

THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

**Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City**

**September 22, 2009**

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on September 22, 2009 at 6:00 PM, at the Offices of the Regional EMS Council, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Organizational Members</b>		
Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp	1.	Harold Jacob (excused)
Fire Department, City of New York Emergency Medical Services	2.	David Prezant, MD
	3. Glenn Asaeda MD	
	4. Frances Pascale, EMTP	
	5. Janice Olszewski, EMTP	
Greater New York Hospital Association	6.	Deborah Brown
	7.	Phil Eguiguiurens
	8.	Vacant
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation	9. Lorraine M. Giordano, MD	
New York City Office of Emergency Management	10.	Joseph Bruno, Commissioner
New York City Police Department	11. Victor Politi, MD	

THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Organizational Members</b> <i>(continued)</i>		
New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. District 4	12. James Downey, EMT, alternate for Ryan Gunning	
New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. District 18	13. Christopher Legaz, EMT	
Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee	14. David Ben-Eli, MD	
United New York Ambulance Network	<b>15. Al Rapisarda, Second Vice Chair, Michael Raiola, alternate</b>	
	16. Dan Leibowitz	
<b>At-Large Members</b>		
	17.	Vincent Barranco, EMTP, Secretary (excused)
	18.	Ralph Cefalo (excused)
	19. Arthur Cooper, MD	
	20. Martin Grillo, EMTP	
	<b>21. Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair</b>	
	22. Charles Hummel, PhD, EMT	
	23. Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, EMTP	

# THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>At-Large Members</b> <i>(continued)</i>		
	24. Nadine Levick, MD	
	<b>25. Joseph A. Marcellino, MPH, Parliamentarian</b>	
	26. Mordechai Lax, EMTP	
	27. Brenda Morrissey, EMTP	
	28. Scott Orlanski, EMT	
	29. Michael Raiola, EMTP	
	30. Vacant	

## Staff

Nancy Benedetto, Executive Director Administration

Marie Diglio, EMTP, Executive Director Operations

## Guests

Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Meetings of the Regional EMS Council are recorded to comply with the Governor's Executive Order #3 to web cast meetings. A roll call attendance was conducted; a quorum was present.

Dr. Horwitz asked if there were any comments, questions or changes regarding the Minutes of the June 23, 2009 meeting. Hearing none, Martin Grillo motioned that the Minutes were approved. Joseph Marcellino seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding vaccination of health care providers. NYS mandates employees of hospitals and employees of agencies under contract to hospitals must be vaccinated against both seasonal and H1N1 flu. Volunteers are not mandated, neither is FDNY. FDNY is offering the vaccine to its employees and anticipates at least 50% compliance.

## **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

***The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:***

### **Membership:**

# THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

- Email from Ryan Gunning nominating himself as the primary representative for District 4, NYS VA&RA, and James Downey as alternate.
  - ***This was discussed and approved unanimously by Council.***
- The following members requested to be excused:
  - Aaron Katz
  - Lewis Marshall, MD

## From FDNY:

- Monthly drill and journal cme for:
  - August 2009: Fracture Management handout and facilitator guide.
  - September 2009: Pediatric Assessment handout and facilitator guide.
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly Program Agency Report.
- PCR monthly inventory report for May 2009, June 2009, July 2009.

## From NYS DOH:

- Formal response from division of legal affairs regarding vaccination questions (hand-out).
- Additional names for instructor certification (included in T&E Report).
- Copy of a letter sent to Roy London, Universal Emergency Care, denying the application for upgrade to an ALS level training center.
- NYS DOH Policy 09-08: Reporting Incidents, Injuries and Crashes.
- Copy of a letter to John Gupta, CEO St. John's Episcopal Hospital stating it has been approved as a Stroke Center.
- Letter requesting that REMAC stop issuing "Limited ALS" approvals.
  - Due to implied liability, it was agreed that REMAC would cease providing this level of approval. The one (1) agency currently approved, Corona VAC, was contacted and advised that their status was disapproved. Corona applied as a full ALS service and was approved.
  - Brochure for Vital Signs 2009 to be held in Rochester, NY on October 15 – 18, 2009.
- Public Notice from New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, Operations Unit, to be read into the REMAC Minutes of the following enforcement actions:

