

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

Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City

September 26, 2006

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on September 26, 2006 at 6:30 PM, at The Regional EMS Council, 475 Riverside, Drive, New York, NY 10115, Room C/D.

PRESENT

Organizational Members

Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, alternate for Harold Jacob

Fire Department, City of New York/Emergency Medical Services

David Prezant, MD

John McFarland

Chief John Peruggia, alternate

Glen Asaeda, MD

Mark Steffens

Greater New York Hospital Association

Andy Butterfass, MD

George Lindgren, alternate for Juan Acosta, MD

New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation

Lorraine M. Giordano, MD

New York City Police Department

Victor Politi, MD

New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc.

District #4

James Downey, Second Vice Chair

District #18

Don Radenberg

Ralph Cefalo, alternate

United New York State Ambulance Network

Al Rapisarda, Parliamentarian

At-Large Members

Arthur Cooper, MD, Chair

Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, First Vice Chair

Nikolaos Alexandrou, MD

Robert Crupi, MD

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Joseph A. Marcellino, MPH

Michael Vatch

Staff

Marie Diglio, Executive Director Operations

Michelle S. Klemm, Operations Coordinator

Joseph Raneri, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Guests

Marvin Raidman, REMSCO

Martin Grillo, New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association

Anthony Conrardy, North Shore/CIS Health Systems

ABSENT

Organizational Members

Greater New York Hospital Association

Susan Stuard

New York City Office of Emergency Management

Joseph F. Bruno, Commissioner

Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Phillip Hew. MD (excused)

At-Large Members

Carmelita L. Blake (excused)

Arthur Cooper, MD, Chair (excused)

Nadine R. Levick, MD (excused)

Catherine Norton-Lind, FNP, Secretary (excused)

Dr. Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, First Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Dr. Horwitz asked if there were any comments, questions or changes regarding the Minutes of the June 27, 2006 meeting. Hearing none, the Minutes were approved.

Dr. Horwitz presented a message from Arthur Cooper, MD, Chair:

Dr. Cooper regrets being unable to attend tonight's meeting. He thanked the Council for allowing him to serve as Chair for the pass two years.

Dr. Cooper reported he had spoken to Edward Wronski, NYS DOH, regarding the issue of EMS personnel being arrested for using identification in the form of badges. DOH sent a response (handout) again affirming the Council's right to design and issue badges and other uniform insignia. He stated DOH has offered to facilitate a meeting between the Council, Federal Protective Services and NYPD to amicably resolve this issue. Dr. Cooper requested a letter be sent to Ed Wronski to facilitate this meeting.

Dr. Cooper also reported, In accordance with the revised Article 30 B, an information meeting is being held on October 12, immediately after the REMAC meeting. The following are invited to attend:

- Chairs of RTAC, REMSCO, REMAC
- OEM representative
- FDNY representative
- GNYHA representative
- NYS Volunteer Ambulance Association representatives
- Private Ambulance sector representative
- HHC – Lorraine Giordano, MD
- Eliot Lazar, MD
- NYSDOH representative

The Council wishes to thank Dr. Cooper for the last two years of leadership as Chair of Regional Council, and all the other varied committees, TAGs, and working groups he has led and participated in. His efforts in our region, New York State, and on the National level have helped improve not only Emergency Medical Services, but heightened awareness of pediatric issues.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Offices of the Regional Council received the following:

- Membership:
 - The following members requested to be excused:
 - Catherine Norton-Lind
 - Arthur Cooper, MD
 - Letters from James B. Downey, District 4 NYC Region of NYSVA&RA, nominating the following candidates for At-Large Seats:
 - Arthur J. DeMello
 - Morris M. Fajtelewicz
 - Martin L. Grillo
 - Charles F. Hummel
 - Brenda M. Morrissey
 - Robert C. Smath
 - *Mr. Downey spoke to Marie Diglio and stated the NYSVA&RA was in favor of the Nominating Committee's slate, and these nominees could be considered at a later date.*
- From NYC Office of Emergency Management:
 - Memo and CD received concerning NIMS Training.
 - Staff spoke to OEM and requested enough NIMS training CDs for all EMS Agencies. These CDs have been received and will be distributed.

