



Westchester Regional EMS Council

Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: June 28, 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	Excused
DeRobertis	Nicholas	St. Joseph's Medical Center	Excused
Faucher	Roland	Mohegan Vol. Fire Assoc. VAC	Present
Harding	Scott	Greenburgh Police Department	Absent
Haydock	Timothy	White Plains Hospital Center	Present
Jackson	John	Westchester County Dept of Emergency Services	Present
Kalish	Chris	Tarrytown VAC	Present
Labriola	Luci	Armonk Independent Fire Company	Present
Lazar	Eliot	General Public	Present
Liverzani	Michael	Town of Mamaroneck Amb District	Present
Malone III	Eugene	Fairview Fire Department	Present
McGurty	John A.	Hudson Valley Hospital Center	Alt. John Filangeri
Meade	Jeffrey	Phelps Memorial Hospital (ELSP)	Present
Minerva	Daniel	Empress EMS	Present
Nechis	Alex	Eastchester VAC	Present
Nechis	Barry	New Rochelle Fire Department	Present
O'Connor	Charles	Croton Fire Patrol	Present
O'Connor	James	TransCare	Present
Parsons	David	Cortlandt VAC	Present
Perez	Cesar	Katonah-Bedford VAC	Voted In / Present
Simpkins	Gilbert	Vista FD	Alt. Adam Ochs
Volk	Michael	Westchester County Dept of Emergency Services	Present

GUESTS		
Casas	Jeffrey	Port Chester Rye Rye Brook EMS
Cordi, MD	Heidi	New York Presbyterian Hospital EMS
O'Connor	Katherine	WC Dept. of Emergency Services / Program Agency
Ramage	David	New York Presbyterian Hospital EMS
Smalley	Phyllis	WC Dept. of Emergency Services / Program Agency
Sutton	Anthony	WC Dept. of Emergency Services

Chair Daniel Blum called the Annual meeting of the Westchester Regional EMS Council to order at 6:24 P.M.

DES Deputy Commissioner John Jackson was asked to lead the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary, Dr. Tim Haydock, conducted the roll call and determined that the attendance did meet the minimum quorum requirement of sixteen (16) delegates.



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The minutes of the May 15, 2008, general meeting will be disseminated to the members before the September meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Policies & Procedures Committee – Roland Faucher

Draft ePCR Policy – The draft policy had been circulated for the last 2 meetings regarding the processing of applications from agencies seeking to provide electronic patient care documentation reporting (ePCRs). The Executive Committee has been using the draft version as an interim policy for review of recently received e-PCR applications.

- Motion made by Roland Faucher and seconded by Dan Minerva to accept the final regional draft policy regarding approval of e-PCR projects.** Roll call vote taken by the Secretary: 14 yeas, 5 nays, 1 abstention. **Motion passed.**

Chair offered comment regarding the level of debate that was engendered by this topic. While it is not usual for the REMSCO members to be so divided, they nonetheless civilly disagreed on matters.

Executive Committee – Chair Dan Blum

ePCR Applications – The Executive Committee previously met and considered the application of several agencies that have placed an application before the REMSCO under the interim policy for adoption of an e-PCR system.

The agencies who had expressed an interest in moving forward with a e-PCR process was asked to complete the planning document application checklist that was attached to the then draft document, and provide a cover letter stating their intention and their status at this time. Letters and the checklist were received from Port Chester-Rye-Rye Brook EMS, Harrison EMS, Mohegan VAC, Peekskill Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Town of Mamaroneck Ambulance District, Mamaroneck Village Emergency Medical Services, and the town of Mamaroneck Village of Larchmont Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

It was also asked that the agencies provide a sample data file to the Regional EMS Office. A couple of submissions were received in an ASCII file format. It was reiterated that the request had been that they be received in Excel, and the files were replaced with an Excel format. The Chair stressed that the file format must be sent in a format that was requested by the region. It was noted that while some services were not in a position to progress just yet, they were all using the same billing company and proposing the same ePCR system so all should be able to send the data in an Excel format.

