



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

Date: November 18, 2010
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Westchester County Department of Emergency Services

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

MEMBERS

NAME	AFFILIATION	
Barca	Joseph	Yonkers Police Department Present
Blum	Daniel	Chappaqua VAC Excused
Briggs	Susan	Valhalla VAC Excused
Burke	Alison	Greater New York Hospital Assoc Present
Casas	Jeff	Portchester/Rye/Ryebrook EMS Present
DeRobertis	Nicholas	St. Joseph's Medical Center Excused
Faucher	Roland	Mohegan Vol. Fire Assoc. VAC Excused
Haydock	Timothy	White Plains Hospital Center Excused
Jackson	John	Mohegan Fire District Excused
Kalish	Chris	Tarrytown VAC Present
Kelly	Eugene	Yonkers Fire Department Present
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 Present
Meade	Jeffrey	Phelps Memorial Hospital (ELSP) Absent
Mettler	Lorene	Ossining VAC Absent
Minerva	Daniel	Empress EMS Absent
Nechis	Alex	Eastchester VAC Present
Nechis	Barry	New Rochelle Fire Department Present
O'Connor	Charles	Croton Fire Patrol Present
O'Connor	James	TransCare Present
Perez	Cesar	Katonah-Bedford VAC Present
Simpkins	Gilbert	Vista FD Present
Thomas	Ted	Elmsford Fire Dept. Present
Varlese	Doris	General Public Present
Volk	Michael	Westchester County Dept of Emergency Services Present

GUESTS

Tomechko	Michael	Eastchester VAC
Kaplan	Gary	Bound Tree Medical
Olmoz	Daniel	WC Dept. of Emergency Services / Program Agency
Sutton	Anthony	WC Dept. of Emergency Services
Singer	Guy	WC Dept. of Emergency Services

The Vice Chair, Jim O'Connor called the meeting of the Westchester Regional EMS Council to order at 6:10 P.M.

The meeting attendees joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Secretary, Dr. Tim Haydock's absence, Treasurer, Cesar Perez conducted the roll call and determined that the attendance (18) did meet the quorum requirement of sixteen (16) delegates.

The minutes of the September 23, 2010, meeting were previously disseminated to the members. The minutes were approved without change.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Vice Chair, Jim O'Connor informed the Council that the Chair Daniel Blum had to be excused because of a last minute commitment.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT - None

TREASURER'S REPORT – Cesar Perez reported on the status of the REMSCO budget and account balances. It was pointed out that twenty thousand dollars remains currently unexpended. Although a large expense associated with the webcasting services and attorney's fees are upcoming, ideas were sought for areas that may need further allocation of funding. Suggestions were made to re-direct more funding to educational offerings as well as training equipment needed.

SECRETARY – None

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS –

D. Olmoz reported: *First and foremost, we received notification from the New York State Department of Health regarding the expiring SEMSCO delegate seat from REMSCO. And we received paperwork from Mr. Blum who has indicated that he would like to continue representing the Regional EMS Council on the State EMS Council. In addition, we also have a need to fill the alternate seat since that's been vacant since the switch of the duties of Katherine O'Connor. And we received two applications in that regard.*

A motion was made to approve Daniel Blum as the SEMSCO delegate once again. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Council was informed that both Doris Varlese and Jim O'Connor had expressed a willingness to fulfill the SEMSCO alternate vacancy. Since Ms. Varlese was not initially present, the matter was tabled. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Varlese arrived and Mr. O'Connor elected to withdraw his intention.

A motion was made to approve Doris Varlese as the SEMSCO alternate. The motion was approved unanimously.

A discussion took place regarding a communication from D. Blum to the Westchester County Board of Legislators regarding the possible consolidation of the County Departments of Emergency Services and Public Safety. Concern was raised by some members that the content of the letter was not what they anticipated. Mr. O'Connor indicated that it was his understanding that D. Blum attempted to convey the sentiments of the Council based on previous discussion of the issue. He suggested that concerned members contact the chair with their concerns so consideration may be given to issuing follow-up correspondence.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Communication – Chief Volk reported: *Two things I have mentioned a few times at the meetings about the FCC's requirement to narrow band VHF and UHF frequencies by January 1st of 2013. If agencies haven't contacted a radio vendor, I would strongly recommend them doing so, because that could be costly if your equipment and hardware needs to be upgraded. The second part of my report is the County is establishing a new UHF, U-CALL and U-TAC System for radio interoperability. The chief executive officers of Police, Fire and EMS agencies should have received an email yesterday regarding the new program. Probably the largest or the most important part of this is radio re-programming, so the radio vendors ESS or Metro Comm will be contacting the EMS agencies to re-program their trunked mobile radios and control stations. And you'll hear further on the protocol to use that system.*

