



New York State
Volunteer Ambulance
& Rescue Association Inc.



THE BLANKET Special Edition SEMSCO & SEMAC Meetings - January 2020

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THE BLANKET

214 Kent Avenue #278
Endwell, New York 13760
E-Mail: theblanket@nysvara.org
(877) NYS-VARA

The BLANKET Co-Editors
James B. Downey
Nancy Ehrhardt

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Henry A. Ehrhardt
President

Teresa A. Hamilton
Executive Vice President

Adrian Pezzica
Vice President

Greg Hatzis
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Ernie Stonick
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NYS DOH
State Emergency Medical Services Council
(SEMSCO)
and
State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee
(SEMAC)
Meeting Notes - 1/14/20 & 1/15/20

(Official minutes of the meetings will be released later by NYS DOH)

Teresa "Teri" Hamilton, Executive Vice President, is the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association's representative on and a voting member of SEMSCO and a member of the Legislative Committee and Public Information, Education & Relations Committee.



STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL (SEMSCO) - MARK PHILIPPY, CHAIRPERSON



Roll call conducted and quorum present.

Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of 9/25/19 meeting were approved with a minor correction.

Election of Officers

- Chair - Mark Philippy, Monroe-Livingston REMSCO
- 1st Vice Chair - Stephen Cady, EMT
- 2nd Vice Chair - Michael McEvoy, ALS First Response

NOTE: Chair and 1st Vice Chair candidates were unopposed. For the 2nd Vice Chair position 2 nominations were received. Ballots were distributed and a runoff was conducted with candidates Jason Haag receiving 8 votes and Michael McEvoy receiving 16 votes.

Mark Philippy assumed the Chair position.

Correspondence - None

Membership Changes

New Members:

- Robert Crupi, MD, NYC REMSCO
- Mark Deavers, North Country REMSCO
- Donald Duval, Southern Tier REMSCO
- Carl Gondolfo, AEMT
- MaryAnn Porturo, Emergency Nurses Association
- Jeffrey VanBeveren, Central NY REMSCO

Members Leaving:

- Daniel Blum, Westchester REMSCO
- Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, NYC REMSCO

SEMSCO Membership - January 2020

MEMBER	VETTED SEAT CATEGORY
Nikolaos Alexandrou, MD [FDNY]	Municipal Ambulance
Patricia Bashaw	Mountain Lakes REMSCO
VACANT	Westchester REMSCO
Allison Burke [GNYHA]	General Public
Stephen Cady	EMT
Robert Crupi, MD	New York City REMSCO
Mark Deavers	North Country REMSCO
Donald DuVall	Southern Tier REMSCO
Carl Gandolfo	Advanced EMT
Gregory Gill	Wyoming-Erie REMSCO
Jason Haag	Finger Lakes REMSCO
Teresa Hamilton [NYSVARA]	Volunteer Ambulance
VACANT	Southwestern REMSCO
Donald Hudson	Nassau REMSCO
Steven Kroll	Hudson Mohawk REMSCO
Jared Kutzin	Nursing Community
Alan Lewis [UNYAN]	Ambulance For Profit
Melissa Lockwood	Mid State REMSCO
William Masterton	Suffolk REMSCO
Michael McEvoy, Ph.D.	ALS First Response
Meryl Montrose [FASNY]	Statewide Org. Vol. Fire Services
Thomas Pasquarelli	Adirondack Appalachian REMSCO
Mark Philippy	Monroe-Livingston REMSCO
MaryAnn Portoro	Emergency Nurses
Jeffrey Rabrich, MD	Emergency Physician
Wade Schwab	Big Lakes REMSCO
Carla Simpson	Susquehanna REMSCO
Christopher Smith [HANYYS]	Hospital Setting
Jeffrey VanBeveren	Central New York REMSCO
David Violante	Hudson Valley REMSCO

Mark Philippy, Chair's Report:

- There has been progress with Quality Improvement TAG working on:
 - Revise QA/QI manual.
 - Training in QA/QI Academy to be offered at VITAL SIGNS 2020.
 - Distance learning program to be set up.
- By-laws Committee comprised of Mark Philippy, Stephen Kroll and Yedidyah Langsam working on changes to current practices, wording and role of alternates.
- SEMSCO moving to 4 meetings a year with location change to Hilton Albany.
- Council members asked submit preferences to be on 2 committees. Non-council members can also be involved on committees. Send e-mail to Valerie.Ozga@health.ny.gov
- Goals to be established for Council. Top 3 ideas to be solicited from members.

