



**New York State**  
Volunteer Ambulance  
& Rescue Association Inc.



## THE BLANKET Special Edition SEMSCO & SEMAC Meetings - January 2019

### **QUICK LINKS**

[WWW.NYSVARA.ORG](http://WWW.NYSVARA.ORG)

[www.PulseCheckConference.org](http://www.PulseCheckConference.org)

### **THE BLANKET**

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If you are not a member of NYSVA&RA, please join today and help increase the voice of the community / volunteer / non-profit EMS / First Responder Sector in New York State.

How can you or your squad become a member of NYSVA&RA?  
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NYS DOH  
State Emergency Medical Services Council  
(SEMSCO)  
and  
State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee  
(SEMAC)  
Meeting Notes – 1/15/19 & 1/16/19

(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 to 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) - PATTY BASHAW, CHAIRPERSON**

Meeting was called to order at 12:39 PM and there was a quorum.

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes from the last meeting.

Three new members were introduced

- Jason Haag, Finger Lakes REMSCO
- Alan Lewis, United NY Ambulance Network (UNYAN)
- Jerry Kutson, RN

Chairpersons Report: Discussion of Gov. Cuomo's budget proposal not mentioning EMS.

1<sup>st</sup> Chair Report: By-laws are being reviewed by a small group consisting of Mark Philippy, Steve Kroll and Yedidiah Langsam. They hope to have something by the May meeting. Voting rights for alternate members is being investigated.

2<sup>nd</sup> Chair Report: No additional nominations for election of the SEMSCO officers.

Elected as 2019 Officers were:

- Chairperson: Patty Bashaw, Mountain Lakes REMSCO
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Mark Philippy, Monroe-Livingston REMSCO
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Stephen Cady, Professional Firefighters Association

### **EMS STAFF REPORT: RYAN GREENBERG, DIRECTOR, BEMS&TS**

- There was a voluntary recall of a Boundtree Curaplex product - the syringe for Epi delivery used in the kit they sell is being changed. This does not mean there is an issue with the state program under Policy Statement 17-06. Please check your agencies to see if the product you use has been recalled.
- The state is currently reviewing Mutual Aid. There have been many complaints throughout the state by various agencies that mutual aid plans are not working. Additionally, please be sure that your agency plan has been submitted and accepted by your local REMSCO.
- Should your agency have to do a transport of a patient with an active blood transfusion, it can be done (it should be a rare occurrence), be sure the hospital notifies Wadsworth Labs. Recently there is a lot of conversation about this.
- Conversion to electronic forms and data storage has become huge in the Bureau. NYS Field reps will now be doing spot checks and full service inspections via laptop computer. This means that it is very important for the state to get updated officer/administration contact information. The yellow inspection copy will no longer be given to your agency - you will get the information via e-mail.
- New employees:
  - Steven Dizura, Deputy Director. He will be handling special projects. During his introduction to the group, Steve mentioned his past position as the Vice President of NYSVARA.
  - Lynn Farruggia, Deputy Director, Administration, Contracts & Purchasing.
  - Jean Taylor, Deputy Director, Education & Certification Services. Not new to the Bureau - just the position. She has 40 years experience in EMS including EMT-P, CIC and time in the volunteer and commercial sectors.
  - Valerie Ozga, Vital Signs Coordinator. She is not new to the Bureau.

- 4 interns have also come on board. Their duties include recruitment, retention marketing materials, trauma program support and emergency preparedness.
- Effective 1/9/19 the new age to become an EMT in the state of NY is 17 (by testing date).
- Director Greenberg recommends that more people get involved with their trauma centers. In the state of NY there is the following number of Trauma Centers:
  - 21 level 1 Adult
  - 13 level 2 Adult
  - 9 level 3 Adult
  - 4 level 1 Pediatric
  - 7 level 2 Pediatric
- Hospital Hub: Current pilot plan allows all e-PCR's to be accessed by hospitals no matter who the PCR company is. This will allow better patient assessment, treatment and end results.
- Current Grant Funding the Bureau is working on:
  - EMS for Children - Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC)
  - Standard of Excellence - Best Practice Standards, leadership and clinical goals
  - Vital Signs 2019 will be held in Buffalo this year. October 24 to October 27. New to Vital Signs this year is a Call For Speakers. They will be asking for "hot topics" and they are bringing back the Leadership Track.
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - SEMAC/SEMSCO will be May 7&8, September 24&25 and January 14&15, 2020
  - State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) meetings will be 5/15, 9/10 and 1/28/20.
  - EMS for Children meetings will be 3/12, 6/4, 9/17 and 12/3
- EMS WEEK: starts on Sunday, 5/19/19. The Bureau would like every EMS agency in the state to hold a community outreach day on Sunday 5/19/19 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Get out in your community (not at your building) and educate the community about EMS and what we do. This is also a good recruitment tool. On Tuesday 5/21/19 the EMS Memorial will be held. This year 7 names will be added...all 7 died as the result of 9-11 related illness. Included is William Ryan of Bay Community VAC, District 18, NYSVARA. The question was asked about adding space to the wall as it is filling up quicker than anticipated. There is a plan in place.
- The Bureau is working on sending out a newsletter in an effort to get more information out to our EMS Community.
- The Bureau has a new Face Book page - New York State Health Department EMS Community.