The Chair indicated that his intent would be to issue a letter on behalf of the REMSCO, and co-endorsed by the REMAC, for any agency that has completed successfully the processes outlined in the policy permitting the use of an e-PCR in our region pursuant to that specific application. Notification will be sent to the applicant agency or agencies, as well as the State Department of Health. The endorsement will come with contingencies similar to those enforced by the NYSDOH. If agencies fail to comply with the ongoing requirements of the council, or if at such time an agency goes to implement the e-PCR program and it is not in fact fully compliant with the checklist that was submitted, the REMSCO will immediately contact the NYSDOH and request that the approval be rescinded on behalf of the region, and then as well on behalf of the State Department of Health.

Discussion regarding the fact that in reviewing some of the applications, it is clear that at this time not all the components for the e-PCR system are functionally in place for all the agencies. It was noted that while they're in the process of getting their systems together, and in order to finally roll it out, they need the conditional approval of the REMSCO, but that the REMSCO will take opportunity to check, where it can, to make sure that every element is met.

Training and Education Committee – Chair Alexina Nechis



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NYSDOH EMS Course Sponsor Renewal – The Committee met on June 6, 2008 and reviewed a short form course sponsorship renewal application for the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Program. The application indicates that they are planning on offering EMT original and refresher courses in September of this year. It was unanimously agreed by the Committee that the REMSCO recommend a renewal of the sponsorship for the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Program.

- Motion made by Alexina Nechis and seconded by Roland Faucher to recommend to the NYSDOH that it renew the Course Sponsorship of the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Program. Motion passed.**

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Jeff Meade reported on the accounts of the REMSCO. The members were reminded that the REMSCO maintains two checking accounts: one is the REMSCO's general checking account; the other considered the "state" account with monies going in and out in for expenses and reimbursements related to the state contract and specialty course sponsorship.

The final numbers are in for the annual awards dinner, which is normally the most significant expense of the year, followed by EMS Appreciation Day in August. The most significant income resulted from the transfer of funds from the old Westchester County EMS Council, which were held by a 501c3 corporation which could not disperse them to anything other than another 501c3 corporation. When the old County council disbanded, it was their stated intent to turn over those monies to the new Regional council. The money had been held in an account until such time as the REMSCO received the right status. Those funds have been transferred to the REMSCO. It was also noted that interest was paid to the REMSCO by the state as it had been late paying on some vouchers.

ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS

Eugene Malone reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee regarding its selection for a slate of officers for 2008-2009:

Dan Blum	Chair
James O'Connor	Vice Chair
Jeff Meade	Treasurer
Dr. Tim Haydock	Secretary

Nominations were opened to the floor. No nominations for any of the officers' positions were made by the members present.

- Motion made by Roland Faucher and seconded by Alexina Nechis to close nominations. Motion passed.**
- Motion made by Roland Faucher and seconded by Dr. Eliot Lazar to have the Secretary cast one ballot on behalf of each the candidates in the Nominating Committee's slate. Motion passed.**

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reported and encouraged discussion on the following:

Annual EMS Dinner –The Annual EMS dinner was held on May 25th during EMS week. The dinner was extraordinarily successful and was very well attended. Thanks were given to the Program Agency staff and the Public Information and Education Committee (PIEC) for all their work on the event.

50/50 Raffle Donation - It had been determined that the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle would be donated to fund established by Regional EMS / Rockland Paramedic Service (RPS) that is helping Bonnie Ames, the Rockland



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County EMT who was seriously injured in an ambulance crash a couple of months ago. The winner of that raffle, Ray Barishansky, Executive Director, Hudson Valley REMSCO, also gave his share back to the REMSCO so all the monies could be donated. Shortly after the dinner, a check was presented by the Chair at a fundraising golf outing being run by RPS for the benevolent fund. The company's officers and members were very appreciative and touched by the efforts of the council and people who work Westchester.

REMSCO Membership

Prior to the meeting the Executive Committee reviewed and approved an application to fill an unexpired membership term on the REMSCO. Cesar Perez from Katonah/Bedford Hills VAC is filling a vacancy for the EMS – Volunteer (Ind.) constituency. Mr. Perez was welcomed to the REMSCO.