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- From FDNY:
 - Copy of PCR Inventory Report from the Office of Medical Systems Management FDNY for:
 - May 1-May 31, 2006, November-December 2005 and January-April 2006, sent to NYDOH. (Dated June 20, 2006; received June 28, 2006)
 - June 1-June 30, 2006, March-December 2005 and January-May 2006, sent to NYDOH (Dated July 17, 2006; received July 19, 2006)
 - July 1-July 31, 2006 and February-June 2006, sent to the NYDOH (Dated August 16, 2006; received August 18, 2006)
 - Copy of ACR Inventory Report from the Office of Medical Systems Management FDNY for:
 - May 1-May 31, 2006 and March-April 2006, sent to NYDOH (Dated June 20, 2006; received June 28, 2006)
- From DOH:
 - A booklet detailing the schedule and workshops for the EMS Vital Signs Conference 2006, being held on October 19-22, 2006, in Syracuse
 - Letters were sent to several course sponsors stating that a review of DOH records indicated they did not submit renewal applications. The course sponsors were the following: NYC Board of Education, Lighthouse, Inc. and the High School for Health Professions.
 - *Staff note: High School for Health Professions is no longer operable*
Due to deaths of two key leaders at Lighthouse, Inc, a restructuring is in process
 - Copy of a letter to Lighthouse, Inc. (DBA Rock Volunteer Ambulance Service) including a Statement of Deficiencies based on the investigation of the lapse in the operation of their ambulance service.
 - Copy of a letter to NYC REMSCO approving our course applications to conduct two NYS EMS Certified Instructor Update Courses and a CIC course.
 - Faxed letter containing the CIC/CLI Attendance List for the EMSC Rollout of Child Abuse and Neglect: A Continuing Education Course for NYS EMTs, February 2006.
 - Letter sent to Arthur Cooper, MD, Chair, from Lee Burns regarding the Council vote of Transfer of Operating Authority: Keefe & Keefe, Inc. dba Rural Metro Medical Services to Priority One Ambulance, Inc. Letter stated the REMSCO vote is invalid since it was conducted prior to receiving C&F report from DOH.
 - The Council sent a letter to Lee Burns as a follow-up to the June 28, 2006 letter stating pursuant to the Council's motion, the Competency & Fitness information received from DOH was reviewed by the Council's Executive Committee and that Keefe & Keefe, Inc. completed requirements for approval recommendation.
- Pamphlet received from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc. detailing the latest conference on Comprehensive Crisis Intervention Systems being held in Miami, Florida, on October 5-8, 2006.

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- Invitation from Hunter Ambulette-Ambulance for the Fifth Annual Remembrance Ceremony for the victims of September 11, 2001 being held at “Hero’s Garden” on Tuesday, September 12th at 10 a.m.
- Certificates of completion for IS-100, IS-200 and ICS-300 were received from James B. Downey.
- Letter from Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps asking us to support its Dinner Dance event either by attending or paying for a journal page. The event will be held on October 28, 2006. (Original with REMAC Correspondence)
- Application for the New York State EMS Council Annual Awards submitted by NYSVA&RA. The candidate is Ted Rabinowitz and he is being nominated for the Harriet C. Weber EMS Leadership Award.

The Offices of the Regional Council sent the following correspondence:

- To NYS DOH:
 - Application sent to Karen Meggenhofen, the Associate Director Education at NYS DOH BEMS, for a second Certified Instructor Update.
 - Letter sent to Edward Wronski, the Director of NYS DOH BEMS, nominating Robert Smath for the EMS Educator of Excellence Award and Ryan Gunning for the EMS Leadership Award for the 2006 EMS Awards.
 - Letter sent to Antonia C. Novello, M.D., MPH, DrPH, Commissioner of Health State of New York, requesting that they intervene on the issue of EMS personnel carrying badges.
 - Letter sent to Karen Meggenhoffen, the Associate Director Education at NYS DOHBEMS, stating that the Regional Council received an application from Saint John’s University to become a Course Sponsor Training Center, but no action was taken because it was received on August 17, 2006. This was after the final Regional EMS Council meeting of the year. We are asking for an extension to complete an appropriate review of this application.
 - Letter sent to Karen Meggenhoffen, Associate Director Education of NYS DOH BEMS, regarding a receipt of application for Course Sponsor Training Center from the Emergency Care Institute of Bellevue Hospital. The application was received on June 22, 2006 and no action was taken because it was received only a few days before our final Regional EMS Council meeting of the year.
 - Letters sent to Karen Meggenhoffen, the Associate Director of Education at NYS DOH BEMS, including course paperwork for the Certified Instructor Courses 016035 and 01632.
 - Letter sent to Karen Meggenhoffen, Associate Director of Education at NYS DOH BEMS, informing her the following course sponsor renewals have been received and recommended for approval by the Regional EMS Council of NYC:

