

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

## Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City

September 23, 2008

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on September 23, 2008 at 6:00 PM, at the Offices of the Regional EMS Council, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

### **PRESENT**

#### Organizational Members

##### Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp

Yediyah Langsam, PhD, alternate for Harold Jacob

##### Fire Department, City of New York/Emergency Medical Services

Glenn Asaeda, MD

Division Chief Frances Pascale

Chief John Peruggia, EMTP, alternate for Division Chief Frances Pascale

##### Greater New York Hospital Association

Phil Eguiguiurens, alternate

##### New York City Health & Hospital Corporation

Lorraine M. Giordano, MD

##### New York City Office of Emergency Management

Nicholas Lobel-Weiss, alternate for Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno

##### New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc.

###### District #4

**James Downey, First Vice Chair**

###### District #18

Christopher Legaz

##### United New York Ambulance Network

**Al Rapisarda, Second Vice Chair**

Michael Raiola, alternate for Dan Leibowitz

#### At-Large Members

Robert Crupi, MD

Jeffrey Horwitz, DO

Nadine R. Levick, MD

Ralph Cefalo

Vincent Barranco, EMTP

Charles Hummel, PhD, EMT

Mordechai Lax, EMTP

Michael Raiola, EMT

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Brenda Morrissey, EMT

## Staff

Marie Diglio, EMTP, Executive Director Operations

Michelle S. Klemm, Operations Coordinator

Joseph Raneri, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

## Guests

Martin Grillo, NYSVARA

Christopher Tocco, NYSVARA/RISAR

Daniel Kurtz, NYSVARA/RISAR

Kevin Rodriguez, NYSVARA/RISAR

## **ABSENT**

### Organizational Members

#### Fire Department, City of New York/Emergency Medical Services

David Prezant, MD

Chief Janice Olszewski

#### Greater New York Hospital Association

Susan S. Stuard

Andy Butterfass, MD

#### New York City Police Department

Victor Politi, MD

#### Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Vacant

### At-Large Members

Nadine R. Levick, MD

Joseph A. Marcellino, MPH, Parliamentarian (excused)

Virginia A. Tufaro (excused)

Scott Orlanski, EMT

Arthur Cooper, MD

Vacant

Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 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; there was a quorum present.

Dr. Horwitz asked if there were any comments, questions or changes regarding the Minutes of the June 24, 2008 meeting. After hearing no changes, a motion was made to accept the June 24, 2008 Minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

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

➤ **Membership:**

- The following members requested to be excused for the meeting: Al Villacara, DMD; Virginia A. Tufaro, RN;

➤ **FDNY:**

- A copy of the monthly inventory control PCR reports for the period of June 1– 30, 2008. In addition, late submissions data for the following months: July through December 2007 and January through May 2008.
- A copy of the monthly inventory control PCR reports for the period of July 1– 31, 2008. In addition, late submissions data for the following months: April through December 2007 and January through June 2008.
- A copy of the monthly inventory control PCR reports for the period of August 1– 31, 2008. In addition, late submissions data for the following months: January through July 2008.

➤ **NYS DOH:**

- 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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>EMT #</b>	<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Violation of</b>	<b>County of Residence</b>
Michael Conradis	182988	Surrendered effective 8/20/08.	10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (b)	Nassau
Manuel Villegas	189657	Suspended for one (1) year, effective 9/2/08	10 NYCRR Part 800.15(b), 800.16(a) & 800.16(b)	Brooklyn
David Wardlaw	354710	Suspended for one (1) year, effective 9/2/08, suspension stayed, \$1000 penalty	10 NYCRR Part 800.16(c)	Shinglehouse, PA

- A copy of a letter from Edward G. Wronski to Christopher Tocco, Roosevelt Island Search and Rescue, regarding their request for assistance in receiving certification as a Basic Life Support First Response EMS system. According to Mr. Wronski, the Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS), does not certify Basic Life Support First Response Services (BLS-FR) as they are not defined or authorized in Public Health Law Article 30.
- A letter from Edward G. Wronski, Director, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, regarding the need for mutual collaboration between the Regional EMS Councils, the

EMS system and other interested parties in order to diversify the membership of the State EMS Council members to accurately reflect the diverse population of New York State.