Stephen Cady, 1st Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Michael McEvoy, 2nd Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Patty Bashaw commented on not getting discouraged as there is progress from leadership in BEMS&TS

SEMAC & Protocol/Medical Standards Sub-Committee Reports - See separate SEMAC section for additional information.

- 3 seconded motions were received:
 - NYC Unified Protocols
Vote to approve was YES-15, NO-8 and Abstain-1.
 - Mercy Flight Standards of Care
Vote to approve was YES-23, No-2 and Abstain-0.
 - NYS Protocol Development Process
Vote to approve was YES-25, NO-0 and Abstain-0.
- Dr. Marshall gave update on NYC Naloxone Leave Behind Project.
- Issue of Finger Lakes REMSCO involved in litigation concerning following Policy Statement 14-01 was brought up. See separate Protocol/Medical Standards Sub-Committee section for information.

Education & Training Committee Report - See separate section for more information.

- Computer Based Testing: EXCEL spreadsheet to collect student e-mail addresses, philosophical shift from the importance of final exam date to course end date to allow DOH to enter data and notify students of eligibility to take CBT or paper test as they become available to AEMT EMT CFR over next 6 months. New CME forms are available. Policy Statement 20-01 Course Funding on who is eligible is coming out but no changes in amounts. FDNY course funding being looked into. DOH looking to establish an ePCR portal for small agencies to enter data and BLS FR full vs. partial NEMSIS data entry requirement.
- Emergency Regulation Changes Related to CME Program and CBT Testing
2 pages of information on emergency Part 800 regulatory changes needed related to CME program and CBT were e-mailed to SEMSCO members in the morning.
 - 800.3(w) - Definitions
Wording related to persons in continuous practice who already have card but maybe not part of an agency.
 - 800.9 - Continuing Medical Education Recertification
Gets rid of requirement to submit paperwork in ink and allows persons not part of agency to become recertified.
 - 800.10 - Reexaminations - Applicants for Recertification
Allows for more than 1 exam to be used. Allows national exam as well as state exam.
 - 800.12 - Reciprocal certification requirements
Allows for NYS certification of nationally certified people without taking NYS practical or written exam. These would be principally military people.

Motion was made and seconded to approve emergency regulations. Question was raised when they would be effective and answer was when Commissioner approves them and they are published in State Register, probably in 2 to 3 weeks.

Vote to approve the Part 800 emergency regulations was: YES-25, NO-0 and ABSTAIN-0.

- Still tabled: Dropping BLS skills testing stations from ALS practical skills exams. There are differences in programs that are approved by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions and other organizations and the issue needs to be examined more thoroughly.

Finance Committee Report

- No seconded motions.
- Course Sponsorship Funding Survey will be sent out this year. [See separate Finance Committee report for additional information]

Systems Committee Report

- Town of Webster appeal of Monroe-Livingston REMSCO decision to deny permanent rollover of Ambulance Operating Authority. SEMSCO Chair recused himself as he is Chair of the REMSCO involved. Seconded motion was received from Committee to reverse the REMSCO decision. Discussion followed committee discussion reported elsewhere. Vote was YES-17, NO-7 and ABSTAIN-1.
- Provider Mental Health presentation from the morning was repeated.
- SEMSCO established a TAG to work on provider mental health.