NYSDOH ID #	Type	Training Center	Operating <u>COUNTY</u>
08-005	Advanced Life Support	Saint Vincent’s Hospital / Institute of Emergency Care	New York county
08-022	Basic Life Support	Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center	New York, Bronx, Queens, Kings, & Richmond counties

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08-032	Basic Life Support	Gerritsen Beach FD	Kings county
08-040	Basic Life Support	Training Institute for Medical Emergencies and Rescue	Richmond county
08-042	Basic Life Support & Paramedic Refresher	NY Presbyterian Hospital EMS	New York county
08-060	Basic Life Support	Whitestone VAC	Queens county
08-064	Basic and Advanced Life Support	Borough of Manhattan Community College	New York county
08-070	Basic Life Support	Emergency Care Programs	New York, Bronx, Queens, Kings, & Richmond counties
08-078	Basic Life Support	Code One Inc	Bronx County
08-080	Basic Life Support	EMT Training Inc,	Queens county

- Letter sent to Karen Meggenhoffen, Associate Director Education of NYS DOH BEMS, regarding a receipt of application for Course Sponsor Training Center from the Emergency Care Institute of Bellevue Hospital. The application was received on June 22, 2006 and no action was taken because it was received only a few days before our final Regional EMS Council meeting of the year.
- Letters sent to Rae Gordon, NYS DOH BEMS NYC Office, regarding Certified Instructors Update Courses 016032 and 016060.
- To FDNY EMS:
 - A faxed copy of the letter our office sent to the Department of Health regarding the NYPD ESU Tactical Paramedics was sent to John Peruggia as per his request.
- Letter sent to Chief Charles Campisi of the New York Police Department requesting a meeting with his office and that of Federal Protective Services regarding the use of EMS Badges. Attached was a copy of the June 23, 2006 letter from the Central Park Medical Unit sent to NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau regarding arrests of EMS personnel carrying badges.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee of the Regional EMS Council of New York City, Inc. met on Monday, June 12, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

The primary function of the Nominating Committee, which is comprised of three (3) members of the Board of Directors and three (3) members of Regional Council, is to review the nominees for appropriate provider representation and balance, as well as the expertise of the individuals in the areas most appropriate for the particular period of time the Regional Council will elect At-Large members.

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The Committee selected the following individuals for At-Large seats, for the term beginning July 1, 2006:

- Virginia A Tufaro, RN, CEN, MPA
- Ralph Cefalo, EMT

The Committee selected the following individuals for reappointment to At-Large seats, for the term beginning July, 1, 2006:

- Jeffrey Horwitz, DO
- Nadine Levick, MD

The following individuals were nominated to serve as Officers of the Regional Council, for a period of two years, term beginning July 1, 2006:

Chair:	Jeffrey Horwitz, DO
First Vice Chair:	James Downey
Second Vice Chair:	Al Rapisarda
Parliamentarian:	Catherine Norton-Lind, FNP
Secretary:	Joseph Marcellino, MPH

A request for additional nominees from the floor was requested three (3) times. Hearing no new nominees, the Regional Council conducted a vote. The results were as follows: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT

- Marie Diglio, Executive Director Operations, introduced Michelle S. Klemm as a new staff member. Ms. Klemm will be functioning as Operations Coordinator and Ms. Diglio's Assistant.
- Remsco is in the process of collecting data to produce new Photo ID cards and hopes to distribute them within the next two months. Lorraine Giordano, MD, a representative of New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation asked Marie Diglio if physicians participating as on-line medical control physicians will be receiving photo ids. Marie stated that this was the Council's direction, although EMS providers are currently the priority.
- The new Dialogic System is being tested to perform notification of all EMS Agencies and leadership participating in the regional mutual aid system. Ms. Diglio reported the system has been tested several times and the Council will receive more information at a later meeting. This new electronic system has the ability to contact multiple agency representatives via telephone, cell, pager and email.

