

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

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

**October 27, 2009**

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on October 27, 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. Aaron Katz, alternate for Harold Jacob	
Fire Department, City of New York Emergency Medical Services	2.	David Prezant, MD
	3.	Glenn Asaeda MD (excused)
	4. Frances Pascale, EMTP	
	5. Janice Olszewski, EMTP	
Greater New York Hospital Association	6. Alison Burke, alternate for 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

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	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Organizational Members</b> <i>(continued)</i>		
New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. District 4	12. Ryan Gunning, EMT James Downey, EMT, alternate	
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</b> Michael Raiola, alternate	
	16. Dan Leibowitz	
<b>At-Large Members</b>		
	17.	Vincent Barranco, EMTP, Secretary (excused)
	18. Ralph Cefalo, EMT (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	

<b>At-Large Members</b> <i>(continued)</i>		
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
	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**

Lewis Marshall, MD, Chair, REMAC NYC  
 Gary Kaplan, Boundtree Medical  
 Jose A. Prosper, Emergency Aid Training, Inc.

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 September 27, 2009 meeting. Hearing none, the Minutes were approved unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

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

**Membership:**

- The following members requested to be excused:
  - Vincent Barranco; Charles Hummel; Mordechai Lax; Brenda Morrissey

**From FDNY:**

- PCR monthly inventory report for August 2009, June 2009, July 2009.

**From NYS DOH:**

- H1N1 Update information package (this was distributed by REMSCO office to regional agencies)
- Letter stating the FDNY has again appealed REMAC's decision regarding FDNY's request to lower staffing standards from dual to single medic on transporting ambulance in the 911 system.
  - A response was sent to NYS DOH reminding them that REMAC's decision was – that in order to do no harm – a study must first be conducted (jointly between REMAC and FDNY) before changing a citywide staffing standard that has stood for more than 25 years. Since no study has been conducted jointly with REMAC, REMAC's decision remains unchanged.
- **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
Court Cousins	250593	Suspended 1 year (10/7/09 – 10/7/10)	800.15(b), 800.16(a)	Syosset
Samuel Setter	159405	Suspended effective 9/21/09	Failure to comply with a previous stipulation and order	Avoca

**Training and Education:**

- Change in course sponsor administration from NY Presbyterian Hospital: Larry Wheeler, Course sponsor liaison, Daniel Ribaudo, administrator, Neal Floebaum, Medical Director
- Change in course sponsor administration from West Queens Emergency Medical Training Institute: Michael Wilhelm, Course sponsor liaison, Helen Fries, administrator, Jeffrey Horwitz, Medical Director
- Change in course sponsor administration from NYPD ESU: Kutteh Hani, Course sponsor liaison, Kutteh Hani, administrator, Charles Martinez, Medical Director

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- Course application from LaGuardia Community College for Paramedic course (180025) identifying all class dates, topics, instructors/lecturers.
  - New vouchering for reimbursement rules for funded courses from NYS DOH.
  - Announcement of a free EMT course for persons with low income from LaGuardia Community College.
- Application from Emergency Aid Training, Inc. to conduct BLS courses in Bronx. The two primary members are: Kevin Mahoney and Jose Prosper. Will require a vote.

## **Other:**

- Bankruptcy notice from Cabrini Hospital
- October 2009, The Pulse.

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

- Agendas, Minutes and associated attachments for the October 2009 meetings.
- Reimbursement voucher for CLI prescreening and course conducted in September at LaGuardia Community College.

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

It was reported that the Program Agency contracts still have not been approved.

## **AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Yedidyah Langsam, Chair of the Ambulance Committee, reported the following:

No Determinations of Public Need were received.

No Transfer of Operating Authority applications were received.

### Public Access Defibrillation (Pad) Notifications

- 11 New and 6 Renewing PAD Program applications were received during October 2009.

A letter will be sent to FDNY voicing concerns and comments regarding the draft VAC-FDNY 911 Participation contract.

SeniorCare applications (two) for Specialty Vehicle Security Stickers were reviewed and found to be compliant. The Ambulance Committee approved the applications. Security Stickers will be made available.