Provider Name	EMT #	Penalty	Violation of	County of Operation
Edward Ashley	273953	3-month suspension of EMTP starting 7/29/09 and a \$2000 fine	Not identified	West Sand Lake
Jeffrey Mondo	338694	Suspension from 8/14/09 through 11/01/09	Part 800.15 (a) and 800.16 (a)	Lackawanna

# THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

## **Other:**

- Letter from City Council Member Jessica Lappin suggesting the use of motorcycles or scooters for EMS in the City.
- Letter from Assemblywoman Annette Robinson, asking to discuss the Bedford Stuyvesant VAC training center.
  - Staff note: Marie Diglio called the Assemblywoman's office but received no call back.
- Letter from Chevra Hatzalah stating that annual disaster drills are very frequently held on Saturdays, making it impossible for that agency to participate.
- Course Sponsor renewals from:
  - NY Hospital Queens Emergency Medical Training Institute
  - John Jay College
- Application from Emergency Aid Training, Inc, for a new BLS sponsor in Bronx.
  - This application must be reviewed.
- July 2009 The Pulse

## ***The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:***

- Letter to John Peruggia, Chief of EMS, FDNY, stating the Council is in negotiations with the Office of Homeland Security in order to provide new NIOSH approved escape hoods to non-municipal regional ambulance agencies.
  - Chief Peruggia responded and asked that he be kept informed of our progress.
- Agendas, Minutes and associated attachments for the September 2009 meetings.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT/PROGRAM AGENCY REPORT**

It was reported that the Program Agency contracts have been changed to multi-year contracts. This will cause a delay in payments for a minimum of four weeks.

An e-Learning system has been installed on the REMSCO website. A Burn program is available on-line and completion of the course is worth 2 cme REMAC credits. There are other courses also available on the REMSCO website.

MSA has been ordered by the Office of Homeland Security to deliver 2000 NIOSH approved escape hoods (APRs). The canisters on these NIOSH approved APRs are the same as those on the Millennium masks. The difference is they do not require fit testing. Delivery date is approximately two months.

## **AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Horwitz appointed Dr. Yedidiah Langsam as Chair of the Ambulance Committee.

No Determinations of Public Need were received.

No Transfer of Operating Authority applications were received.

Public Access Defibrillation (Pad) Notifications

- 35 New and 18 Renewing PAD Program applications were received from June 10 through September 22, 2009.

**Volunteer Participation in 911 System TAG**

The VAC contract was reviewed over the summer by members of the volunteer sector. Areas of concern are:

- Volunteers need to operate in their NYS DOH approved territory
- Agencies need to have an option to exit the system if a priority call is received from their community
- Want a two (2) year agreement
- FDNY liaison meetings need to be held in the evenings or via conference call
- Recommend a minimum of 3 fixed, 6-hour shifts per week
- Precedent set over summer when VACs worked in the 911 system without GPS, etc.
- FDNY would have to provide equipment and radios
- Questions about Worker's Compensation

A letter will be drafted to be sent to FDNY.

The next meeting of the Ambulance Committee will be October 27, 2009.

**TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT**

The T&E Committee met on September 9, 2009. The following are meeting highlights:

A Certified Lab Instructor Prescreening and Course will be held at the LaGuardia Community College on September 25, 26 & 27, 2009.

The following Course Sponsor Renewals are recommended for approval:

- John Jay College (BLS)
- New York Hospital Queens (BLS & ALS)

***Remsco discussed and voted to approve.***

**Instructor recommendations from NYS DOH BEMS:**

The following individuals have successfully completed all intern requirements and are recommended by the New York State Bureau of EMS for instructor certification and to be put on the agenda for the New York City REMSCO's Training and Education meeting for June 23, 2009

CIC

- Adam Pernice (LaGuardia)

CLI

- Lisa DeSena (FDNY)
- Julie Fardella (FDNY)
- Kevin Kelleher (FDNY)
- Erica Lemieux (FDNY)
- Rudolph Mohammad (Universal Emergency Care)
- Melissa Monik (FDNY)
- William Murphy (Emergency Care programs)
- Steve Petres (FDNY)
- Yusuke Yonehara (Emergency Care Programs)

***Remsco discussed and voted to approve.***

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. David Ben-Eli reported that the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. The following are meeting highlights:

- Public Notice of the following enforcement actions from New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, Operations Unit, was read into the REMAC Minutes:

<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>EMT #</b>	<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Violation of</b>	<b>County of Residence</b>
Edward Ashley	273953	3-month suspension of EMTP starting 7/29/09 and a \$2000 fine	Not identified	West Sand Lake
Jeffrey Mondo	338694	Suspension from 8/14/09 through 11/01/09	Part 800.15 (a) and 800.16 (a)	Lackawanna

- Due to implied liability, and at the request of NYS DOH, REMAC has ceased providing Limited ALS level of approval to BLS agencies. The one (1) agency currently approved, Corona VAC, was contacted and advised that their status was disapproved. Corona applied as a full ALS service and was approved.

# THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

- A more progressive and reasonable system for revision and implementation of regional protocols was discussed. It was stated that the current system which allows for protocol revisions twice a year is a training and financial burden for many agencies. It is also a burden for paramedics taking the regional credentialing exam, and creates difficulties in preparing the exams.
  - **The following motions were approved:**
    - **Protocols will be revised and implemented one (1) time per year. REMAC retains the ability to implement protocol changes in order to address issues of life threatening impact.**
    - **Protocol revision/implementation calendar shall be as follows: All protocols approved by REMAC and SEMAC as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, will be issued to all regional EMS agencies on that date. Implementation date will be the following April 1<sup>st</sup>, which provides a 90-day training window.**
- Draft Flu protocols were developed, based on the already existing SARS procedure. SARS differs from H1N1 in that H1N1 has an asthma component that must be addressed with asthma medications. A draft has been developed since the REMAC meeting and is attached. Implementation date is October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This protocol is still being revised; a training component will also be part of this advisory.
  - **The following motion was approved**
    - **REMAC strongly recommends all EMS providers be immunized for the seasonal and H1N1 virus.**
- Proposed changes to Triage protocols were discussed. The addition of an 'Orange' category is being evaluated. No decision or approvals have been made.
- The REMAC Bylaws will be revised to include additional seats: 3 non-voting (2 At Large, 1 Public). A Pharmacist is being sought.

The next REMAC meeting will be held on October 20, 2009.

***The Council supported REMAC's position to strongly recommend vaccination of prehospital providers.***

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Joint Regional Emergency Medical Services Council/Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) Quality Improvement Committee met on Tuesday, September 1, 2009.

### **The following were discussed:**

#### 1. Patient Care Restriction

FDNY did provide the Committee with a copy of its policy, which was disseminated to members for informational purposes.

It was stated that SEMSCo/SEMCo has affirmed all remac's authority to restrict both BLS and ALS level providers within their respective regions.

2. Paramedic Cards

The QA Committee requested that a listing of credentialed NYC REMAC Paramedics be posted on the Council's website. Agencies will be notified and advised to review this posting as part of pre-employment review.

3. QA Studies

The QA Committee must identify items that it wishes to study. Once the studies are identified, a medical resident create the study and tools. The REMSCO office will collect the data. This data will be provided to the resident for input and evaluation.

Next meeting of QA will be announced once scheduled.

## STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT

**The State EMS Council and SEMAC met on September 2 & 3, 2009. The following are meeting highlights. The complete meeting can be viewed on the NYS DOH website.**

1. EMS Bureau Director Ed Wronski will retire this fall. His final work days will (appropriately) be during Thanksgiving week. Lee Burns, currently Acting Deputy Director of the Bureau, will be Acting Director.
2. The Vital Signs 2009 conference will be held on the October 15 – 18 in Rochester. Go to [www.vitalsignsconference.com](http://www.vitalsignsconference.com) for details.
3. Pulse Check 2009, the annual conference of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, will be held on October 1-4. See [www.nysvara.org/pulseCheck.html](http://www.nysvara.org/pulseCheck.html) for details.
4. A Finance Committee proposal to realign course funding brought considerable feedback from Course Sponsors, Regional Councils, and Program Agencies. The general consensus of about 70% of the correspondents was that elimination of reimbursement for EMT-I original and refresher, EMT-CC original and Paramedic original courses was not acceptable. The Finance Committee will revisit course funding at their final meeting of this year.
5. A 2010-2011 budget of \$23,539,320 for EMS in New York was proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by SEMSCO. By law, this will be forwarded to the Health Commissioner and on to the Legislature.
6. The Safety Committee is pleased to report that Bureau Incident Reporting Form is complete. See Policy # 09-08 at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm).
7. Medical Standards approved adding Solu-Cortef to the NYS ALS formulary.
8. DOH discussed the Department's Emergency Regulation requiring seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccinations for all health care workers (HCWs) in Article 28 facilities who have patient contact. Compliance is required by November 30<sup>th</sup> (this window may move based on H1N1 vaccine availability). The mandate does not

# THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

extend to prehospital care providers unless they are employed by a hospital or nursing home. It does, however, extend to EMS students doing clinical rotations in hospitals or Emergency Departments. Additional information can be found at: [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/communicable\\_disease/h1n1\\_swine/index.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/communicable_disease/h1n1_swine/index.htm).

