

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

Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City

October 24, 2006

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on October 24, 2006 at 6:30 PM, at the Greater New York Hospital Association, 555 West 57th Street, New York, NY.

PRESENT

Organizational Members

Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

Yediyah Langsam, PhD, alternate for Harold Jacob

Fire Department, City of New York/Emergency Medical Services

Chief John Peruggia, alternate for John McFarland

Mark Steffens

Greater New York Hospital Association

Alison Burke, alternate for Susan S. Stuard

Andy Butterfass, MD

Juan Acosta, MD

New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation

Lorraine M. Giordano, MD

New York City Police Department

Victor Politi, MD

New York City Office of Emergency Management

Sam Benson, alternate for Joseph F. Bruno, Commissioner

New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc.

District #4

James Downey, First Vice Chair

District #18

Don Radenberg

Christopher Legaz, alternate for Don Radenberg

Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Phillip Hew, MD

United New York State Ambulance Network

AI Rapisarda, Second Vice Chair

At-Large Members

Arthur Cooper, MD

Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair

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Joseph A. Marcellino, MPH

Ralph Cefalo

Staff

Marie Diglio, Executive Director Operations

Nancy Benedetto, Executive Director Administration

Michelle S. Klemm, Operations Coordinator

Joseph Raneri, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Guests

Martin Grillo, New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association

Daniel Meisels, New York Presbyterian EMS

Bill Howe, SVCMC/RUMC

Bill Amanera, SVCMC/RUMC

ABSENT

Organizational Members

Fire Department, City of New York/Emergency Medical Services

David Prezant, MD

Glen Asaeda, MD

United New York Ambulance Network

Dan Leibowitz

At-Large Members

Nikolaos Alexandrou, MD (excused)

Carmelita L. Blake (excused)

Robert Crupi, MD (excused)

Nadine R. Levick, MD (excused)

Catherine Norton-Lind, FNP, Parliamentarian

Michael Vatch (excused)

Virginia A. Tufaro (excused)

The Regional EMS Council thanks the Greater NY Hospital Association for the use of its facility this evening.

Dr. Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Dr. Horwitz asked if there were any comments, questions or changes regarding the Minutes of the September 26, 2006 meeting. Hearing none, the Minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Offices of the Regional Council received the following:

➤ Membership:

- The following members requested to be excused:

Nikolaols Alexandrou, MD

Carmelita L. Blake

Robert Crupi, MD

Nadine R. Levick, MD

Michael Vatch

Virginia A. Tufaro

- An email was received from Glenn Asaeda requesting to be excused for November's REMAC/ALS meetings.
- A letter from Robert Crupi, MD of Flushing Hospital Medical Center, nominating Vincent Barranco, EMTP for a seat as an At-Large Member of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City.
- A letter was received by Gerard A. Cooke, Sergeant In Charge for the Police Relief Fund Inc. advising the Regional EMS Council that Dr. Victor Politi will represent the NYC Police Relief Fund Emergency Medical Squad, Agency Code #7277 regarding all Ambulance Committee and REMSCO meetings.

➤ From FDNY:

- A copy of the Medical Affairs Directive 2006-08, September 29, 2006, for Asthma and BLS Albuterol Administration, new training materials and EMT Practical Exam Sheet.
- Copy of PCR Inventory Report from the Office of Medical Systems Management FDNY for:
 - August 1- August 31, 2006, August-December 2005 and January-July 2006, sent to NYDOH. (Dated September 15, 2006; received September 18, 2006)

➤ From DOH:

- Three duplicate copies of a packet were received concerning the need for First Responders to prepare for the H5N1 Avian influenza virus and how to interact with those who have disabilities. These packets contained a hard copy of the CDC's "Emergency Medical Service and Non-Emergent (Medical) Transport Organizations Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist" which can be found at www.pandemicflu.gov. Packets also contained information concerning what the Avian influenza is and how to protect yourself. Finally, the packet included a laminated flip card system to be used in the field when interacting with persons with disabilities. The flip-books were extremely basic and seemed more appropriate for "CERT" trained persons. Order forms were also included.

Staff Note: This should be discussed. Who in DOH decides to direct funds for such items? Is there any medical oversight or input?