Legislative Committee Report

- No seconded motions were received from the committee.
- EMS Resource document to be developed for posting on NYS DOH website. Volunteers from SEMSCO members and alternates are needed to help assemble the information.
- NYS Assembly Bill A8397A - Authorizes the Office of Fire Prevention and Control to establish the New York State Rural Ambulance Services Task Force. Sponsor needs to have DOH involved rather than OFP&C.

Safety Committee Report

- Looking at Policy Statement 00-13
- EMS Vehicle Equipment Requirements - Part 800.23, 800.24 And 800.26. List covering supplies and equipment carried by BLS-FR, ambulances, BLS EASV and ALS-FR vehicles is being refined by TAG.
- Motion to incorporate into Part 800.22 the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1917 and Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services, Ground Vehicle Standard version 2.0 was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Old Business

EMS Workforce Shortage in NYS: Where are the Emergency Medical Responders? Has been published. 900 agencies responded to a survey. Report be posted on internet. Report can be used as a tool in conversations with community members, government officials as well as advocating with legislators.

New Business

- National Association of EMS Physicians has formed a NYS chapter. It is open to all EMS professionals.
- SIREN Act was signed into federal law 2 years ago but has just now been funded with \$5 million for rural EMS agencies for purposes of equipment, training and building sustainable programs. Application materials and eligibility information now need to be developed.
- NAEMT Innovation Day is 3/24/20 and Lobby Day-on-the-Hill is 3/25/20 in Washington, DC

Council entered executive session to discuss litigation involving SEMSCO

No action was taken during executive session and meeting was adjourned.

STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY (SEMAC) - DONALD DOYNOW, MD, CHAIRPERSON



Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call conducted and quorum present.

Minutes of 9/24/19 meeting were approved.

Bureau of EMS & Trauma Systems Report - See separate section for information provided at SEMAC and other meetings.

Protocol/Medical Standards Committee Report (see separate section for additional information)

- 3 seconded motions were presented to SEMAC.
 - NYC Unified Protocols
Vote to approve motion was: YES-14, NO-3 and ABSTAIN-1
 - Mercy Flight Standards of Care
Vote to approve motion was: YES-18, NO-0 and ABSTAIN-0.
 - NYS Protocol Development Process
Vote to approve motion was: YES-18, NO-0 and ABSTAIN-0.
- Aeromedical TAG was suggested. Joseph Bart, DO “volunteered” to lead with assistance from Jeremy Cushman, MD, David Kugler, MD plus 1 other who volunteered. A flight nurse was suggested to be added to group. It was mentioned that there was a similar TAG about 10 years ago.
- Dr. Marshall provided information on NYC’s Naloxone Leave Behind Project

Education & Training Committee Report (see separate section for additional information)

Information was provided on:

- Computer Based Testing
- Regional Faculty job description
- Policy Statement 20-01 - Course Funding
- CME Recertification Program
- EMT-P course practical skills exams (PSE)

EMS for Children Report
Working on 2020 goals.

Old Business
None

New Business

Jack Davidoff, MD, Finger Lakes REMSCO repeated his morning comments to the Medical Standards Systems Committee on litigation involving Policy Statement 14-01 and REMACs not having authority in Article 30 or Part 800 to restrict EMS providers.

BUREAU of EMS & TRAUM SYSTEMS STAFF REPORT - RYAN GREENBERG, DIRECTOR, BEMS&TS (Compilation of information given at SEMAC, SEMSCO and committee meetings)

Staffing

- Brian Wiedman assigned as Unit Chief, Investigations Branch
- Kathryn Mix, District Chief/Investigator, appointed to Central Region in Syracuse
- Guy Carpico, District Chief/Investigator, appointed to Metropolitan Region office in NYC
- Michael Bagozzi promoted to Deputy Chief in Central Region in Syracuse
- Peter Brodie promoted to Deputy Chief, Informatics
- Recruiting for another Unit Chief and support staff member.
- Interviewing for Coordinator for EMS for Children (EMSC) program. A tremendous number of applications was received.
- Ross Zastrow, District Chief/Investigator, Rochester office of the Western Region promoted another DOH position in Buffalo.
- James Norton left Informatics for position with DOH opioid crisis program.

