



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 27, 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	Absent
DeRobertis	Nicholas	St. Joseph's Medical Center	Excused
Faucher	Roland	Mohegan Vol. Fire Assoc. VAC	Present
Harding	Scott	Greenburgh Police Department	Excused
Haydock	Timothy	White Plains Hospital Center	Present
Jackson	John	Westchester County Dept of Emergency Services	Excused
Kalish	Chris	Tarrytown VAC	Present
Klecatsky	Lawrence	Sound Shore Medical Center	Absent
Labriola	Luci	Armonk Independent Fire Company	Present
Lazar	Eliot	General Public	Absent
Liverzani	Michael	Town of Mamaroneck Amb District	Present
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	Excused
Nechis	Alex	Eastchester VAC	Excused
Nechis	Barry	New Rochelle Fire Department	Present
Nielsen	Charles J.	Port Chester PD	Absent
O'Connor	Charles	Croton Fire Patrol	Present
O'Connor	James	TransCare	Present
Parsons	David	Harrison VAC	Absent
Simpkins	Gilbert	Vista FD	Present
Volk	Michael	Westchester County Dept of Emergency Services	Present

GUESTS

Robinson	Richard	NYSDOH MARO
Doering	Garrett	WMC / RRC
MacPherson	Thomas	Peekskill FD
O'Connor	Katherine	WC Dept. of Emergency Services / Program Agency
Robinson	Richard	NYSDOH EMS - MARO
Sutton	Anthony	WC Dept. of Emergency Services

Chair Daniel Blum called the meeting of the Westchester Regional EMS Council to order at 6:30 P.M.

DES Commission Anthony Sutton was asked to lead the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed immediately following in memory of Betty DeRobertis, mother of Dr. DeRobertis, who recently passed away, and all our troops fighting overseas.

Secretary, Dr. Tim Haydock, conducted the roll call and determined that the attendance (13) did not meet the quorum requirement of sixteen (16) delegates.

The minutes of the January 31, 2008, general meeting were disseminated to the members. Minutes were unable to be voted on due to a lack of a quorum.



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

Despite the lack of a quorum, the Chair decided to continue with reports.

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

Condolences – As was stated at the opening of the meeting, Dr. DeRobertis' mother passed away recently. Condolences were sent from the REMSCO and REMAC.

Post Arrest Hypothermia Treatments – Discussions are being held by local hospitals and the REMAC regarding the promising studies taking place using induced hypothermia in treating post cardiopulmonary arrest patients. New York City system is currently examining instituting a prehospital hypothermia protocol. In cases where circulation has been restored in the field, cool saline would be infused into the patient. Also, the patient would need to receive paralytics to prevent the onset of shivering, which would raise the body temperature. Currently, no hospital or EMS agency in the region is participating in these studies.

Operations Leadership Program – Discussion have been had regarding setting up another educational event focused around EMS operations at a large scale emergency. An inquiry has been made of a new business in Bedford called Grand Prix New York. The focus of this event would be more operational, with possibly evolutions of training regarding staging vehicles and triaging/treating the victims.

The county, in preparation for the airport drill, has also been broadcasting a number of training efforts for MCI response. All local agencies are encouraged to take advantage of the training that is being offered.

Draft Policies – Two policies were distributed in draft form:

Stat Transfer Policy – A draft policy is entitled, "Life Or Limb -- Transfer By 911 Ambulance" was presented that intends to put in place a framework under which transport or transfer ambulances could respond to an Article 28 hospital, to effect an emergent transport of a patient from that Article 28 hospital to a hospital who can provide a higher level of care for a patient. Currently most of the transport services do not respond under emergency conditions, because the presumption is that a patient who is in an article 28 hospital is receiving definitive care. The problem is that under very rare circumstances, there are patients who are unstable in these facilities and who could benefit from a surgical intervention or another form of intervention at a tertiary hospital, and yet they wait for hours for an interfacility transport. The draft policy allows for a clear prioritization of these patients and an emergency response from the transport agencies to those Article 28 hospitals. Also, if there's no transfer ambulance available and if the local hospital has worked out a local policy with their 911 provider in advance, this policy provides a framework where, under dire circumstances, the 911 provider could be called to affect this life or death transfer. The use of an online medical control physician is required to approve of the use of 911 resources and follow-up review of each case to make sure that hospitals do not abuse the privilege of being able to call upon local 911 resources. The policy will be discussed again at future meetings and reviewed by the Policies and Procedures Committee. A copy was also sent to the NYSDOH BEMS central office for review.

E-PCR Policy – A draft policy was presented to address the submission of electronic data for pre-hospital care reports. The draft was modeled after the most recent version of the EPCR policy from the NYSDOH. There are now local agencies that have an interest in moving forward rapidly into acquiring this technology. A TAG will be created to address both the policy as well as applications brought forward to the REMSCO for approval. The REMSCO has to assess the information that is presented to it, and then forward a recommendation to the NYSDOH BEMS, along with each application from each agency. The intent is to promulgate a single standard for all agencies in this county and to ensure that data collection is consistent across all agencies. There is a minimum data set, which is required by the NYSDOH.

Discussion regarding the intent not to gear a policy towards one vendor, but a set of minimum standards that any vendor will have to meet. Also, discussion regarding need to ensure that hospitals still get the documentation of EMS patient care in a timely manner, however that can be accomplished. A TAG was established that will be overseen by the Chair: Chris Kalish, Gilbert Simpkins, Michael Liverzani and Roland Faucher. The TAG will be meeting very quickly to review the draft policy and the letters of intent that have been submitted so far from a couple of agencies. The draft policy will be used as an interim



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

guide until it is replaced by a final policy by the REMSCO. Agencies who are working on the same group effort will probably be reviewed together; however each agency must indicate independently their intention to go forward with the project.