Finance – see Treasurer's Report

Legislation and By-Laws – no report

Nominating – D. Olmoz informed the members that there were seven delegate expiring in December and letters of intent from all incumbents were received. *There are no seats being challenged and an application has been received for one vacant seat (Public Health) from Mr. J.T. Flick of the Regional Resource Center at WMC. Those seeking re-election are EMS Volunteer Independent, Mr. Kalish; EMS Volunteer Independent Lorene Mettler who is not here tonight although she did indicate she would like to be nominated; another EMS Volunteer Independent is Cesar Perez; EMS Volunteer Fire, Mr. Faucher; EMS Volunteer Fire, Mr. Simpkins; Career Fire John Jackson, who was unable to attend tonight; and Career Fire Mr. Kelly. A motion was made to approve the slate of candidates. The motion was seconded and approved.*

It was noted that two vacant seats remain; Hospital Association and Police. The council was asked to inform their constituents of the need for participation and involvement.

Operations - G. Kelly reported that the committee completed development of a draft EMS Resource Utilization Guideline document that was forwarded to REMAC for approval and support. D. Olmoz commented that the document attempts to address several areas including dispatch coordination, use of EMD and call prioritization, as well as ALS criteria. The document has been debated for several months but was unable to be brought to a vote by REMAC because a number of members requested more time to review it.

Policy & Procedures – no report

Public Information & Education – C. Kalish mentioned that discussions had begun for 2011's events. Decisions need to be discussed about event format and support moving forward.

REMAC - Dr. DeRobertis reported that although he was unable to attend the last REMAC meeting, more needs to be done to move the list of agenda items before REMAC. In addition to the Resource Coordination document, new QI Guidelines, and Helicopter Utilization Guidelines need to be discussed and approved. J. O'Connor asked the members to go back to their medical directors and remind them of the importance of their participation and to come prepared to upcoming meetings so they can be engaged in discussions. It was also suggested that greater attention be given to attendance requirements and when necessary those requirements be enforced. Dr. DeRobertis advised that written notification of the situation will be made to all REMAC members over the next few days.

Training and Education – Chair, Alex Nechis reported that the Committee met on November 5, 2010. Items discussed included offering an Instructor Update Course in January, offering an update of the 2010 AHA Guidelines, and offering an educational session during National EMS Week in May. With the assistance of the Regional EMS Office, the Committee would like to survey Course Sponsors to identify instructor needs.

Transportation - J. Barca reported there will be a meeting hosted by the REMSCO and Department of Emergency Services on December 2, 2010 to discuss a recently identified EMS mutual aid issue in the Dobbs Ferry vicinity. EMS agency officers and medical directors have been asked to meet with members of the REMSCO Executive, Transportation, and Operations Committees as well as the representatives of DES to find possible solutions.

NEW BUSINESS –

Ms. Burke was asked if she was able to comment on the political climate of the state and possible impact on hospital and pre-hospital sectors. Ms. Burke commented that Andrew Cuomo was very transparent during his campaign that Medicaid and healthcare is at the top of the pile of priorities to be addressed in the state. Overall, ways of preserving quality while providing cost-effective services are necessary.

It was mentioned that as of January 1st, Medicare mileage billing will change from estimating to next highest mile, to a fractional method.

A question was raised regarding the status of the e-PCR group purchasing process being explored. C. Perez commented that a great deal of work has been done to bring the idea to fruition. All EMS agencies were surveyed for data that will be used to draft an RFP. It is hoped that the RFP will be ready to go soon so a proposal can be selected in January.

Next Meeting – The next REMSCO meeting will be on **January 27, 2011**, at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

A webcast of this meeting is available at www.wremSCO.org

Respectfully submitted by D. Olmoz for Secretary, Dr. T. Haydock.