PROGRAM AGENCY UPDATE

No report.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

No new applications for Transfer of Operating Authority have been received by the Offices of the Regional Council.

At the June 27, 2006 meeting, the Ambulance Committee reviewed the application submitted for the **Transfer of Ambulance Operating Authority of Keefe & Keefe (dba Rural/Metro) to Priority One Ambulance**. Although, the NYS DOH had not yet provided its competency and fitness review, the Committee decided (as it had in the past) to recommend approval, in order to prevent any undue financial hardship to the applicants. The motion was given to the Regional Council, which agreed and voted to grant approval, pending receipt of a favorable review of competency and fitness from the New York State Department of Health and after that information was found acceptable by the Regional EMS Council of NYC Executive Committee.

As of September 26, 2006, Marie Diglio stated she received a letter from Lee Burns, NYS DOH stating the Council could not vote without a Competency of Fitness Report. This meant the Council would have to re-vote on the Transfer of Operating Authority for Keefe & Keefe. In order to avoid this in the future, Ms. Diglio stated we should inform applicants there could be a 3-4 month delay pending receipt of the DOH Competency and Fitness Report.

After discussion, the Regional Council conducted a vote regarding the following motion:

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 of Keefe & Keefe, Inc. (7269) dba Rural/Metro Medical Services to Priority One Ambulance, Inc. and a review of 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 Keefe & Keefe, Inc. (7269) dba Rural/Metro Medical Services to Priority One Ambulance, Inc. for operating authority within the New York counties of Kings, Queens, Bronx, New York, and Richmond, be granted.

The results are as follows: 17 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The motion carried.

Personal Protection Equipment:

I. Jackets and Helmets:

REMSCO has requested bids to purchase safety jackets and helmets. When available, safety jackets and helmets will be distributed to non-municipal agencies based on the number of ambulances an agency has. This will be based on information received for the regional security sticker program. Agencies are encouraged to update security sticker information.

II. Dosimeters:

REMSCO requested bids (for the second time) for personal dosimeters. Although, a dosimeter type had been selected, and a purchase order submitted, the NYC DOHMH put a hold on the process due to training issues.

III. Escape Hoods:

New escape hoods (to be distributed in the near future), will be of a higher specification than old hood currently in use. Once received, equipment will be distributed in the same fashion as previously. It is hoped the old hoods can be used for training.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT

The Training and Education Committee met on September 21, 2006. The following is a summary of the meeting:

- The following individuals have successfully completed all intern requirements and are recommended by the NYS DOH BEMS for instructor certification:

Certified Instructor Coordinator	Certified Lab Instructor
Andrea Buzas Mahoney Frank Nuqui	Maria Amoroso Scott Heinz Scott Marucheu Kathy McGlone Sandra Saccone Kristin Sweeney Gilberto Aviles Elan Weiner

After consideration, the Regional Council voted to approve the recommendations.

- Application for new course sponsorships were received and are being reviewed:
 - ▶ Bellevue Hospital – BLS (reviewer: Rabbi Jonas Gruenzweig)
 - ▶ Monroe College – BLS (reviewer: Christine Alvarez)
 - ▶ St. John’s University (formerly St. Anthony’s) – ALS/BLS (reviewer: Ron Perkins)
- The C&C Committee reported students were not doing well on REMAC Paramedic exam CPAP questions. The T&E Committee will work on a CPAP educational advisory for course sponsors to use in training/refreshing.
- The T&E Committee will contact the State EMS Council Education & Training Committee and QA Committee to ask for assistance in evaluating regional course sponsors. At this time the DOH still does not provide pass / fail information on regional training centers, so that T&E can not identify areas where students do poorly or well, nor can the committee identify course sponsors that have poor certification success rates. The T&E Committee feels its recommendations to renew sponsors are not useful since there is no information available for the decisions to be based on. The T&E committee also believes a follow-up component should be instituted to identify if students are working/volunteering after certification, and the satisfaction level of the agencies they go to.
- FDNY’s 5 year recertification program was discussed. While there is support for cme based recertification, there are fears of creating a system that could affect quality of care. Also, cme based programs have problems with cme of questionable quality.