The REMSCO membership was reminded about their responsibility to attend and participate at meetings. Business could not be voted on at the last meeting as there was no quorum. If the REMSCO wants to improve the quality of care that's provided and the EMS system in Westchester County, it's important that all get involved. It was noted that all members have other things that require their attention, but all members should try and make a concerted effort to be more participatory.

Discussion regarding schedule conflicts, such as the state exams which coincided with the May meeting. Normally the meeting schedule is the 4th Thursday to avoid that obvious conflict, but it was difficult to do in May with the Annual Dinner and state meetings taking place that month. It was reiterated that the request for more involvement was not directed to any one member but in general. Discussion also the appropriateness or legality of a proxy or absentee voting system when absences are unavoidable. Concerns raised that the REMSCO not become a "virtual" body where people hear about something and don't have to show up then can cast a vote. It was noted that value is gained by from the members getting together and cross-pollinating across the county issues. The request for proxy voting was taken under advisement for future investigation and consideration.

Annual EMS Appreciation Day

Plans are under way for the annual EMS Appreciation Day event at Rye Playland. The nomination applications have already been sent out and the submission deadline is August 4th. The Public Education and Information Committee (PIEC) will be meeting shortly thereafter to review them. Requests have been made to improve the sound system over last year.

Web casting

The executive order from the Spitzer administration related to web casting of public has been continued by the Patterson administration. As such, the REMSCO and REMAC meetings will be continued to be web casts.

SEMAC Update

Capnography - Earlier this year the SEMAC voted to require waveform capnography commencing 01/01/09 for all intubated adult non-arrest and all pediatric patients. The issue was again brought up at the last meeting in May at which the SEMAC reaffirmed its position but modified its approach to implementation. Initially the SEMAC was going to accept notifications from REMACs regarding extensions of the deadline for agencies that had difficulties meeting the deadline due to financial hardships so long as an implementation plan was included. The SEMAC now is stating that agencies can make that petition; however an agency not meeting the mandate will not be allowed to intubate non-arrest adult or pediatric patients after 1/1/09.

Discussion regarding the cost of providing waveform capnography. The Regional EMS Office is in the process of drafting an advisory document to the affected agencies, including a spreadsheet of options that we are able to identify and, and the relative cost for each of them. The cost ranges from roughly \$2,000 to \$6,000, depending upon the size of the unit, whether or not it's going to be integrated into a pre-existing monitoring system or it is standalone.

Spinal Immobilization – The update to the state protocol has been released. A presentation and curriculum has been distributed and posted on the website. Agencies must train all their staff by 12/31/08.

Ryan White Act

When the federal Ryan White Act was renewed about 2 years ago, it was renewed with changes. Unfortunately it was not realized at that time that these changes would negatively impact EMS and other emergency responders. Sections were dropped pertaining to access to records regarding the infectious



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disease status of patients who are delivered to a hospital in situations where an occupational exposure occurred relative to the EMS provider or other emergency services worker. Efforts are currently underway to resurrect some of the previous language or at least put into place additional protections that previously were afforded under Ryan White. Hospitals need to be more diligent regarding interfacing with a designated officer from the EMS or emergency response agency in the event that there's an occupational exposure.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Thank You

Roland Faucher requested that it be entered into the minutes that the REMSCO members thank the Executive Committee and the Chair for their voluntary time and success in effecting the role the REMSCO has on EMS.

Fuel Concerns

James O'Connor raised the question regarding the impact of the recent fuel price increases on commercial and voluntary agency operations, both for ambulances and responders in private vehicles, if the REMSCO should be involved in doing anything about it, and, if so, what should it try to do. Mr. O'Connor noted that there is legislation before the assembly and the senate about getting some sort of tax relief from fuel charges. Currently, unlike other industries, commercial EMS providers are not eligible for tax relief offered to non-profit entities. Also, unlike other industries, EMS cannot place a fuel charge on its services as the prices increase.

Discussion was held regarding the fiscal impact across the region. It was noted that at the last SEMSCO meeting discussion was had regarding the need for waivers from the federal KKK ambulance design regulations in order to investigate vehicles with better fuel economy. It was also noted that in some districts volunteer responders are being reimbursed for travel over a certain number of calls. Members were asked to be alert to any effort to address these issues so that the REMSCO could lend its support.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 7:20 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2008.

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