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

- New Members:
  - Voting: Joshua Berkowitz, MD
  - Non-voting: Michael McEvoy, Ronald Hasson and Mark Philippy
- Review of state quality data metrics. There are currently 30 areas suggested to review and they are looking to try to combine and down size to approximately 6.
- Grants they are working on are:
  - Leadership courses to be given both in the classroom setting as well as on line learning.
  - The Opioid Epidemic better understanding, treatment and handling.
- Work is being done on Recruitment and Retention, various forms of data to improve EMS and trauma care.

- NY Statewide BLS Protocol proposed revisions were extensively discussed at the Medical Standards Committee meeting were they passed with a unanimous vote. At SEMAC a motion to approve the changes was made, there was more discussion followed by a roll call vote of YES - 19, NO - 1 and ABSTAIN - 0. The new protocols were also subsequently approved at SEMSCO. They will go into effect by 8/1/19.
- NY Collaborative Protocol proposed revisions were extensively discussed at the Medical Standards Committee meeting were they passed with a unanimous vote. At SEMAC a motion to approve the changes was made, there was more discussion followed by a roll call vote of YES - 20, NO - 0 and ABSTAIN - 0. The new protocols were also subsequently approved at SEMSCO. They will go into effect by 8/1/19.
- Assembly Kenneth Zebrowski, Rockland County sponsored Jimmy's Law which pertains to medical transfer and transport of patients via air methods, has questioned the policies that cover this. The Assemblyman was concerned after a young man passed away as the result of his ground care being turned over to an air transport and the equipment on the plane had problems. It was requested at the September SEMAC/SEMSCO meeting to follow-up with Assemblyman and Dr. Jeffrey Rabrich, Rockland County did follow up on the inquiry. Dr. Rabrich assured the Assemblyman that his concerns are addressed in the NYS Protocols.
- EMS as an Essential Service: a TAG has been designated to further evaluate this and the potential ramifications to the Towns and Villages.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:** No report presented.

**MEDICAL STANDARDS & PROTOCOLS COMMITTEE – LEWIS MARSHALL, MD,  
CHAIRPERSON**

- Discussion about the CIC Intern requirements.
- Link to [www.learnemt.org](http://www.learnemt.org) was provided for information on the EMT-CC to EMT-P bridge program.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE – MICHAEL MCEVOY, CHAIRPERSON**

- There should be an update on the CME program by May.
- There was discussion on the EMT classes and the students that don't complete the class are not being accounted for within the state - the end reports are not matching and some of the paperwork is not making it to the Bureau.
- Discussion on Pediatric Protocols and the EMS of Excellence program.
- If you have a CIC teaching a class and their certification is expiring during the year they are teaching, you may want to re-think them teaching a class. Make sure they are current with their certifications.
- Projects they are working on:
  - Spinal Injuries- to be sure that the NY policies and EMTs/Paramedics are practicing on a National level
  - Why was there poor performance on the recent AEMT exams? Work on making the training meet the National Standards

**FINANCE COMMITTEE - STEVEN KROLL, CHAIRPERSON**

Discussion about the 2019 Governor's Budget and that a great deal of work will need to be done to work on getting EMS recognized

**SYSTEMS COMMITTEE - RONALD HASSON IN PLACE OF YEDIDYAH LANGSAM, PhD,  
CHAIRPERSON**

Much information is covered in Director Greenberg's report and BEMS&TS Operations report. DOH website may not have up-to-date and accurate information on Regulations. Westlaw was suggested as a better alternative. Westlaw is an online legal research service for lawyers

and legal professionals in the United States and the United Kingdom and is a product of Thomson Reuters.