The Council discussed the following T&E issues:

- ***REMAC Exam-CPAP: Chief John McFarland questioned why the paramedic exam had questions on a procedure so rarely used? Several other members voiced similar opinions.***
- ***Dr. Horwitz stated this exam is not under prevue of the Regional EMS Council and should be referred to REMAC.***

The next meeting of the T&E Committee will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2006.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on Tuesday, September 12, 2006

- 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:

Name	EMT #	Penalty	Violation of	County of Residence
Victor A. Mejias	271506	Certification suspended effective 1/26/06.	10 NYCRR Part 800.16(c) & (d)	Queens
Peter J. Walsh	184883	Certification revoked effective 7/10/06	10 NYCRR Part 800.15 and 800.16	Niagara
Jacqueline E. Felz	252353	Certification suspended effective 8/17/06	10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (c) & (d)	Rockland
Michael S. Doctor	322126	Certification suspended effective 6/23/06	For failure to comply with a previous stipulation and order	Queens
Karen A. Everett	144551	Certification revoked effective 8/18/06	Violations of 10NYCRR Part 800.16 (b) and (c)	Allegany
Emilio J. Estevez	319929	Certification suspended effective 9/18/06 – suspension stayed	Violations of 10NYCRR Part 800.16 (d)	Rockville Centre

- “Reciprocal Agreement Concerning the Provision of Prehospital Care by Providers from Adjacent REMAC Regions” was signed and sent to the Chairperson of the Westchester Regional EMS Council.
- 222 paramedics were issued original/renewal REMAC Paramedic Credentialing cards.
- 20 physicians were issued On Line Medical Control Cards.
- The merging of the ALS & BLS Committees is in process. The goal is to eliminate ALS and BLS as separate committees and form a “Medical Standards Committee.”
- The ALS Committee discussed the different variables associated with the use of Thiamine before glucose in a pre-hospital care setting. The committee decided members requesting this change must provide information in order for a scientifically based decision to be made.
- The next REMAC Oral Exam is being held on October 24th, 2006 (0900 hours) at FDNY Division of Training, Fort Totten.
- Dr. Bradley Kaufman from FDNY will be giving a demonstration of Smart CPR at the next ALS meeting.
- REMAC voted to approve its current officers for another term:
 - Lewis Marshall, MD, JD – Chair
 - Joseph Bove, MD, First Vice Chair
 - Michael Guttenberg, MD, Second Vice Chair

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- Philip Hew, MD, REMAC Representative to the Regional Council
- A letter was received from the Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta at FDNY titled "911 System Ambulance Redirection." This letter stated:
 - "In order to address the delays being experienced in patient care transfer in Emergency Departments, the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) intends to establish an ambulance redirection program, effective September 25 2006, pursuant to which 911 System ambulances will, when excessive delays arise, be redirected from the hospital to which the patient would have otherwise been transported to the next closest appropriate 911 System receiving hospital."
 - Many committee members felt that this letter was sent prematurely and did not address other concerns such as:
 - The legal ramifications that would develop concerning the exclusion of the patient's right to choose his/her own hospital
 - What has been the impact of the new e-pcrs in the response time of vehicles? What is the national average? How is our response time compared to other urban areas?
 - What is the standard for overcrowding at the hospital? Who defines what constitutes as overcrowding?
 - Safe transfer of patient care
 - What issues do the hospitals have
 - The general consensus of the REMAC is that this is a multi-faceted issue and that all variables have to be looked at before a unilateral policy can be developed prematurely. In addition, this is a "Destination Protocol" and under purview of REMAC. A letter is being written to the Fire Commissioner. REMAC and ALS members were urged to attend the meeting on September 13, 2006 being held by FDNY.
- The next meeting of REMAC will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2006.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Diglio reported that the QA Committee had one member come to the meeting. She stated that she would have to make conference calls for the committee to discuss several issues.

PREHOSPITAL PUBLIC HEALTH & INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Marie Diglio stated there is no report. However, the Committee needs more members. The Committee also needs to start preparing for next year's EMS week. Also, if there is anyone on interested in writing for the newsletter, please contact the Offices of the Regional EMS Council.

STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT

The SEMSC met on September 14 & 15, 2006. The following are meeting highlights:

1. SEMAC and SEMSCO finalized the selective spinal immobilization protocol. The approved version makes immobilization decisions based upon patient examination. It will be released once the educational component is completed (targeted for December).
2. In August 2006, DOH written exams started testing the new CPR Guidelines 2005. DOH posted revisions to CFR and BLS Protocols incorporating the changes. Download the August 2006 updates at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/protocolsnew.htm.