Ambulance Transfusion Service

Agreement has been reached with the Wadsworth Center Blood Resources Center to streamline process for ambulance services to become an Ambulance Transfusion Service (ATS). Going through the DOH approval process.

Policy Statement updates in progress:

- BLS FR (12-06)
- Mutual Aid (06-04) - there is an increasing problem in how it is managed and handled and departments participating or not participating.
- Part 18 event permit submissions are going electronic and "blanket" permits will be processed by BEMS&TS central office.

Regions are asked to notify BEMS&TS District Chiefs and County EMS Coordinators if they see agencies in distress before it becomes a big problem. Assistance and resources may be able to be provided. Also notify if agency is excellent.

Computer Based Testing

Going live for EMT-P exams as of 1/20/20 as only option for that level. It is an option for CFR, EMT, AEMT, EMT-CC, CIC and CLI. About 30 CBT sites exist in NYS with most of state covered within 1 hour driving distance. Sites are open multiple days during week and multiple hours. CBT sites in Vermont and Pennsylvania can be suggested to BEMS&TS. If candidate passes CBT test they can walk out with valid 60 day temporary certificate with their picture on security paper.

On-site testing will start to go away in 2020.

End of Course Paperwork

Letter to Course Sponsors or a Policy Statement will be issued covering end of course paperwork. Paper work will be needed 14 days before end of course instead of course final exam date. EXCEL file will collect student e-mail addresses so CBT notices can be issued.

EMT-P practical exam will standardize on Nation Registry format including paperwork and scenarios. Two NYS proctors, a BEMS&TS designee as well as a regular proctor, will oversee testing of original course final testing.

Trauma Program

- Seeing more communication between Trauma Centers and EMS providers.
- ACS visits continue.

- Seeing more provisional trauma centers being designated.
- Trauma Con at Vital Signs 2020 on Thursday.
- Collecting information on why some trauma patients are initially going to non-trauma centers.
- Trauma Needs Assessment by STAC is ongoing to see what parts of the state need more trauma services.

NEMSIS 3.4.0

- Continuing to see progress in conversion of all ePCR software to new standard.
- Data schematron being worked on.
- There is a form on DOH website to report issues with ePCRs, NEMSIS, general reporting, etc. at <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/epcr-schematron-implementation-i>

Quality Metrics

Statewide quality measures have been completed. Goal is to raise the bar for quality care. There is need to know where you are today on items such as % ROSC achieved so that progress can be made.

EMS on TOUR

Program will be conducted again on 5/17/20 during EMS week. 100 agencies participated in 2019 and goal is to get 200 of the 1,800 agencies in state to participate this year. During the day agencies are asked to go out in community to a mall, plaza, community center or other public area and set up tables or an EMS vehicle and distribute literature and/or provide demos of CPR, first aid, etc. Tool Kit including press releases and other publicity materials are expected by March.

EMS for Children

Working on 2020 goals. Committee met in December and developed list of about 12 was received and it will be pared down to 3 or 4.

Training

- Great education going on around the state. Leadership conferences are being given that can help people new to the job.
- Conference coming up on Medicare cost reporting. About 160 agencies have been selected for 2020 but all ground ambulance agencies will be involved by 2024.
- VITAL SIGNS in 2020 in Saratoga Springs 10/29/20 through 11/1/20. Will have exhibit hall CME, SIM Lab, Innovation Awards, pre-conferences including Trauma Con, Critical Care Paramedic tract, etc. Call for presenters to out about 2/1/20.