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- A copy of an Interoffice Memorandum to SEMAC and SEMSCO Members regarding two handouts distributed at the September 14 and 15, 2006 State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC) meetings. The first hand out addressed the “Culture of Safety Initiative” and the second addressed the need for developing and updating an “EMS Online Directory”.
- A copy of a letter sent to Joseph DeMorato, Vice President of Priority One Ambulance, Inc. informing him of the Regional EMS Council of New York City’s vote on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 to approve the transfer of the ambulance operating authority of Keefe & Keefe, Inc. (dba Rural Metro) to Priority One Ambulance, Inc. An application for Ambulance Service Certification was attached to the original letter.
- A copy of a letter dated September 29, 2006 from Karen Meggenhofen to Boykin A. Martin, Director of Adult and Continuing Education of the NYC Board of Education, stating that the DOH is unable to provide an Application for Renewal of Course Sponsorship. The deadline for late submission was August 31, 2006. Ms. Meggenhofen then explained that after that date the course sponsor would have to reapply for a new Course Sponsorship. Attached is a letter dated August 8, 2006 explaining that the Course Sponsor Application expired on June 30, 2006 and that the DOH was unable to approve any new course applications submitted by the sponsor’s organization or process funding vouchers without a current sponsorship agreement on file in the DOH office.
- A copy of a memorandum was received regarding Instructor Recommendations for the T&E Meeting September 21, 2006. The DOH recommends the following candidates be put on the Training and Education Meeting for the New York City Regional EMS Council on September 21, 2006:

-CLI: Maria Amoroso, Scott Heinz, Scott Marucheu, Kathy McGlone, Sandra Saccone and Kristen Sweeney

-CIC: Mario Cabrera and Andrea Buzas Mahoney

- A faxed copy of the Mutual Aid Mobilization System Memorandum of Understanding was sent to Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps to replace their missing copy.
- A letter to Nancy Benedetto from Emergency Medical Training Institute regarding a schedule revision for EMT-B Original Course 087045 and EMT-B Refresher 087046, which are scheduled to begin on October 26, 2006.
- A copy of a “Change in Course Sponsorship Administration” form was received from Transcare Ambulance. The original was sent to the NYS DOH BEMS.
- A confidential letter was received by Marie Diglio. This will be presented to the QA Committee.

The Offices of the Regional Council sent the following correspondence:

- Agendas, Minutes and associated attachments for the September 2006 meetings.
- Letter sent to Edward Wronski, the Director of NYS DOH BEMS, informing him that at the September 26, 2006 meeting of the Regional EMS Council the following members were elected as officers:

- Chair: Jeffrey Horwitz, DO
- First Vice Chair: James Downey
- Second Vice Chair: Al Rapisarda

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- Parliamentarian: Catherine Norton-Lind, FNP
- Secretary: Joseph Marcellino, MPH
- A copy of a letter sent to Lee Burns, Associate Director, Operations of the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS from Ms. Diglio stating the Regional Council of New York City re-voted to approve the Transfer of Operating Authority Application: Keefe & Keefe, Inc. (7269) dba Rural/Metro Medical Services to Priority One Ambulance, Inc on September 26, 2006 at the Regional Council Meeting. The voting record was enclosed.
- A faxed copy of the above letter was also sent to Karen Taddeo, the attorney representing Priority One Ambulance, Inc.
- A copy of the Regional EMS Council of NYC Ambulance Security Information was sent via fax to Sarah of Chevra Hatzalah.
- A copy of the SEMAC membership list was sent via fax to Lewis Marshall, MD.
- A copy of a CIC Internship Completion Report for Antony Soto, EMT-P was received from Arthur Demello of Gerritsen Beach. The original was mailed to Bob Iovine's office.
- Copies of the Transfer of Operating Authorities for Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc. and St. John's Queens Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc. were sent to the following recipients pursuant to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act: Jessie Schneider of Citywide Mobile Response and Roslyn Weinstein of Queens General Hospital. An invoice was attached. Also, copies were sent to Michael Vatch, member REMSCO.
- Public Notice was mailed and published for the following transfer of operating authority applications:
 - St. John's Queens Hospital EMS To Caritas Health Care
 - Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS To Caritas Health Care
 - SVCMC St. Vincent's (SI) to Richmond University Medical Center

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT/PROGRAM AGENCY REPORT

- The Program Agency and Regional Council contracts with the NYS DOH were sent in and executed in a timely manner.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

No new applications for Determination of Public Need have been received by the Offices of the Regional Council.