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3. The May 2006 change approved by SEMAC and SEMSCO allowing all levels of EMT to give 162 milligrams of chewable aspirin to any patient with suspected acute coronary syndrome (provided there is no history of aspirin allergy and no recent history of GI bleeding) will also be released soon.
4. SEMAC agreed to incorporate the ACLS Guidelines 2005 into the state ALS protocol template (the document used to review and approve regional ALS Protocols). For the purposes of curriculum, testing, and practice, SEMAC voted to accept the 2005 AHA adult and pediatric ACLS guidelines.
5. A new section of the DOH website posts EMT disciplinary actions back to January 2003. Link to www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/sanctions.htm to see the listing. Physician information is available at (www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/opmc/main.htm).
6. The State Education Department notified hospitals that certified EMS providers cannot perform ALS skills falling within the scope of practice of a licensed profession in a hospital setting unless those skills are carried out as part of an original or refresher EMS certification course. A temporary solution has been found—DOH will create a Clinical CME Course (unfunded, of course) run under the auspices of DOH authorized course sponsors in conjunction with a hospital. Students would be enrolled in the course for skill maintenance, to learn new skills, or to remediate skills when a closely supervised setting is desirable. Details should be out to Course Sponsors shortly.
7. The Pilot Refresher program, scheduled to sunset once again this past July, was extended through July 1, 2011, which will celebrate its 15th birthday.
8. The 5-year Pilot Refresher program was expanded to include employees of FDNY. This program, designed to explore the utility of a 5 year CME Refresher Program versus the “pilot” 3-year CME Refresher Program also includes the counties of Delaware, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Nassau, Otsego, Schoharie or Suffolk. Presently, the sun is scheduled to set on the 5-year program July 1, 2008.
9. It's a crime to falsify documents submitted to a State agency. DOH reports a rise in bogus paperwork coming in through the CME Recertification Program. Verification forms, CME certificates, and other paperwork submitted to DOH need to be legit. The Bureau has prosecuted several persons this year, and people have lost their EMT certifications as a result of filing false paperwork.
10. Policy Statement 06-06 delineating the CON process has been posted. Surf to www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy.htm to see this document.
11. Remote Evaluation of Acute Ischemic Stroke (REACH) is a new telemedicine initiative DOH is undertaking to expand the ability of smaller community hospitals to care for stroke patients. Using the Internet, stroke experts from larger medical centers will be able to examine patients, review CT scans, and make recommendations for thrombolytic therapy for patients in outlying hospitals. There are 248 hospitals in New York State, 18 counties have only 1 hospital, and 5 counties have no hospital. Thus far, only half of NY hospitals have applied for designation as Stroke Centers. Lack of neurological consultation is the biggest obstacle, which DOH hopes to overcome by rolling out the REACH program, connecting a half dozen major medical centers with multiple smaller community hospitals to deliver stroke consultations. The project, scheduled to begin September 28, 2006 may allow nearly all NY hospitals to gain stroke center designation, shortening ambulance transport times, and perhaps in the future, expanding to other specialty consultations.
12. Nassau County REMAC sought and received approval to add adult IO to their ALS protocols. IO (Intra Osseous) infusion, first used in the 1930's when intravenous access

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could not be obtained, regained popularity for pediatric emergencies in the 1980's and most recently has acquired acceptance as an alternative means of emergency access for adults, particularly hospital resuscitations. Newer devices make this technique nicely adaptable to pre-hospital emergencies.