EMS Week / EMS Memorial – EMS Week is May 18th – May 24th. The NYS EMS Memorial service was recently changed from May 21st to May 22nd. The ceremony will be held at 11 am on the Empire State Plaza. There was a line of duty death on our area within the past year and it would be a show of respect for anyone who is able to attend to go.

Retirement – Recently it was learned that Dr. Klecatsky is retiring from Sound Shore and moving out of state. Dr. Klecatsky has served EMS and the County of Westchester for many years and has earned the respect of all. A party in his honor is being planned at the Speckled Door in New Rochelle on April 3rd, but the organizers needed payment immediately and no payment can be made at the door. If you are able to attend, notify the Regional EMS Office for more information.

Nominating Committee – A committee to develop an official slate of officers for the Annual meeting was appointed by the Chair: Eugene Malone, Charles O'Connor and Barry Nechis. The committee will return at the May meeting with a slate of officers for 2008-2009.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT - None

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Jeff Meade gave the report of the Fresco's accounts.

Charity Registration – The REMSCO had filed for charity bureau exemption status with the Attorney General's office, but had not received any correspondence regarding the outcome. A review of the state webpage recently to see if there was a pending list found that the REMSCO was already listed as a exempt entity with the charities registration bureau. It is not known why an official notification was not received.

Annual Report/Tax Filings – Arrangements will be made with our accountants to conduct a limited test of our books and records. This will be done along with the 990s and other tax filings for last year.

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 – Chief Michael Volk reported on communications issues:

Trunked Radio System - All the hospitals are now connected to the trunked radio system and agencies are encouraged to use the system for notifications and online medical control.

FCC Requirement – The FCC is requiring narrow band, uhf and vhf frequencies by year 2013. Although that may seem a long time away, agencies should really look at their radio infrastructure to make sure that they are planning for the change. This change will include re-licensing, even if an agency has equipment that has the capabilities to narrow band, they will need to apply for a new license. A letter was sent out to the EMS agencies regarding this specific topic. There are multiple links on the FCC website, so agencies can follow along on their progress with making sure their equipment is compatible with the new law. The intent of this change is that by narrow band the FCC will be able to distribute more frequencies, actually doubling the availability of frequencies. These changes will also affect the HEAR channels.

Disaster TAG – Nothing for the TAG.

The Westchester County Airport Drill is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. It's going to be a large-scale event with roughly 155 victims. Training for MCI response and triage has been offered multiple times to



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

EMS provider with very good attendance. The last class will be given on April 24th at the Armonk Fire Department. EMS agencies who want to participate must contact DES by March 31st. There are 12-15 agencies participating currently. A moulage class is being held to train personnel to work the morning of the drill to make up the victims. There are still 5 slots left in the five-day training course starting Monday, April 14th. Anyone interested in attending should contact Nyle Salley at DES.

Finance – Given under Treasurer's report.

Legislation and By-Laws - No report.

Nominating – None.

Policy & Procedures – Anyone interested in participating on the committee should contact Roland Faucher.

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. Dinner prices go up the later the reservation and payment are received by the Regional EMS Office. All information on the dinner has been posted on the website, www.wremSCO.org. A photo presentation is being planned again for this year. Please send in photos to the Regional EMS Office of local providers and agencies working.

Annual Awards – The deadline again for submissions is April 1st. The award recipients will be honored at the Annual EMS Dinner in May. So far an excellent slate of candidates has been received.

PR Programs – Again, Mr. Kalish has been in contact with a couple of video production organizations for doing a public service video. He has made direct inquiries for more information from a couple of companies. He will bring back more information when available.

REMAC - Chair Dr. DeRobertis reported that the REMAC had met on February 25, 2008 and March 17, 2008. Among the items that are being discussed are:

Protocols – The draft paramedic protocols are being finalized and have been distributed for comment. All comments must be received by April 24th. The protocols are posted on the Regional EMS website, www.wremSCO.org.

Capnography Survey – A survey was completed regarding the ability of EMS agencies to meet the new SEMAC mandate for continuous waveform capnography by next year. The next steps for the REMAC will be how to address those agencies that need extensions to the deadline.

Psych Transports – A recent issue that came up has to do with the transport of patients by 911 ambulances to specialty hospitals, specifically psychiatric hospitals, instead of an acute care hospital. The general feeling was that all these patients need to be medically cleared before being taken to such a facility. A TAG should be formed to research and review the issue before making a recommendation to the REMAC.

Training and Education – Chair Alexina Nechis reported the committee met last week. A schedule of specialty courses, a CLI Program, has been developed for May and June. Also the committee will be working with the REMAC on a standard training package for the rollout of the new paramedic protocols once approved by SEMAC/SEMSCO.

Transportation - No Report.



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS:

EMS Advisory Board Study – DES Commissioner Anthony Sutton reported that the Westchester County EMS Advisory Board has undertaken a study of the EMS system in Westchester. It began a week or so ago looking at primary and secondary PSAPs. The organization doing the study will be meeting with some agencies in the near future. Please contact Chief Volk with any questions.

Next Meeting – Due to scheduling conflicts in May, the next REMSCO meeting will be held on May 15, 2008, at 6:00 PM..

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M. without a quorum.

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