- ***A response was submitted stating the membership of the Regional EMS Council of NYC has always reflected the diverse population of NYC.***
- A copy of a letter from Lee Burns, Associate Director Operations, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, to Christopher Tocco, Roosevelt Island Search and Rescue, regarding their request for an agency code number as a Basic Life Support First Response service. According to Ms. Burns, if the agency obtains an agency code this does not constitute an authorization to provide prehospital care in a specific location or municipality. In addition, the agency must meet specific qualifications and have an endorsement from the Regional EMS Council.

## **Training & Education:**

- A copy of a letter from Andrew G. Johnson, Health Program Administrator, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, to Theresa Sheil, NYC Board of Education, was received regarding their application to renew their course sponsorship. As of July 11, 2008, the New York State Department of Health has not received their application for renewal. If they plan to renew they must have their renewal application received by the New York State Department of Health before July 31, 2008.
- A copy of a letter from Andrew G. Johnson, Health Program Administrator, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, to Arthur J. DeMello, Gerritsen Beach Fire Department, regarding their application to renew their course sponsorship. As of July 11, 2008, the New York State Department of Health has not received their application for renewal. If they plan to renew they must have their renewal application received by the New York State Department of Health before July 31, 2008.
- A copy of a letter from Gary L. Tuthill, Senior EMC Rep., Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, to Michael J. Mocuiski, Montefiore Medical Center EMS, regarding the approval of their transfer of operating authority from Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center (7011) to Montefiore Medical Center EMS. The transfer was approved, but they need to complete an application for the New York City area office as soon as possible.
- A copy of a letter from Andrew G. Johnson, Health Program Administrator, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, to Marie Diglio, Regional EMS Council of NYC, regarding their application to renew their course sponsorship. As of July 11, 2008, the New York State Department of Health has not received their application for renewal. If they plan to renew they must have their renewal application received by the New York State Department of Health before July 31, 2008.
  - ***A renewal application was submitted by the due date. Until this time, the NYS DOH has not asked Regional Councils, which are limited to instructor level courses, to submit renewal applications.***
- A copy of a letter from Lee Burns, Associate Director Operations, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, to Marc Beckenstein, Assistant Administrator, Victory Memorial Hospital explaining there is no record of Victory Memorial Hospital providing service for the last 30 days. If the hospital wishes to prove continued operations, it must submit documentation up to the present date of July 24, 2008. In addition, if the hospital is working with Downstate Medical Center to provide medical services, then Downstate will be required to obtain the ambulance operating certificate by applying to the NYC REMSCO for a transfer of ownership.

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- A copy of a letter from Christine Alvarez, Course Sponsor Administrator, LaGuardia Community College, to the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS regarding Donald Cardone serving as the Co-CIC of the Paramedic and EMT-Refresher courses enclosed.
- A copy of a letter from Christine Alvarez, Course Sponsor Administrator, LaGuardia Community College, to the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS regarding the transfer of Program Director responsibilities for EMT-Paramedic Original Course #088029 from Jeffrey Spencer, EMT-P to Brian Haughney, EMT-P.
- A copy of a letter from Barbara A. D'Amato to Karen Meganhoffen, Associate Director, New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS , informing her that she will be retiring her training site and Ralph D'Amato's name with it.
- A copy of a letter from Christine Alvarez, Course Sponsor Administrator, LaGuardia Community College, to Karen Meganhoffen, Associate Director, New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS informing Ms. Meganhoffen that Dr. Lorraine Giordano is the new Medical Director. Dr. Giordano will begin on September 5, 2008.

## ➤ Other:

- A letter from SUNY Downstate Medical Center detailing their "Cover Your Cough" drill on July 20, 2008. A flyer was attached providing contact information to register.
  - **REMSCO staff and several area EMS agencies participated in this full-scale drill. The NYC REMSCO electronic provider/patient tracking system was tested.**
- An Application for the New York State EMS Council Annual Awards for Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center E.M.S. for the EMS Agency of the Year award.
  - **Our Lady of Mercy was no longer an EMS agency at the time of award submission.**
- An Application for the New York State EMS Council Annual Awards for Peter Kwaith, EMT-P, for the Advanced Life Support Provider of the Year award.
  - **The award was received after the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and could not be submitted to the State EMS Council.**
- A letter from Todd Schiffman (from Montana) concerning the creation and distribution of memorial magnets for 9-11.
- A copy of a letter from Stephen H. Shane, President and CEO, Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. (RIOC), to Christopher Tocco, Roosevelt Island Search & Rescue (RISAR) informing RISAR that RIOC grants RISAR authority to respond to medical emergencies for which it is licensed or certified on Roosevelt Island conditioned upon the receipt of a NYS DOH agency code and compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. This includes, without limitation, NYS DOH, REMSCO and additional RIOC terms.
- A Public Notice for the Transfer of Operating Authority of Century Ambulance, Inc. to CAS Acquisition I, LLC d/b/a Century Ambulance Service was returned from Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corp.
- A Public Notice for the Transfer of Operating Authority of Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center EMS to Montefiore Medical Center EMS was returned from Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