13. 12 lead capability survey: Presently, 54% of ALS agencies have 12 lead capability, 42% of ALS ambulances of 12 lead capability, 22% can transmit a 12-lead, and 39% of hospitals can receive a 12 lead (although some consider having a fax machine 12-lead receive capable). At least half-dozen regions have 12-lead capability aboard every ALS bus.
14. Article 30 of Public Health Law was amended to permanently establish the EMSC (Emergency Medical Services for Children) program in DOH, adding sections 3070 through 3075 to article 30-C.
15. The September 2005 deadline for responders to complete NIMS (National Incident Management System) training is upon us. DOH put together an informational packet outlining expectations for EMS providers and agency officers in the form of Policy Statement #06-05. If you need a NIMS clue or two, surf to www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm.
16. Vital Signs 2006 this October 20 through 22 in Syracuse. The Evaluations Committee will offer a session on modern QI planning, the SEMAC Air Medical subcommittee will intro their new DVD on Air Medical Safety, the Paramedic Licensure TAG will conduct a licensure survey, and the PIER committee will hold contests to design a State EMS logo. Go to www.vitalsignsconference.com for registration info.
17. The Evaluation Committee compared 81 NEMSIS (National EMS Information System- www.nemsis.org) data elements to the NYS PCR and found 33 of the NEMSIS elements are not presently captured in New York. They plan to take a closer look at the differences before rendering an opinion on whether New York should dive into the NEMSIS pool. Vermont, New York, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are the only US hold outs on NEMSIS at present.
18. On the subject of PCRs, DOH contracted with the School of Public Health to analyze and run reports on the PCR data. The first of those reports was presented to SEMAC summarizing 1.49 million 2002 PCRs, excluding the City of New York. The data will be compiled and distributed by the Bureau to Program Agencies and County EMS Coordinators. Data from 2003 and 2004 will be completed shortly and 2005 reports may be finished by year-end 2006. Using the School of Public Health to crunch the numbers promises to put DOH leaps and bounds ahead of prior reporting that suffered critically from lack of statistical expertise.
19. Chairs of SEMAC and SEMSCO jointly announced a "Culture of Safety Initiative". Members were encouraged to frame decisions in contest of reducing injury to prehospital providers and patients during transport. The EMS Memorial Service each spring provides a grim reminder that improvements are needed. The fire service has long championed safety issues through a nonpartisan web site known as "The Secret List" (www.firefighterclosecalls.com/). Just recently, they launched an EMS version at www.emsclosecalls.com/ to carry their "no BS" history of brining issues involving injury and death to the forefront and offering real solutions for providers and services to address safety. Scope it out, and support your SEMAC and SEMSCO members as they work to align protocols and practices with a culture of safety.
20. SEMSCO approved the Finance Committee 2007/2008 Budget Estimate for Emergency Medical Services in New York State totaling \$23, 872,113. This funds the DOH EMS

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Bureau, SEMAC and SEMSCO, the Regional Councils and Program Agencies, and EMS Training Courses.

21. The Paramedic Licensure TAG plans to meet the evening prior to the December SEMSCO meetings to hear about Pennsylvania's system of permanent paramedic certification. The TAG also plans to survey medics on licensure during Vital Signs 2006 in Syracuse. Discussion continues on licensure versus permanent certification; presently, 23 states have some form of licensure for medics. A draft report is planned for May 2007.
22. The last 2006 SEMAC and SEMSCO meetings are scheduled for December 12 and 13.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Badges:

Dr. Arthur Cooper, Chair of the Regional Council was sent a letter from Donald P Berens, Jr., General Counsel of the New York State Department of Health informing the Regional EMS Council"

"The Department regrets and shares your concern about emergency medical professionals in New York City being arrested merely for possessing a badge identifying themselves as EMTs. However, the Department is unable to intercede on behalf of those individuals because predicaments in which they find themselves involve a matter not regulated by the Department. As you are aware, I recently opined that no provision of the Public Health Law (PHL) or its implementing regulations specifically requires or prohibits EMTs from possessing badges or other indicia of identification. ***I encourage the Regional EMS Council of New York City, Inc. through an exercise of its authority under PHL 3003(4) to issue uniform badges or other insignia to EMTs serving within its region,*** and through discussions with New York City and federal law enforcement personnel, to continue to try to reach a satisfactory resolution of this serious matter. The Department's Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Edward G. Wronski (518-402-0996)...."

According to Marie Diglio, Dr. Cooper suggested staff write to Edward G. Wronski to facilitate the meeting sooner.

During the meeting there were several issues raised concerning badges. They are the following:

1. Martin Grillo asked "Can REMSCO grandfather in the former badges already out there?"
According to Dr. Horwitz, we do not have the ability to know how many EMTs possess badges, how many badges are out there nor do we have the capability to track them.
2. Chief Peruggia stated "it is not prevue of the Regional EMS Council to distribute and track. However, it is in the Council's prevue to establish an insignia." He stated we can create the specific shape and color. However, even if REMSCO does create a design for the badge, track and distribute, it is not going to stop the companies that make and sell them from selling a different type of shield to EMTs and Paramedics.
3. Martin Grillo stated "agency shields have varying shapes." This gives the impression that they are law enforcement instead of EMTs.
4. Is REMSCO going to assume the responsibility and any liability that comes with the issuing of the badges?
5. Why do EMTs and Paramedics need badges if they have photo ID?

