



Westchester Regional EMS Council

General Meeting Minutes

Date: May 26, 2011
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	Present
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	Present
Faucher	Roland	Mohegan Vol. Fire Assoc. VAC	Present
Flick	J.T.	Westchester Regional Resource Center	Present
Haydock	Timothy	White Plains Hospital Center	Present
Jackson	John	Mohegan Fire District	Present
Kalish	Chris	Tarrytown VAC	Present
Kelly	Eugene	Yonkers Fire Department	Excused
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	Alternate-Present
Meade	Jeffrey	Phelps Memorial Hospital (ELSP)	Excused
Mettler	Lorene	Ossining VAC	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	Excused
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

Olmoz	Daniel	WC Dept. of Emergency Services / Program Agency
Sutton	Anthony	WC Dept. of Emergency Services
Kaplan	Gary	Bound Tree Medical
Cariello	Rich	Yorktown VAC
Ciacchi	Judy Ann	Yorktown VAC

Chair, D. Blum called the meeting of the Westchester Regional EMS Council to order at 6:00 P.M.

The meeting attendees joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer, Cesar Perez conducted the roll call and determined that the attendance (24) did meet the quorum requirement of sixteen (16) delegates.

The minutes of the March 24, 2011 meeting were previously disseminated to the members. The minutes were approved without change.

CHAIR'S REPORT – D. Blum commented - *Just a couple of things to point out to you all. The first is I really sincerely want to thank Chris Kalish and the committee that put together the award ceremony and dinner. And, there were a lot of other people, and in addition our office staff, our DES staff who supported it. Each time is a learning time for us. As*

Commissioner Sutton recently mentioned, we seem to run into some issues again and again each time, but it is a learning experience each time. We had some robust discussion in the executive meeting immediately preceding this meeting, and we talked about making some modifications, which we can talk about further on a different night. The feedback that we've gotten, and Chris has been good at soliciting feedback through a survey. The feedback that we have gotten is a bit dichotomist. Some people say they want to spend less on the event, but at the same time they want kind of more for their money. It is a little hard to make those things work, but maybe a change in venue or some other approaches would help us. What we really talked about in the last meeting, which I should mention, is consolidating the two different award events that we have. The ideology would be to continue with a family event like the Playand one, as long as it exists. And then also to have some other form of consolidated award ceremony making the lifesaving awards and some of the leadership awards synchronous, and maybe changing the venue. So that being said, that is what is kind of all on the table. I guess immediately I would like discussion about that if anybody has any strong feeling.

A brief discussion ensued about how to combine events.

D. Blum continued; *Dan and I attended the New York State EMS meetings earlier this week, and we heard that the State of New York will now be participating in the National Awards through the NAEMT. So they are going to request that we have our awards submissions in earlier going forward. So we'll look a little bit at timing. Honestly, synchronicity with National EMS Week is kind of the next thing. But again, just a really sincere thank you for all of the work that so many people did.*

Also, coming from the State Council from the SEMAC and from our own REMAC is a very concerning trend that I just want to raise here. And that is as EPCRs proliferate across the state, which is a terrific thing that I cannot support enough, we're finding ironically that communication has been actually disrupted, and communication really in written form. We are hearing a lot of these stories from across the state where crews are not turning PCR's into the hospital. We heard this at the last two State meetings, and we've heard it from our own REMAC itself. And we're also hearing of program agencies that are not receiving the data. So this goes beyond our REMSCO and our region, and the State is looking at this hard. I must say the body of physicians at the State level is really pushing back on this.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding possible contributing factors and the importance of providing a pre-hospital patient report at the time of patient care transfer was reiterated.

D. Blum mentioned - *The other thing to advise is that the Poison Control Centers would like reporting if you come across a patient who has taken a bath salt substance. So I'm not sure if you're aware of this, but people aren't soaking in it, they're smoking it. They're snorting it, they're shooting it. These bath salts that are out there in small packages. And the State Commissioner Health issued an emergency order outlawing the sale of it as well.*

The State Council put together a White Paper on mutual aid, which I think will be become important and will become eventually the genesis for a new policy statement from the State Department of Health. Some of these other issues I think address when mutual aid becomes an abusive practice, when agencies are defaulting in their obligations to a certain community. We have had some issues here on mutual aid, and I've got to say I think agencies are coming together and trying to resolve those differences and how they're responding to each other.