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- A copy of a letter from Don Spero, Acting Chief Financial Officer, MTA Bridges and Tunnels to E-ZPass Account Holders. This letter informed emergency services and public agencies that the MTA Board is considering a resolution which will eliminate non-revenue E-ZPass authorizations. If the resolution is passed on September 24, 2008, they will contact agencies about how to self-fund E-ZPass accounts.

## The Offices of the Regional Council sent the following correspondence:

- Agendas, Minutes and associated attachments for the June 2008 meeting.
- A letter to Daniel Clayton, the Health Program Administrator, New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, regarding course paperwork for the Certified Instructor Update Course on May 18, 2008.
- A letter to Beth Mauro nominating the following for New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association Special Awards:
  - EMS Leadership Award: Joseph Marcellino, MPH, EMTP, Flatlands Volunteer Ambulance Corps. (**Awardee**)
  - Unit Citation: North Shore Rescue Squad No. 1 Inc.
  - Medical Director of the Year: Nadine Levick, MD (**Awardee**)
  - Educator of the Year: Rosanne Murphy, RN, EMT (**Awardee**)
- Letters to EMS Week 2008 Sponsors thanking them for their support this year.
- A letter to Nadine R. Levick, MD informing her that she is the recipient of the REMSCO NYC Physician of Excellence Award for 2007. She will be honored at the Regional EMS Week Awards Ceremony held on May 18, 2009.
- A letter to John Leary, Chief of North Shore Rescue Squad No 1 Inc. informing him that his agency is the recipient of REMSCO NYC EMS Agency of the Year Award for 2007. North Shore Rescue Squad will be honored at the Regional EMS Week Awards Ceremony held on May 18, 2009.
- A letter to Joseph Marcellino, MPH, EMTP informing him that he is the recipient of the REMSCO NYC EMS Leadership Award for 2007. He will be honored at the Regional EMS Week Awards Ceremony held on May 18, 2009.
- A letter to Rosanne Murphy, RN, EMT informing her that she is the recipient of the REMSCO NYC Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence Award for 2007. She will be honored at the Regional EMS Week Awards Ceremony held on May 18, 2009.
- A letter to Laurent O'Hare at Wagner College, informing her that Rosanne Murphy, RN, EMT, has been chosen to receive the Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence Award by the Regional EMS Council of New York City. She will be honored at the Regional EMS Week Awards Ceremony held on May 18, 2009.
- A letter to Joseph Marcellino, MPH, EMTP, informing him that he has been reappointed as an At Large Member of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City. His appointment is for four (4) years.
- A letter to Arthur Cooper, MD, informing him that he has been appointed as an At Large Member of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City. His appointment is for four (4) years.