EMS Memorial Ceremony

Will be held on Tuesday 5/19/20 at 11:00 AM on the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

Three EMS providers to be remembered:

- Tom DeFrancisci, Bellmore-Merrick EMS, Nassau County
- Irving Isenberg, Twin City Ambulance, Erie County
- Ingrid Sowle, Port Washington FD Fire Medic Co. #1, Nassau County

PROTOCOL/MEDICAL STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE - LEWIS MARSHALL, MD, CHAIRPERSON

Agenda had 4 items

NYC Unified Protocols

A 5 page summary of the proposed protocols covering changes as well as compliance with statewide protocols was sent to committee members prior to the meeting. Discussion covered:

- CFR anaphylaxis treatment with Epinephrine being limited to 1 dose - ambulances are dispatched at about same time as engine companies and are expected to be on scene shortly after engine company and can administer additional dose(s) if needed.
- Patella reduction is covered under Bone and Joint Injuries as an On-Line Medical Control (OLMC) option. FDNY EMS provides OLMC 24/7/365. NYC is unique in volume of calls handled. Other cities such as Buffalo have urban/rural sections.
- Cardiac Arrest Protocol - Statewide protocol has option to do continuous compressions even if not intubated, evidence does not suggest a clear benefit so it was removed. CPR says follow AHA guidelines.

- Inter-regional transport issues and inter-regional agencies. Medicine is the same between the statewide and NYC protocols.

Motion to approve protocols was passed with votes of: YES-14, NO-3 and ABSTAIN-1.

Mercy Flight Standards of Care, Version 2020

Discussion covered a number of procedures normally outside the scope training of an EMS air medical provider. The procedures were included because MDs can be on an air medivac. If procedures are outside scope of regular EMS provider the provider should respectfully decline to do the procedure.

- Arterial Line Placement
- Pericardiocentesis
- Tube Thoracostomy
- Finger Thoracostomy

Motion to approve the protocols was approved unanimously.

NYS Protocol Development Process

REDCap system is in use at the University of Rochester and Monroe-Livingston region has also worked on it. The platform provides an intuitive user interface to enter, audit, monitor and export data. It also helps users to create web-based surveys. It can be used at any point to submit proposed new protocols or modifications to existing ones. To access the Protocol Input Survey site go to <http://j.mp/2Qh9atV>

At a previous meeting a timetable for proposing and processing protocol changes was adopted based on a January-May-September SEMAC-SEMSCO meeting schedule. This now changes to the following:

- Proposals can be submitted at any time to a Protocol Working Group. In March they will go out to SEMAC's Medical Standards Sub-Committee and Regional Program Agencies for comment. Feedback to the Protocol Working Group is expected during the April-May period. After the June SEMAC meeting proposals would go out for public comments. The Protocol Working Group would review and address public comments and prepare a final draft for consideration at the October SEMAC-SEMSCO meetings. The Commissioner of Health has final say on the approved protocols which would go into effect the following January.
- If a situation warrants, expedited action can be taken by the Commissioner of Health.

Discussion mentioned need to have statewide/collaborative and NYC protocols on different schedules. Bureau of Motion to approve the Protocol Development Process was approved unanimously.

Quality Metrics

Peter Brodie advised work on the pediatric component of the list of Quality Metrics has been completed. For patients with acute respiratory distress the metric will measure % given respiratory assessment including respiratory rate, respiratory effort and pulse oximetry. In a little over 2,000 transports that were analyzed overall documentation of pulse ox and rate at least once was 66% and documentation of respiratory rate was 97.8% compliant. Respiratory effort was documented 98% of the time.

New Business

Naloxone Leave Behind Program

Dr. Marshall gave an update on the FDNY EMS project. In September 2018 70 doses were left with patients. This dropped to 30 doses in October 2018, 20 doses in November 2018 and has been averaging 10 to 15 doses since then. Breakdown of responses is as follows:

- 50% patient unable to accept - breathing but not awake.
- 20% patient refused.
- 10% patient accepted.
- 20% unknown.

Jack Davidoff, MD, Finger Lakes REMSCO advised of a problem involving Policy Statement 14-01 EMS Provider Care Restriction Guidance.

