following.

Leadership Development Program – The EMS Leadership Academy was held on Saturday, January 26, 2008. The attendance was very good, and there were representatives of many of the agencies from across the county present. Also, 40% of those who attended came from agencies outside of our region- from as far away as Columbia County, Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties), and other New York State locals as well. This very successful event was the culmination of many discussions and planning over the past couple of years.

In particular, thanks were given to Katherine O'Connor for her efforts in helping to organize the program, as well as Phyllis Smalley and Alexina Nechis, Chair of the training and education committee. The Catskill-Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC) provided a great deal of support and arranged for the instructors who presented the core curriculum of the program. The AHEC-collated report of the student survey indicated the level of satisfaction of the attendees, but also indicates other topics and styles of presentation that can be explored for future leadership development programs.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT - None

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Treasurer held his report until the Finance Committee report.

CORRESPONDENCE – The Secretary had no report. A listing of the significant correspondence sent and received on behalf of the REMSCO was distributed to the members (see attached).

STANDING COMMITTEES

Communication –

Trunked Radio System - Chair Michael Volk reported that as previously announced the system is working out well and is being used full time by 23 agencies. The Communications Division would like to remind everyone that they want receive feedback regarding system, both positive or negative, and a reporting form has been DES website, www.westchestergov.com/emergserv in the 60 Control Section for this purpose. There are still 2 hospitals pending installation of the system. Once all the hospitals have been completed, a memo will be sent out to the EMS agencies and hospitals to encourage them to use that system for all communications, both medical control and patient transport communications.

Disaster TAG – Barry Nechis reported that there had been no meeting of the TAG since the last meeting.

There are several major drills planned in the coming months, including in the cities of Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle and a hospital drill organized by the NYS Department of Health and the Regional Resource Center (RRC) in June or July. Two of the drills are purely communication exercises, and the other 2 will be some type of pandemic or mass casualty exercise. The involvement of EMS at any of these drills is unknown at this time.

The County is coordinating a full scale drill at the Westchester County Airport in May and participants are being sought for victims at different levels. The Department of Emergency Services will be sending out a memo requesting participation in the drill and holding START triage classes in preparation for that exercise.

It was also noted that the Pope is expected to come to Yonkers during his trip to the New York Area in April. St. Joseph's Medical Center is the lead hospital for the medical planning for that part of the visit.

Finance – Treasurer Jeff Meade distributed a written report to the members. He reported that the documents showed a summary of the two account balances from the last meeting through the end of 2007. Besides the expenses and outstanding receivables related to the EMS Leadership Academy, there were a few outstanding receivables from the EMS Appreciation Day as well as bills related to our meetings. It is expected that all these will be resolved over the 1st quarter. Mr. Meade offered to review the check registers with anyone for specific questions regarding the summarized report.



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Legislation and By-Laws - No report.

Nominating – None.

Policy & Procedures – Katherine O'Connor reported on behalf of Chair Roland Faucher, who was unavoidably absent. A draft copy of a proposed policy was distributed to the members at the last meeting. Ms. O'Connor reported again that the purpose of the proposed policy is to provide guidance on how to handle REMSCO membership issues.

- **Motion made by Jeff Meade and seconded by Brendan Collins to accept the policy as written.** Roll call vote: Yay-17, Nay-0, Abstained-0, Absent-8. **Motion passed.**

Public Information & Education – Chair Chris Kalish reported on the following:

Annual EMS Dinner – The Annual Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains. The contract is still being finalized.

Annual Awards – The announcement regarding the award nominations will be sent out tomorrow. The deadline again for submissions is April 1st. The award recipients will be honored at the Annual EMS Dinner in May.

PR Programs – As previously reported, Mr. Kalish has been in contact with a couple of video production organizations for doing a public service video. The committee is looking to create some recruitment and informational videos regarding EMS in Westchester. They would probably be a short fifteen minutes or so apiece. Topics could include be an introduction to EMS and how to prepare for emergencies. Discussion regarding a public service tape that was produced by the Hudson Valley Region many years ago. The production costs at the time were quite high. The Program Agency will ask if a copy of this piece still exists.

REMAC - Chair Dr. DeRobertis reported that the REMAC had met on December 17, 2007, and January 28, 2008. Among the items that are being discussed are:

Wave-form Capnography – The SEMAC has issued a requirement that all non-arrest adults and all pediatric patients who have been intubated must have continuous wave-form capnography by 1/1/09. The Program Agency is canvassing all the ALS/ILS agencies and hospitals to determine its current availability, as well as the ability of the EMS agencies to meet the deadline established by the SEMAC. When that data is available it will be shared with the REMSCO.

Scope Of Practice – The Specialty Care Transport (SCT) TAG of the SEMAC put out a pre-hospital Scope of Practice document that reviews the limits of each level of EMS certification and is moving on for development of training and education materials.

Hypothermia – Discussion was held regarding post-resuscitation hypothermia treatments. There have been studies showing that there is some benefit to keeping patients cool for 24 hours and letting them passively re-warm. There is thought being given to pilot in one of the cities here in Westchester. Of great importance is getting the hospital and the EMS operating together to ensure success. There could be some setbacks as all hospital studies must have IRB evaluations as well.

Atropens - The NYSDOH is in the process of distributing Atropens to every agency, ALS and BLS, in the state for placement on their ambulances. This has caused some concern since it includes BLS services. More information to come.

Paramedic AHA Protocol Update – The changes related to the American Heart Association (AHA) updates were finalized and submitted to the SEMAC. The SEMAC had authorized the regions to implement those changes to the protocols without having to go through the formalized protocol approval process. While the protocols are effective immediately, the ALS EMS agencies will have until March 31,



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2008, to ensure that all their providers are in serviced and implementing the new material. Materials were distributed to assist the agencies in updating their personnel.

Trauma Report Form – The Hudson Valley Regional Trauma Committee has promulgated a trauma notification tool which is intended to standardize the radio presentation report from EMS to the ER and allow the hospital time to determine the level of trauma care that will be needed for that patient. The placards will be handed out to all the ambulance agencies for placement on the ambulances.

AMS Survey – A survey of the use of Air Medical Services (AMS) will be conducted over March, April and May.

Training and Education –Chair Alexina Nechis reported that the office had been contacted by the organizers of the 1st annual Greater Westchester EMS Conference to provide input for the educational material. The conference is being held at Empire City in Yonkers on May 17th. The main supporter is Evolution Billing Concepts, Empress's billing company. The event is expected to be quite large.

Transportation - No Report.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS:

Next Meeting - The next REMSCO meeting will be held on March 27, 2008, at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by K. O'Connor for Dr. T. Haydock.