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- A letter to Brenda Morrissey, informing her that she has been appointed as an At Large Member of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City. Her appointment is for four (4) years.
- A letter to Edward Wronski, Director, New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, regarding a Course Sponsor Training Center operating out of its approved territory. The Course Sponsor is Saint Vincent's Hospital-Institute of Emergency Care. Attached was documentation evidencing the correct operating territory: New York County NOT New York City.
- A letter to Lourdes Pina, Legal Assistant, Law Offices Drabkin & Margulies, informing her that the Office of the Council does not maintain ambulance call reports.
- A letter to Lee Burns, Associate Director of Operations, New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS, regarding the Council's recommendation to approve the Transfer of Operating Authority of Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center EMS to Montefiore Medical Center EMS.
- A letter to Keith Guerra, Director of Public Safety, Roosevelt Island Operating Corp, informing him Roosevelt Island Search and Rescue Volunteers, Inc. BLS First Response Application was approved.
- A letter to Chris Tocco, Assistant Chief Operations, Roosevelt Island Search and Rescue Volunteers, Inc., informing him that Roosevelt Island Search and Rescue Volunteers, Inc. was approved to operate as a Basic Life Support (AED) First Response Agency by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City. He was informed that their operational territory is limited to Roosevelt Island only.
  - *Due to subsequent multiple complaints from Roosevelt Island Operating Authority, a cease and desist operations letter was issued to Roosevelt Island Search and Rescue Volunteers, Inc.*
- A letter to Edward Wronski, Director, New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, informing him the Office of the Regional Council has provided assistance several times to the HRSA-EMS for Children's Program and has always provided assistance to the NYS DOH.
- A letter to Charles Hummel, PhD, EMT-CIC, Administrator, West Queens EMT Institute, informing him the Office of the Regional Council is in receipt of his organization's application to expand its operating territory. This application will be reviewed on September 9, 2008 by the Training and Education Committee and if approved will go to the Regional Council on September 23, 2008.
- A letter to Saul Katz, Office of Continuing Education, Kingsborough Community College, informing him that the Office of the Regional Council is in receipt of his organization's application for Course Sponsorship. The application is incomplete, but will be reviewed by the Training and Education Committee on September 9, 2008.
- A letter to Irving Kaminsky, informing him that the Office of the Regional Council is in receipt of his organization's application for Course Sponsorship. The application is incomplete, but will be reviewed by the Training and Education Committee on September 9, 2008.
- A letter to Sam Krinsky, Researcher at 1199 SEIU/United Healthcare Workers East, informing him that the Office of the Regional Council received his New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request and the Office of the Council is working on fulfilling his request.
- A letter to Valerie Ozga at the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, nominating the following for 2007 NYS EMS Council Awards:

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- EMS Agency of the Year: North Shore Rescue Squad No. 1 Inc.
- EMS Leadership Award: Joseph Marcellino, MPH, EMTP
- Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence: Rosanne Murphy, RN, EMT
- Physician of Excellence: Nadine Levick, MD

- **No one from NYC was selected**

- A letter was sent to Edward G. Wronski, Director at the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS regarding Regional Council Diversity. This letter explained that our current membership is representative of the diverse makeup of not only our healthcare system, but also the city.
- A letter to Karen Meggenhofen, Associate Director Education and Certification, New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, informing her of the course sponsor renewals received and recommended by the Regional EMS Council of New York City for approval. Copies of the following renewal applications were attached:

NYSDOH ID #	CS Type	Operating COUNTIES	Training Center
08-005	ALS	New York	St. Vincent's Hospital of New York Institute for Emergency Care
08-022	BLS	New York, Bronx, Kings, Queens, Richmond	Our Lady of Mercy Healthcare System Institute for Emergency Care Training
08-032	BLS	Kings, Queens	Gerritsen Beach Fire Department
08-040	BLS	Richmond	Training Institute for Medical Emergencies & Rescue (TIMER INC)
08-042	ALS-Refresher	New York	New York Presbyterian Hospital
08-050	ALS Refresher)	New York, Bronx, Kings, Queens, Richmond	Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corps. EMT Training Center
08-064	ALS	New York	Borough of Manhattan Community College
08-070	BLS	New York, Bronx, Kings, Queens, Richmond	Emergency Care Programs, Inc.
08-078	BLS	Bronx	Code One Inc
08-080	BLS	Queens	EMT Training, Inc.
08-083	BLS	Queens	Western Queens
08-060	BLS	Queens	Whitestone VAC

- Letters to the following stating they were recipients of New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association "Pulse Check 2008" awards:

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- Rosanne Murphy, RN, EMT, Educator of the Year Award
  - Joseph Marcellino, MPH, EMTP, Leader of the Year Award
  - Nadine Levick, MD, Physician of the Year Award
- A NYC REMAC Public Notice for the Proposed Revisions Prehospital Treatment Protocols was sent to all ambulance agencies requesting comments from the Emergency Medical community.
- A faxed copy of two overdue invoices was sent to Jesse Schneider of Citywide Mobile.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT/PROGRAM AGENCY REPORT

### Executive Directors' Report/Program Agency Report

Marie Diglio, Executive Director Operations, reported the Chairpersons of Regional Council and REMAC, along with Executive Staff have been participating in meetings with the FDNY Program Agency with regards to regional deliverables.

Marie Diglio announced that the disks with FDNY specific training materials was received and was being forwarded to the QA and Training & Education Committees for review.

## AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Ambulance Committee met immediately prior to the Regional Council Committee Meeting.

Jeffrey Horwitz, DO informed the Council that the Ambulance Committee discussed the following:

- Nadine Levick, MD provided information about the EMS Safety Foundation Summer Update. This update included NFPA and Ambulance Standards; October EMS Transport Safety Workshop/Summit information; the upcoming September EMS Safety Foundation Webinar; and a reference list and links for EMSSF Webinars and Handouts.
- A seconded motion comes from the Ambulance Committee: **pending** a letter of support from the Roosevelt Island Operating Authority, Roosevelt Island Search & Rescue Volunteer Inc (RISAR) could be reinstated as a BLS/First Response agency.

***Council conducted a vote and the results were the following: 9 Approved, 0 Opposed and 6 Abstentions. The motion carried.***

- A Technical Advisory Group was established to determine what role and responsibilities the Regional Council has in authorizing BLS/First Response agencies.
- A Technical Advisory Group was re-established to review and authorize Specialty vehicle ambulance security stickers.
- Fire Department of New York City will be providing all 911 and community based ambulances with two (2) elevator fire service keys per vehicle. There will be an FDNY advisory sent out concerning how to use the key and when to use the key.
- Fire Department of New York City, in response to a request made by the New York State Department of Health, placed Parkway Hospital on total diversion on Friday, September 19, 2008. After information of this diversion was distributed, Parkway Hospital obtained a restraining order to maintain their operations until a scheduled hearing. Therefore, the diversion was lifted until such time.

The next Ambulance Committee Meeting will be October 28, 2008.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT

The Training & Education Committee met on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. The following are meeting highlights:

### Regional Faculty:

1. Two CLI courses were conducted during the summer months. 34 candidates took the entrance exam; 27 passed and went on to complete the courses.
2. A schedule for upcoming instructor courses is being developed

### Course Sponsors:

The following come in the form of seconded motions:

1. The following individuals have completed requirements to be certified as instructors and are recommended for approval:

CLI: Miguel Bravo (St John's Univeristy)  
Lawrence Newman (NY Methodist)

CIC: Anthony Gorman (LaGuardia)  
Donna Jaworski (St. John's University)  
William McDonald (SIEMT)  
Bernadette Mejia (Modern Health/John Jay)

- **After a brief discussion, the motion was voted upon by Council; the results were as follows: 14 Approved, 0 Opposed and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.**

Marie Diglio announced that there are two additional candidates whose names were received after the Training & Education Committee Meeting. The two names submitted for CIC candidacy were Joe Shulman (St. John's University) and David Cadogan (LaGuardia).

- **After a brief discussion, Council made a motion to approve the two additional CIC candidates; the results were as follows: 15 Approved, 0 Opposed and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.**

2. The application to transfer the **Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center** course sponsor training center to Montefiore Medical Center was recommended for approval. There is no change in staff or facility.
  - **After a brief discussion, the motion was voted upon by Council; the results were as follows: 14 Approved, 0 Opposed and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.**
3. The application to create a new BLS course sponsorship submitted by **Kingsborough Community College** was not recommended for approval. The application was deemed incomplete and did not have any information identifying a need for a new BLS sponsor in the county of Kings.

- ***After a brief discussion, the motion was voted upon by Council; the results were as follows: 14 Approved, 0 Opposed and 1 Abstention. The motion carried.***
4. The application for a new BLS course sponsor in Kings County submitted by **Irving Kaminsky** was not recommended for approval. The application was deemed incomplete and did not have any information identifying a need for a new BLS sponsor in the county of Kings.
- ***After a brief discussion, the motion was voted upon by Council; the results were as follows: 11 Approved, 0 Opposed and 5 Abstentions. The motion carried.***

The following issue was not resolved at the Training and education Committee and is brought forward for Council consideration and action: Ms. Diglio stated that there was a time constraint in Article 30 which forces the Council to make a decision; therefore the Council must decide tonight what recommendation to make.

1. The application to expand from Queens into Kings County from the **West Queens EMT Training Institute**. The application did not have any information identifying a need for an additional BLS training site in the county of Kings.
  - ***After a brief discussion, the Council discussed the issue, the general consensus was to deny based on no identifiable need for a new training site in Brooklyn. After further discussion, Charles Hummel, on behalf of West Queens EMT Training Institute, withdrew the application.***

**Other:**

Regional Golden Standard for Training Centers continues to be developed

The next meeting of the T&E Committee will be held on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:30 pm.