Transfer of Operating Authority

The following applications have been received by the Offices of the Regional Council and are recommended for approval:

St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers (Staten Island campus) Hospital EMS (0584) to Richmond University Medical Center

The Ambulance Committee of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City finds, based upon the receipt of a complete application for Transfer of Operating Authority for St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers (Staten Island campus) Hospital EMS (0584) to Richmond University Medical Center and a review of the Competency and Fitness

having been conducted by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City and the New York State Department of Health; and that review having revealed no issues challenging Competency and Fitness, recommends that approval of the Transfer of Operating Authority of St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers (Staten Island campus) Hospital EMS (0584) to Richmond University Medical Center for operating authority within the New York County of Richmond, be granted. If the Article 28 transfer is not approved then the ambulance Transfer of Operating Authority is null and void.

After discussion, the Regional Council conducted a written vote; the results are as follows: 14 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

St. Johns Queens Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc.

The Ambulance Committee of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City finds, based upon the receipt of a complete application for Transfer of Operating Authority for St. Johns Queens Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc. and a review of the Competency and Fitness having been conducted by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City and the New York State Department of Health; and that review having revealed no issues challenging Competency and Fitness, recommends that approval of the Transfer of Operating Authority of St. Johns Queens Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc for operating authority within the New York County of Queens, be granted. If the Article 28 transfer is not approved then the ambulance Transfer of Operating Authority is null and void.

After discussion, the Regional Council conducted a written vote; the results are as follows: 14 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc.

The Ambulance Committee of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City finds, based upon the receipt of a complete application for Transfer of Operating Authority for Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc. and a review of the Competency and Fitness having been conducted by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City and the New York State Department of Health; and that review having revealed no issues challenging Competency and Fitness, recommends that approval of the Transfer of Operating Authority of Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS (0584) to Caritas Health Care Inc. for operating authority within the New York County of Queens, limited to Woodhaven, Jamaica, and South Jamaica, be granted. If the Article 28 transfer is not approved then the ambulance Transfer of Operating Authority is null and void.

After discussion, the Regional Council conducted a written vote; the results are as follows: 14 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

LaGuardia Airport Drill - the airport drill had limited participation with the voluntary hospitals and volunteers. It is anticipated participation next year will be expanded to include more providers. Overall the drill went smoothly and triage was done effectively. The portable radio cache was not available the day of the drill.

Staten Island Ferry Drill - a Staten Island Ferry Exercise will be held on November 1st. A Ring-Down (activation of REMSCO Communication Matrix) will be conducted in the next few days (performed, in accordance with the current REMSCO NYC Mutual Aid Mobilization Plan, by New York Presbyterian Hospital). The drill scenario will be a bomb exploding on a ferry. There will be approximately 70 patients to treat.

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SUNY Downstate Disaster Drill - there will be a disaster drill sponsored by SUNY Downstate on December 10, 2006. Participants include the voluntary ambulances, volunteers and FDNY.

Dialogic System - was implemented to reach out to EMS agencies and providers for mutual aid response. This system is already used by other city agencies, including NYC OEM and NYCDOHMH. The system does not replace the current system developed for the REMSCO NYC Mutual Aid Mobilization Plan. Since this is an automated web-based system operated by a company located in the Midwest, Nancy Benedetto explained the number appearing on the call receiver's caller id will identify a "615" area code.

Turnout Jackets - the office of the Regional Council has been negotiating bids for Turnout Jackets, and the funds are in place to begin the purchasing process. Turnout Jackets will not be distributed to individuals, but rather to ambulance agencies - estimated two jackets per vehicle.

Dosimeters - the Regional Council has received the final approval for the purchase of dosimeters and the order has been placed. There will be approximately one or two per ambulance. Prior to receiving dosimeters, agency EMS personnel must attend a radiation awareness course and an operational class. Also, the Protocol Committee will be developing an operational/medical procedure and protocol for the dosimeters.