As a result of a lawsuit an EMT-P's region wide restriction imposed by Finger Lakes REMAC was ruled invalid because there is no legal authority in Public Health Law Article 30 or Part 800 regulations giving REMACs that authority. An agency Medical Director does have full authority to revoke, restrict or limit any provider operating under his/her authority at a particular EMS agency. Most situations can and are handled with agency remediation. However, if a provider's restriction needs to go higher to a REMAC then before it can be implemented the DOH needs to be notified and consulted. DOH, in addition to certifying a provider, has the authority to suspend limit, revoke or annul certifications after providing due process. This would involve referral to Bureau of Legal Affairs, statement of charges

issued and a hearing before an ALJ with representation afforded the provider. If there is a critical situation the DOH may be able to initiate some type of emergency action under a "Commissioner's Suspension". REMACs are to contact Thomas Fortune, Deputy Chief, Investigations Branch if they are getting to this level. The BEMS&TS and DOH Bureau of legal Affairs is reviewing the policy and background to ensure compliance with law and regulations.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE - MICHAEL MCEVOY, CHAIRPERSON

Jean Taylor, Deputy Chief, Education Branch gave DOH Staff Report

- Staffing situation is OK.
- New CME forms are available from Regional Program Agencies and DOH web site.
- Course Sponsors need to collect student e-mail address so DOH can advise students of test information.
- EMT-P original course practical skills exam will have 2 proctors, one being National Registry/Regional Faculty and the other being a NYS DOH BEMS&TS staff member.
- Course end date will be important for determining when all paperwork has to be in to BEMS&TS as 2 weeks is needed for rosters to be entered and students notified of testing options.
- Students can take CBT exam and paper exam but not a third exam (CBT or paper).

Regional Faculty Workgroup

- Job description development completed.
- 31 people contributed to work on it.
- Covers qualifications and duties.
- Committee voted to approve document.
- Next goes to BEMS&TS.

Policy Statement 20-01 - Course Funding

- Expected to be on DOH web site within 2 weeks.
- 15,000 CFRs to be covered for funding.
- NYS Proctor funding added.
- Funding is primarily for BLS CFR/EMT students. ALS is funded from leftover money.
- FDNY EMS course funding is at 50% and has been that way for years. Reason is clouded but may date from 1996 period when FDNY took over ambulances from NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation and there was Medicaid funding for NYC ambulances. This is to be investigated further.

Old Business

- AEMT & EMT-P practical skill stations will have significant changes coming at national level.
- NREMT will be taking EMT-P skill station information from its web site.
- EMT-CC participants in CME recertification program must be in continuous practice and not allow their certification to expire during the program. Expired certifications are not eligible for renewal through the CME program. There are about 1,400 at this level in NYS.
- EMT-CC to EMT-P Bridge Program - Edward Waldron, Northwell Health Center for Learning & Innovation gave an update:
 - There are about 200 in the program out of about 1,400 EMT-CCs in the state.
 - 1st class started with 102 students and 84 remain. Practical skills exams will be done by local course sponsors during January and February.
 - 2nd class started with 28 and 24 remain. 1 withdrew and 3 transferred to 3rd class.
 - 3rd class started 10/15/19 with 27 and 23 remain. 2 withdrew and 2 failed out.
 - 4th class starts in April 2020.
- Agencies in CME program need to submit ePCRs by 1/1/22. DOH hopes to have portal available for small agencies to submit PCR data electronically.
- Input on BLS-FR required equipment list is being sought.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - STEVEN KROLL, CHAIRPERSON

In 2008 the cost of an EMT course was about \$982.00.

In 2020 the cost of an EMT course is about \$1170.00.

Since 4/1/13 the DOH reimbursement rate under Policy Statement 13-03 Course Funding - Course Sponsors and EMS Agencies for an EMT course has been \$700.00.