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. The following are meeting highlights:

1. REMAC elected the following individuals to be officers:
  - Lewis Marshall, MD, JD as Chairperson
  - Joseph Bove, MD as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson
  - Heidi Cordi, MD as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson
2. REMAC approved the following protocol changes:
  - Waveform Capnography must be used for **ALL** advanced airways by January 1, 2009.
3. REMAC approved allowing staff to review the Termination of Resuscitation Guidelines and to create a draft Advisory for Online Medical Control Physicians. The draft must be approved by REMAC prior to dissemination.

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4. REMAC supported work of the SAFE TAG. Its curriculum and PowerPoint presentation will be further reviewed prior to dissemination.
5. REMAC referred the proposed Patient Care Restriction Policy to the QA Committee for further review and to create a regional process.
6. Dr. Michael Guttenberg will no longer be serving as Chairperson of the Medical Standards Committee. Nominations are being accepted by the Offices of the Regional Council. Elections will take place at the October 7 Medical Standards Committee meeting.
7. REMAC re-affirmed its decision to no longer support EMT-CC level of care within the NYC region.
8. The 2009 REMAC Paramedic Exam calendar was approved.
9. The next **Regional orals exam is scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2008** at 09:00, FDNY BOT in Fort Totten, Queens. Examiners able to attend should notify the REMAC Liaison at 718-999-2671 or [swansoc@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:swansoc@fdny.nyc.gov).
10. The Next REMAC meeting will be on October 7, 2008.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Joint Regional Emergency Medical Services Council/Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) Quality Improvement Committee met on September 9, 2008. The following is a meeting summary:

### **Regional QA Study**

Data reviewed regarding paramedic interpretation of 12 lead EKG. Possible recommendations include:

- Develop improved 12 lead course
- Make submission of EKG mandatory to OLMC prior to transport
- Create a new 12 lead EKG QA test to be given during refreshers
- Allow machine to make interpretation
- Teach providers how to make clean lead attachment

### **Patient Care Restriction**

The draft regional policy was developed and distributed. Committee members present stated that all EMS Providers must be given due process about restrictions. REMAC should be notified of all patient care restrictions, including reason, length, lifted or permanent, was there remediation. Criteria must be identified; should be a patient safety focus.

All EMS agencies will be asked for the following:

- Number of restriction over the past six months and reason, length, lifted or permanent, was there remediation
- Restriction policies

The next meeting of the QA Committee will be held on November 6, 2008.

## STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT

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The SEMSC met on September 10 & 11, 2008. The following are meeting highlights:

1. Pursuant to Congress failing to renew the emergency response provisions of the Ryan White Law (December 2006), NYSDOH BEMS sent an informational packet on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 outlining current provisions for sharing confidential information in cases of suspected occupational exposures to HIV. The informational packet and a PowerPoint are both available at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/aids/occupational\\_exposure](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/aids/occupational_exposure).
2. The Governor signed legislation effective July 7th, 2008, authorizing the MOLST form as acceptable for prehospital DNR purposes throughout all of New York State. MOLST provides advanced directives for pre-arrest situations, including: DNI (Do Not Intubate) and others. Visit the MOLST website for additional information at [www.compassionandsupport.org](http://www.compassionandsupport.org). A more detailed Bureau Policy Statement is forthcoming.
3. New Policy Statements on the Bureau website:  
[www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm)
  - 08-04 on seat belts in EMS vehicles
  - 08-05 revising instructor certification requirements (removes “you must currently be actively providing prehospital care with an agency” from the requirements for CIC recertification)
  - 08-06 on a new federal requirement for high visibility vests when working on or near roadways. (Federal requirement effective November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008)
4. High visibility vests: for an extensive discussion of the issue and EMS implications, go to:
  - [https://www.rkb.us/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=200647](https://www.rkb.us/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=200647)
  - <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/secretarchives.php>
5. Six Regional Councils have banded together to create a CME website: <http://funcmes.com>.
6. The final draft of the National Educational Standards for EMS is available, along with Educational Guidelines for each Standard ([www.nemsed.org/draft\\_standards/index.cfm](http://www.nemsed.org/draft_standards/index.cfm)). They will be delivered to NHTSA in September. The standards do not include teaching objectives.
7. State budget cuts have struck hard. The Bureau has a freeze on hiring, limitations on travel, and closer scrutiny of staff time and state vehicle usage. Effects on SEMSCO and SEMAC will reduce 2009 meetings from 5 per year to quarterly, and reduce spending for meals at meetings. Services can expect to see less of their Bureau reps.
8. A bill authorizing issuance of official license plates to volunteer ambulance and/or fire companies has been signed into law. Link to [www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A10590](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A10590) for more information.
9. The Office for Technology notified M/A-Com on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 that NYS has declared the company in default of the SWN (Statewide Wireless Network) Master Agreement. This started a 45-day clock giving M/A-Com time to remedy all outstanding deficiencies. Testing of an initial SWN in Western NY found significant deficiencies. A copy of the notice and further information is posted on the OFT website at: [www.oft.state.ny.us/SWN/Aug\\_29\\_default.htm](http://www.oft.state.ny.us/SWN/Aug_29_default.htm).
10. The SEMSCO Finance Committee proposed a 2009/2010 recommended budget estimate for EMS in New York State of \$23,596,180. They reiterated that funds for Regional Councils and Program Agencies have remained at \$3.45 million since 1999 without even a single cost of living increase. The 2009/2010 request for this line is \$5.83 million – this while EMS turns back some \$2 million annually in unspent training monies. The formula locking 50% of