### Roosevelt Island (RISAR) BLS First Response

The status of the Roosevelt Island BLS First Response unit was discussed. A complaint has been received from the Roosevelt Island Operating Authority, stating that the chief officer of RISAR has been arrested for operating in an unapproved manner and impersonating an EMT. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the actions that REMSCO will have to take. The Council recommended a cease and desist letter be sent to RISAR. The Ambulance Committee has formed a TAG to review the continued need for BLS First Response.

### Volunteer Login

It was stated that FDNY RCC is not accepting log-ins from volunteer ambulances into the 911 system (MARS). This began on October 13, but there appears to be no reason for it. Chief McFarland was emailed and he responded that he was not aware of any change in policy. Chief Pascale stated she would bring this to the attention of Chief Peruggia. It was pointed out that volunteers not able to log in, would not be able to request ALS backup if it were needed.

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

## **TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT**

The T&E Committee did not meet. The following items require action due to statutory time requirements:

Emergency Aid Training, Inc. submitted an application for BLS Sponsor in Bronx. This sponsor will be using Hostos Community College as a site for courses. The application appears complete, but there is one concern that the only clinical affiliation agreement is with one volunteer ambulance corps. It was thought this might not provide adequate clinical time for students.

The Council discussed this issue, and motioned: Recommend approval of Emergency Aid Training, Inc. as a BLS course sponsor limited to the Bronx, with the proviso that additional clinical agreements be developed to better serve student training. After additional discussion, the Council voted as follows: 10 in favor, 1 opposed, and 5 abstentions. The motion carried.

**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, October 20, 2009. The following are meeting highlights:

- Letter stating the FDNY has again appealed REMAC's decision regarding FDNY's request to lower staffing standards from dual to single medic on transporting ambulance in the 911 system.
  - A response was sent to NYS DOH reminding them that REMAC's decision was – that in order to do no harm – a study must first be conducted (jointly between REMAC and FDNY) before changing a citywide staffing standard that has stood for more than 25 years. Since no study has been conducted jointly with REMAC, REMAC's decision remains unchanged.
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- Protocols were reviewed and revised. Several will be going to SEMAC for review.
- Based upon discussion and results from the FDNY Triage exercise, REMAC recommended the inclusion of an Orange category into the current TRIAGE system.
  - FDNY conducted an exercise which collected data from participants. The 24 participants were quickly trained prior to the exercise. Data collection consisted of asking participants how they felt about the proposed new triage category: Did they think it would it reduce response time? Did they think it would it reduce under and over triage? Did they feel it would be easy to integrate the administration of 5 BVM breathes to peds into the current triage system?
- FDNY will provide 1 year's worth of triage tags for volunteers and private ambulance agencies. Training programs are being developed and will be disseminated by FDNY. FDNY stated it was committed to training.

**REMSCO discussed this issue and requested that a presentation by made at its next meeting.**

- REMAC Bylaws will be discussed again and voted at the next meeting. Bylaw revisions are limited to adding three additional non-voting seats.

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- REMAC is working with NYC DOH to activate its POD plan to receive and distribute H1N1 vaccine to non-municipal EMS providers. This is not mandated – it is being offered.
- FDNY is proposing a unique method of reducing 911 ambulance calls by giving over the phone prescriptions for Tamiflu to callers who present as having flu-like symptoms.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Joint Regional Emergency Medical Services Council/Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) Quality Improvement Committee will meet on January 5, 2010.

## STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT

**The State EMS Council and SEMAC will meet on December 2 & 3, 2009.**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy Benedetto reported that the Regional Council is assisting the NYC DOHMH with city vaccination sites by coordinating availability of volunteer ambulances to provide standbys. REMSCO will also be receiving H1N1 vaccine for the volunteer and private sectors and will activate its POD plan so that providers can be immunized.

## NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Nadine Levick gave a brief report on the status of the upcoming National Academies Transportation Research Board 2009 Ambulance Transport Safety Summit on Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Keck Center, Washington, D.C. She stated the on-site seminar is booked full, but that it could be viewed via webinar.

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

The next meeting of the Regional Council Committee will be November 24, 2009.