Escape Hoods - the Regional Council has received information that MSA will be re-issuing NIOSH approved escape hoods and is starting to recall the older models. However, MSA and the Regional EMS Council agreed to allow the older models to be used for training purposes. EMS Agency staff will have to go through hazardous materials training before the new hoods are given out.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT

There was no meeting of the Training and Education Committee. The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2006.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on Thursday, October 12, 2006, the following are meeting highlights:

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

Name	EMT #	Penalty	Violation of	County of Residence
Emilio J. Estevez	319929	Certification suspended for three years effective 9/18/2006	10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (d)	Nassau
Jermain Thompson	326750	Certification Annulled effective 6/15/06	10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (c) and (d)	Westchester
Robert Taylor	076058	Revoked effective 8/28/06	10 NYCRR Part	Westchester

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			800.16 (a) and (b)	
Frank Morgenthaler	067464	ALS Revoked effective 9/11/06. Basic certification expiring 8/31/08 suspended for 3 years. The suspension is stayed. Placed on 3 years probation effective 9/11/06	For 9 counts each of violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.15, 800.16 (a) and (b). One additional count of violating 800.16 (g)	Cayuga
Daniel Ramos	108469	Revoked effective 8/28/06	10 NYCRR Part 800.15 (b), 800.16 (a) and (b)	Bronx

2. The next REMAC Oral Exam is being held on October 24th, 2006 (0900 hours) at FDNY Division of Training, Fort Totten.
3. The next meeting of the ALS Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.
4. The following protocol issues were discussed:
 - BLS Protocol 400 – Weapons of Mass destruction Nerve Agent Exposure Protocol: revised
 - Acute Stroke – Comparison of GOP and Appendix: corrected
 - Intra-Nasal Narcan:
 - Typo in 503A and 503B corrected:
 - Delayed capillary Refill: removed
 - ALS Protocol 510 (Anaphylatic Reaction): corrected
 - Subcutaneous administration: removed
5. Minimum standards for resident physician REMAC Paramedic Examiners are being developed.
6. REMAC is reviewing an incident at a recent REMAC Refresher exam wherein a participant allegedly took notes on the content of the exam with the admitted intent of removing the information.
7. A recent conference that included information on the Strategic National Stockpile was discussed. This includes emergency push packs that will be available within twelve hours of request and other supplies that will be available after four hours of request. Also, any emergency room physician can request the Strategic National Stockpile when needed.
8. FDNY is to take part in an international randomized study regarding defibrillators that will start on January 1, 2007. This study will last two years and test to determine at what point in a cardiac arrest is CPR or defibrillation more effective.

The next meeting of the REMAC Committee will be held on November 7, 2006.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Diglio reported that Dr. Marshall is attempting to set up a meeting with the chairperson of the QA/QI Improvement Committee.

STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT

1. The SEMSC met on September 14 & 15, 2006. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th and 13th.
- 2.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

National EMS Preparedness Initiative Policy Summit

According to Chief Peruggia, the summit took place on October 16-17, 2006 in Washington D.C. and included forty-nine EMS Chiefs, Officers, Administrators and Directors from America's largest cities. They discussed issues regarding the EMS role in protection, preparedness, response and recovery. Chief Peruggia also said that there will be several meetings over the next few months with FDNY and several other agencies to discuss the issues important to the EMS community.

David I. Weprin, Chairman, Finance Committee and New York City Council Member

A copy of a press release from David I. Weprin, Chairman, Finance Committee and New York City Council Member was received by the Offices of the Regional Council. The press release is focused on three pieces of legislation from the Volunteer Emergency Services Assistance Plan. They are the following:

- Wholesale Gas for Volunteer Emergency Services
- A local law that would require the City of New York to comply with the Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Law, passed on March 28th, 1988, by the New York State Legislature, and provide workers' compensation benefits for all New York City active duty volunteer ambulance workers who are "active volunteer members of an ambulance company and are injured in the line of duty.
- A resolution calling upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to follow suit in their distribution of unlimited-use metrocards to all New York City Fire Department engine and ladder companies, special fire units, FDNY EMS units and Volunteer Fire Departments throughout the city, and distribute unlimited-use metrocards to NYC Volunteer Ambulance Companies in order to allow them quick and easy access to subways during emergencies.

After discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Langsam to have Council members send a letter to city council representatives and the mayor in support of this legislation. The motion passed.

An award was presented to Arthur Cooper, MD for his years serving as Regional Council Chairman, and for his many years of dedication to the Regional EMS Council.

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A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:13pm. The next meeting of the Regional Council Committee will be held on November 28, 2006 (6:30 PM) at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10115.