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EMS dollars into training made sense when it was written into law but deserves a serious second look by the legislature and EMS stakeholders.

11. The State Supreme Court in Onondaga County ruled in May that the Bureau can no longer “grandfather” service operating territory based on evidence of operation prior to 1975. Based on this decision, the Bureau will no longer entertain requests to amend or clarify territory based on grandfathering.
12. On a note of caution: the NYS Attorney General's office recently fined Greenport Rescue Squad in Columbia County for improper billing practices (“balanced billing”). The press release can be viewed at [www.oag.state.ny.us/media\\_center/2008/aug/aug13a\\_08.html](http://www.oag.state.ny.us/media_center/2008/aug/aug13a_08.html).
13. New: A Federal consolidated EMS website [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov).

Remaining SEMAC and SEMSCO meetings in 2008 are scheduled for December 2 and 3, to be held at the Best Western Sovereign, 1228 Western Avenue in Albany, NY 12203.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## NEW BUSINESS

### MTA Bridges and Tunnels Proposed Plan: Eliminate Non-Revenue E-ZPass Authorizations for Public Agencies and Emergency Services Organizations

A copy of a letter was received concerning the MTA Bridges and Tunnels Proposed Plan to eliminate non-revenue E-ZPass authorizations for public agencies and emergency services organizations. The MTA Board will be considering this plan on September 24, 2008, which if adopted, would mean that the agency's E-ZPass tags will no longer be valid for toll-free passage across MTA Bridges and Tunnels nine facilities and they will be required to pre-fund a revenue E-ZPass account so as to provide for uninterrupted service. Furthermore, if this plan is approved, the agency will keep their existing E-ZPass tags and the MTA will be contacting the agencies to inform them how to fund them.

*The Council agreed unanimously to send a strongly worded letter to the MTA supporting the EMS agencies that currently have non-revenue E-ZPass accounts. Dr. Marshall, Chair of REMAC will be asked to co-sign this letter with Dr. Horwitz.*

### New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association

The New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association had their annual Pulse Check Conference. The following were voted as officers of the association:

- President of Association: Mike Mastrioni, Upstate Poughkeepsie
- Executive Vice President: Roy Swift, Bourbon, New York
- Vice President Re-Elected: Henry Ehrhardt, District 4 New York City
- Treasurer: Bob France, District 7 Long Island, New York
- Financial Secretary: Michael Wilhelm, District 4 in Queens, New York
- Secretary: Christie Hubbard, Upstate New York

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The following awards were presented at Pulse Check:

- Presidential Award: Nancy Ehrardt, District 4 for co-editing the Blanket Newsletter
- Leadership of the Year Award: Joseph A. Marcellino, MPH, District 4 Flatlands VAC and New York City REMSCO
- Educator of the Year: Rosanne Murphy, RN, New York City
- Medical Director of Excellence: Nadine Levick, MD, NYC REMSCO

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M. The next meeting of the Regional Council Committee will be October 28, 2008.