Course Sponsorship Funding Survey will be sent out this year asking Course Sponsors if their organization were to recoup the full cost of teaching courses in 2020 without receiving NYS DOH reimbursement how much would they need to charge per enrolled student for CFR, EMT, AEMT and EMT-P original and refresher courses plus CIC and CLI courses. The survey asks about:

- Student tuition
- Practical skill exam
- Cards - CPR, ACLS & PALS
- Other student incurred fees - text books, lab fees, on-line content fees and equipment

SYSTEMS COMMITTEE - DAVID VIOLANTE, ACTING CHAIRPERSON

Town of Webster appeal of Monroe-Livingston REMSCO decision to deny permanent rollover of Ambulance Operating Authority.

Minutes, transcripts and other information had been provided to the committee members before the meeting.

Established ground rules limit discussion to committee members. Chair read history of application and appeal and commented that DOH BEMS&TS staff and Bureau of Legal Affairs recommend granting permanent CON. Among factors cited were:

- Public support
- Volume of documentation
- ALJ recommendation
- Article 30 legislative intent
- Authorization to Town of Webster under General Municipal Law

Main comments in opposition of granting the CON indicated Town of Webster acted to stop sending calls to then provider Union Hill EMS and is case of public want instead of public need.

Committee's first motion was to affirm the Monroe-Livingston REMSCO denial of the Town of Webster's application to make permanent the Town's provisional two year municipality declared ambulance authority.

Vote was: YES-1, NO-5 and ABSTAIN-0.

Committee's second motion was:

"To reverse the decision of the Monroe-Livingston REMSCO denial of the Town of Webster's application to make permanent the Town's provisional two year municipality declared ambulance authority."

Vote was: YES-5, NO-1 and ABSTAIN-0.

BEMS&TS Operations Report - Daniel Clayton, Section Chief

Report included comments on:

- Staffing
- Policy Statements being reviewed for updating: Ambulance Transfusion Service & Mutual Aid
- Health Commerce System information on EMS certification is there to aid in credentialing during disaster response. It is being improperly used by some to look up EMT test results before Course Sponsors can notify their students.
- Dana Jonas, Unit Chief, Operations Section had no comments.
- Peter Brodie, Deputy Chief, Informatics
 - Conversion to NEMSIS 3.4.0 by vendors completed.
 - Only 20 agencies to go.
 - There is feedback form on DOH website to let department know of problems and issues.
- Verbal report on CON actions was not prepared, however, it was indicated a written report would be sent to committee members by Tuesday 1/21/20.

Old Business

None

New Business

Provider Mental Health

Donald Trzepacz, Jr., District Chief/Investigator, BEMS&TS Western Region in Buffalo introduced a presentation by:

- Elizabeth Linkenheil, DO at Corning Hospital

Spoke of suicide of a provider after her EMS agency imposed care restriction.

- Sarah Warner, Director of Psychological Health, 107th Attack Wing Air National Guard, Buffalo/Niagara
- Ann Marino, Executive Director, Code Green Campaign (<https://codegreencampaign.org/>) spoke of:
 - Reducing the stigma around talking about mental health issues.
 - Providing education about the signs and symptoms of the mental health issues that first responders experience.
 - Increasing access to culturally competent mental health resources.
 - Reducing financial barriers to care.
 - Reducing unnecessary organizational and operational stressors.
 - Suicide prevention and postvention.

SEMSCO established a TAG to work on provider mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - ALAN LEWIS, CHAIRPERSON

Educational Resource Document About EMS

Project is still underway to develop a reference document about EMS in NYS for distribution to state and local legislators and other interested parties. DOH can provide content and make the document look good.

Legislation of Interest

- A5895 - Provides total disability benefits for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers for injuries sustained on or after July 1, 2019. On 1/8/20 bill was referred to Local Governments Committee.
- A8397A - Authorizes the Office of Fire Prevention and Control to establish the New York State Rural Ambulance Services Task Force; and requires such task force to conduct a study on the unique challenges faced by New York state ambulance services in rural areas and possible long term solutions to such challenges. On 1/8/20 bill was referred to Governmental Operations Committee. Bill was introduced by Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, 111th AD. He has already been contacted and concerns have been raised that the Department of Health which oversees EMS is a better choice than the OFP&C.
- Medicaid reimbursement rates, which affect EMS agencies' ability to pay higher wages, and direct payment by insurance companies to EMS agencies were also. Medicare and Medicaid have been reimbursing below costs for years.