After discussion, the Regional Council conducted a vote regarding the following motion: REMSCO will not issue badges. The results are as follows: 12 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention. The motion carried.

Ms. Diglio stated she would go forward and ask NYS DOH to facilitate a meeting with NYPD and the Federal protective Services to discuss an amicable way to prevent the arrest of EMS personnel.

NEW BUSINESS

5-year Pilot CME Based Recertification Program:

According to Chief Peruggia, this is not a new program. FDNY asked to participate in a current pilot that is being offered upstate. This program is only extended to FDNY EMS, not other agencies in NYC. According to Chief Peruggia, it was thought FDNY's participation would be effective due to the current program at the EMS Division of Training. FDNY has a structured program that allows for a controlled group. FDNY employees are mandated to take their refreshers at the Fire Department Academy. This pilot will consist of 130 hours of continuing education over the next five years, which will include field training and continuing medical education courses. According to Chief Peruggia, this will cost the city less money due to less out-of-job training time, will make sure ambulances are staffed and improve patient care and efficiency.

Asthma Dispatch Protocol:

Dr. Prezant, FDNY, introduced the new Asthma-B call-type and algorithm. He stated this would be instituted within the week. The new algorithm would determine if a BLS or ALS ambulance should respond to the asthmatic call. He stated this is not a new protocol but rather a change in the way it is being screened and dispatched. In reference to the asthma protocol, Lorraine Giordano, MD, asked "is a way to determine how many times a patient has used a nebulizer before sending a BLS ambulance?" Dr. Prezant stated not at this time, but he would look into it for the next revision.

Child Abuse Protocols

According to Chief McFarland, FDNY, a Mayor's task force is working with FDNY to develop protocols regarding child abuse cases. The protocols will be submitted to REMAC for review and revision. In addition, there will be a 3 hour child abuse course developed.

EMS Operations & Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction course

Joseph Raneri of the Regional EMS Council reported there will be a course provided by OEM titled "EMS Operations & Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction". This will be held at NYC OEM, located at 165 Cadman Plaza (training room) on December 5th, 6th and 7th, 2006 from 0800 – 1700 hours. Participants must RSVP no later than November 5, 2006.

Tribute to Walter Pizzi, MD

Marie Diglio of the Regional EMS Council informed everyone that there is a tribute to Walter Pizzi, MD at The Griffis Faculty Club located at 521 East 68th Street, NYC on November 8, 2006. The cocktail reception will be from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Invitations were already sent out and the members of the council should have received them. You can RSVP with the offices of the Regional EMS Council.

Redirection Policy from FDNY:

A copy of a letter (received from an unnamed source) from the Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scopetta and directed to hospital CEOs, titled "911 System Ambulance Redirection", was discussed. It was stated REMAC sent a letter in response to the Commissioner. (Please refer to the REMAC Report for more information.)

Dr. Prezant, Chief Medical Officer FDNY, stated FDNY held its meeting and understood all the comments made by attendees. The implementation of this policy is being postponed. Dr. Prezant is awaiting written comments from hospital administrators. He also stated the initial letter was directed toward Emergency Directors of hospitals in order to have them implement proactive policies focusing on reducing ambulance turnaround time, such as providing additional support staff and supplies.

It was stated REMAC sent a letter to the FDNY Commissioner because it felt this policy was actually a transportation protocol. REMAC felt it was imperative to address this issue before the implementation date of September 26, 2006. Dr. Prezant motioned, the Regional EMS Council write a letter, after communicating with REMAC, to hospital CEOs explaining the issues with EMS turn-around time at emergency departments, and ask that these issues be addressed.

After discussion, the Regional Council conducted a vote; the results are as follows: 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 abstentions. The motion carried.

The next meeting of the Ambulance Committee will be held on October 24, 2006 (6:30 PM) at GNYHA, 555 W. 57th Street, New York, New York 10019, 15th Floor Conference Room.