That's all that I have for my report.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT - None

TREASURER'S REPORT – D. Blum commented - *I believe we do not have a Finance Report. Cesar is tabulating the results and the impact of the last dinner on our balance sheet.*

SECRETARY – none

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – D. Olmoz reported the Regional EMS office received Notice of Intent to Transfer to an ECR System from Katonah Bedford VAC as well as Cortlandt Regional Paramedics, and they have begun the process to seek both regional and state approval. Also received was a letter the City of White Plains seeking approval for their Advanced Life Support First Response Service, and this was discussed and approved at the REMAC meeting on the 16th. We also received a communication from the New York State Department of Health advising the Regional EMS Council that the Course Sponsorship is due to for recertification a review by the department. And, finally for both the Regional EMS Council and the REMAC, a written request was made for schools and children's camps to include training for seizure response to include the capability to administer Diazepam Jelly so that will be something that will need to be discussed by REMAC. And ideally, I think that is more of a state issue than it is a regional issue.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Communication – D. Blum mentioned: *It looks like the 155.3400 Disaster Interoperability Frequency, which is a national disaster frequency for interoperability. I believe they want every agency to have the ability to utilize that frequency. So that's something that we should be hearing more about from the State itself.*

Finance – see Treasurer's Report

Legislation and By-Laws – no report

Nominating – no report

Operations – no report

Policy & Procedures – no report

Public Information & Education – no report

REMAC – Dr. DeRobertis reported: *Well, actually, we did pass the new process for reviewing provider complaints by the Evaluation Committee. Things are a little bit more streamlined in order for us to meet statutory requirements. It gives the committee a lot more control.*

Training and Education – Alex Nechis reported: *One of the things of most importance is that Northern Westchester BOCES has not recertified their core sponsorship contract with the State. And based on that, there is a letter that went to them telling them they basically have to give a complete inventory of any property that they purchased with monies through the State.*

Transportation – D. Blum commented; *By way of recollection, municipalities are presumed to be fit and competent and have authorization to provide municipal EMS service. And, therefore, there is an abbreviated process for municipalities to go through before the Council and before the State when they start up their own EMS service. Their responsibility to prove need certainly is different from other organizations. After a period of two years, they usually come back to the Council and there's the question of proof of need once again. And at this point, we have the obligation to review their application once again, and pass it forward to the State with a vote, yea or nay. There was a deadline that was passed for The City of White Plains to renew their application, and that's been a bit of a sticky process. But a number of circumstances prevailed not the least of which was there was a sudden change in their chief elected officer in the municipality. And one of the things that's required on the application is the signature of the chief elected officer of the municipality. So they were in the mode for a period of time. The renewal did not go swiftly, and there were some issues back and forth trying to get all of the paperwork done in a timely fashion. So all of that being said, you know, Dan Olmoz himself and the office staff have spent considerable amount of time trying to assist the City of White Plains. From my perspective, the City has been diligent in trying to execute on this as swiftly as possible. So that's the background that leads us to this evening. They do provide ALSFR. They do that through their ESU Unit, their Police Department Emergency Services Unit. The mission of that unit is to provide emergency care in tactical situations. So they are not really functioning on a moment-to-moment capacity in providing ALSFR to citizens as they're dispatched out.*

D. Olmoz added; *Just to note, we're having a public hearing scheduled for June 7th to get feedback from the public or anyone who wishes to weigh in on the application. And, all those results I will be presenting at our June meeting for a final vote before we send it up to SEMSCO. So basically, the premise here is that the REMAC is the body that authorizes a service to provide Advanced Life Support in the region. They have elected to go out and give White Plains that approval once again because of the fact that their certification technically lapsed. And the purpose of it coming before the Council tonight is ratification of the REMAC's decision since technically the REMAC is a subcommittee of the Regional EMS Council.*

A motion was made to accept the REMAC's continued approval of the City of White Plains Rescue Medical Team as an Advanced Life Support First Response Service at the Paramedic level. The motion was seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS –

D. Olmoz mentioned - *One other issue if I could kind of dovetail onto the whole technology problems that we're having. I promised Westchester Medical Center, I would bring up an issue that is going to have to go before the REMAC, as well. But what they're finding are similar issues with 12-Lead EKG transmission. Specifically, with STEMI transports because of the fact that some of the monitors have limited ability with coding the actual 12-Lead EKG with patient identifier information. They're finding that paperwork may get mixed as multiple units are coming in, and they putting into writing a request that something regionally be promoted to EMS agencies that simply has the agency's*

name, unit number, and basic patient information or whatever the monitor would allow so that they can actually utilize the 12-Lead in a STEMI type of situation. It's a legitimate issue.

Next Meeting – The next REMSCO meeting will be on **June 23, 2011**, at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

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

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