Chairman Lewis indicated the various sector representatives such as UNYAN, NYAVARA, FASNY and Chiefs need to align interests and work together. General Municipal Law 209b which covers fire department billing continues to be a dividing issue.

Key contacts in NYS Assembly & Senate were discussed:

- John Brooks, 8th SD, Massapequa, NY - Chairman of Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security & Military Affairs
- Betty Little, 45th SD, Glens Falls, NY - Assistant Minority Leader for Policy and Administration
- Gustavo Rivera, 33rd SD, Bronx, NY - Chairman of Committee on Health
- Richard Gottfried, 75th AD, New York, NY - Chair, Committee on Health

National Disaster Response Plan participation by commercial services in NYS is being hampered by staffing concerns.

SAFETY COMMITTEE - MARK PHILIPPY, CHAIRPERSON

Part 800.22 Requirements for Certified Ambulance Vehicle Construction

The section is to be revised to incorporate standards from the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 1917 Standard for Automotive Ambulances Version 2019 and the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services' Ground Vehicle Standard Version 2.0.

Significant items proposed to be required are:

- Back-up camera
- Equipment retention devices upgraded from the present standards
- Anti-theft devices
- Forward facing driver cam
- Automatic door locks

Both new and remounted vehicles would be covered with an effective date of 12 months after the regulation is finally approved.

NFPA 1917 is available at <https://catalog.nfpa.org/NFPA-1917-Standard-for-Automotive-Ambulances-P1468.aspx?icid=D729>

CASS GVS V2.0 is available for free download at:

http://www.groundvehiclestandard.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CAAS_GVS_V2.0_Final_7.1.2019.pdf

EMS Vehicle Equipment Requirements - Part 800.23, 800.24 And 800.26

Presently, ambulance and fly car equipment requirements are set forth in Part 800 Regulations which are a long and involved process to change. Director Greenberg has suggested to mirror the process in the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law whereby the Commissioner of Health would be given authority to set rules governing what medical supplies and equipment EMS vehicles would have to carry. SEMAC and SEMSCO would be involved in the process offering suggestions to the Commissioner.

The Committee was shown a preliminary list of proposed supplies and equipment to be carried by BLS-FR, ambulances, BLS EASV and ALS-FR vehicles. Among the many proposed new or revised requirements are:

- Any replacement of new ambulance cot purchased after January 1, 2025 must be a Power Stretcher.
- Every Certified Provider working on a certified ambulance must have one CAT Tourniquet or equivalent on their person while on duty.
- Every Certified Provider working on a certified ambulance must have one Z-Fold Hemostatic dressing on their person.

Provision would be included for an agency to ask for a waiver on an item.

Revision of Policy Statement 00-13 Operation of Emergency Medical Service Vehicles is still hoped for. NYS Motor Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 114-B covering Emergency Operation was mentioned. Revision of Part 800.21 to require an agency to have a lights & siren operations policy was mentioned.

PUBLIC INFORMATION, EDUCATION & RELATIONS (PIER) COMMITTEE - CHAIRPERSON POSITION IS VACANT

No meeting was listed on the schedule. Meeting was canceled in May 2018, September 2018, January 2019, May 2019 and September 2019.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

SEMAC & SEMSCO

- March 10 and 11, 2020
- June 9 and 10, 2020
- October 6 and 7, 2020
- January 12 and 13, 2021

Location: Albany Hilton, State & Lodge Streets

STATE TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- January 28, 2020 at Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY
- May 14, 2020 at Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY

EMS FOR CHILDREN

- May 13, 2020 at Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY
- September 30, 2020 at Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY
- January 20, 2021 at Albany Hilton, State & Lodge Streets

Starting in spring 2020 the STAC and EMSC meetings will be scheduled on back-to-back days.