9. SEMAC did not have a quorum but they recommended the Bureau work with DOH to step up training EMS providers on influenza vaccinations and antiviral medications. If pandemic burdens overload local resources, EMS may be requested to participate in vaccinations and/or antiviral medication distribution.
10. NFPA ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) decided to develop a standard for ambulance design. The first meeting was held over the summer (June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009). This group will ultimately consist of 30 members divided evenly into 10 representatives from manufacturers, 10 from users, and 10 from regulators. Once NFPA develops and issues an ambulance design standard, the federal KKK specifications will no longer be revised.
11. New York has finally agreed to begin collecting NEMSIS (the National EMS Information System, see: [www.nemsis.org/](http://www.nemsis.org/)) standard data elements in our PCR system.
12. FDNY proposal to implement response of a rapid organ recovery ambulance equipped to preserve organs of patients pronounced in the field when consent for donation had previously been given is back on track to start a trial run of the program shortly.
13. Training and Education voted to roll out the new EMT curriculum in NYS on September 1, 2011. EMS curricula at all levels have been completely revised. Go to [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov) and click on the Education tab.
14. Starting this fall (September 2009), Student Applications must contain an agency code if you plan to seek DOH funding for EMS students in certification courses. Vouchers will be adjusted to deny funding for any student without an agency code on their Student App. One more reason to carefully look over those yellow forms before sending them on to the Bureau...
15. A discrepancy between Part 800 and KKK specs exists: Part 800.22 (b) requires ambulances be capable of carrying two recumbent patients. KKK-A-1822F (7/2007) 3.10.3 calls for an ambulance crew seating design with a seatbelt, padded back and padded headrest positioned to allow care of the primary patient. Ambulances built to this newest standard may not also be able to accommodate a second supine patient. Until DOH can revise 800.22, they have directed field reps to notate compliance with the latest KKK spec on their inspection report and not to fail the inspection when the new KKK spec is properly met. The Bureau noted that they have no desire to neither discourage purchase of safer ambulances nor make agencies expend additional funds to comply with both 800.22 and KKK 3.10.3.
16. Admit Computer Services is one of the scarce OGS approved vendors for CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) systems. Their product, Impact<sup>®</sup>, is sold largely in New York and New Jersey as a soup to nuts "state of the art" CAD (see: <http://impact-sys.com/>). Difficulties regarding this system were discussed.
17. Medical Standards took a grid of skills and procedures done in the back of a moving ambulance by unbelted EMS providers and categorized what should, should not,

and what could be done with caution. They will provide this at the December meeting.

18. SEMAC still needs to tackle the bleeding control using tourniquet issue in an effort to standardize care across the provider levels in New York State (Medics go directly to application of a tourniquet when direct pressure fails to control external extremity bleeding while all other providers continue to try elevation, pressure points, and pressure bandages before considering tourniquets).
19. The final 2009 SEMAC and SEMSCO meetings are scheduled for December 1 and 2, to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, State & Lodge Streets in Albany, NY 12207.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Nadine Levick reported on the National Academies Transportation Research Board for the forthcoming 2009 Ambulance Transport Safety Summit on Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Keck Center, Washington, D.C.

The goal of this Summit is to bring diverse fields of technical expertise together to assist EMS systems to have access to objective and optimal technical information that relates to transportation safety issues in EMS. This Summit provides an independent forum for the exchange of this information among diverse fields of technical expertise, to develop a means of accessing optimal, most reliable and valid data upon which EMS Systems may base their management, purchase and operational decisions. Speakers at this Summit include the representatives from the NTSB, NHTSA, lead EMS Services, Policy makers, Automotive Engineering experts and researchers.

Webinar participation is free, onsite attendance is \$50 to cover meals and logistics – Pre-registration is essential for either Webinar participation or onsite attendance. It is a full day event.

This is the registration link for both onsite and webinar participation:

<http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=76ec3285-590a-46ec-b6b0-8f1877c49e44>.

The next meeting of the Regional Council Committee will be October 27, 2009.