Every EMS agency needs a mutual aid agreement to ensure coverage. Article 30 provides for REMSCO review and approval. There should be some reciprocity, not one agency doing most if not all of the aid to another agency.

Al Lewis, UNYAN Representative started a discussion about EMS being in a crisis with poor staffing, missed calls, poor reimbursements, a proposed elimination of Medicaid payments for Medicare Part B coinsurance for ambulance services, recruitment and retention needs, etc.... a TAG needs to be formed to evaluate the matters and potential corrections. Data is needed.

### **BEMS&TS OPERATIONS REPORT - DANIEL CLAYTON & DANA JONAS**

Verbal report was given. There were subsequent requests for a written report as had been distributed in the past. Initial reply was that written reports had to be cleared through highest levels of DOH and due to lead time might be outdated by the SEMAC/SEMSCO meeting. After checking with DOH it was stated that written summary of report given at meeting would be prepared and distributed.

Verbal report and subsequent written summary covered:

- Ambulance Transfusion Services
- Syringe Epinephrine specifically Boundtree Curaplex issue.
- AT&T First net.
- Article 30 appeals.
- Transfer of Authority.
- Health Commerce System.
- Municipal CON Authority being rescinded.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - ALAN LEWIS, CHAIRPERSON**

- As the budget just passed, there was only 1 bill presented as an interest and that was A1208 sponsored by Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, Chair of the Health Committee which would authorize collaborative programs for Community Paramedicine services. S1805 is the Senate version.
- Discussion was had that we now have a “new house” and we will need to develop new relationships. We are going to have to work very hard to re-establish and move forward. There were handouts of the new Assembly and Senate Committee Chairpersons.

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE - MARK PHILIPPY, CHAIRPERSON**

Fitness for Duty and fatigue are issues still being discussed. A survey was suggested with questions for agencies and individuals to determine how hard people are working and what policies and procedures exist. NAEMSSO and NHTSA will be contacted for best practice information.

A joint Safety Committee and Systems Committee group is looking at EMS equipment requirements. Director Greenberg suggested proposing one package for regulatory change.

Part 800.22 Requirements for Certified Ambulance Vehicle Construction may need the addition of an anti-theft device other than a key or fob that allows vehicle to remain running.

Part 800.23 General Requirements Related to Equipment being reviewed as to hydrostatic testing dates and if clarification was previously issued that a locked ambulance is a “secured container”.

Part 800 ambulance and EASV equipment requirements sections of interest include:

- 800.24(a)(2) - A device capable of carrying a second recumbent patient.
- 800.24(c)(6) - A device or devices capable of immobilizing the head of a patient who is secured to a long backboard.

- 800.24(f)(14) - Six sanitary napkins individually wrapped.
- 800.24(g)(6) - Two sterile DeLee type suction catheters #10 or modified suction traps.
- 800.26(c)(4) - Lack of pediatric non-rebreather and nasal cannula.

Part 18 Public Function with Attendance of over 5,000 People Equipment requirements for an emergency health care facility also being looked at including:

- 18.2(b)(3) - Two commercially prepared bite sticks.
- 18.2(b)(5) - Lack of pediatric non-rebreather and nasal cannula.
- 18.2(c)(5) - A head immobilization device (commercially manufactured device), blanket collar, two five-pound sandbags or other device providing equivalent immobilization of the head.
- 18.2(e)(11) - One battery lantern in operable condition.

### **EMS FOR CHILDREN (EMSC) - MARTHA GOHIKE, PROGRAM MANAGER**

- Mention was made of a review of pediatric sepsis treatment.
- Pre-hospital care for pediatric patients, they are asking that each EMS agency have a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) at their agency. A PowerPoint presentation talked about an EMS Agency "Standard of Excellence" that includes the agency:
  - Has an identified individual who serves as a PECC.
  - Meets the standards of being "pediatric prepared".
  - Meets the "NY standards of excellence".
- EMSC is in need of representatives from upstate regions interested in pediatrics to join the team. They meet for about 3 hours 4 times a year.
- Recommend that the PIER Committee take on the project of promoting child restraints in the ambulance. How to get agencies to stop the poor practice of using the straps on the stretcher for pediatric patients - they don't work!

### **STATE TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) REPORT**

Please communicate with our trauma centers better. Give them details and ask for patient follow up. Better relationships make for better patient care. Work as a team.

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

Meeting was canceled. Meeting was also canceled in May 2018 and September 2018.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** The EMS Coordinators have re-established and hope to do some amazing things for EMS statewide.

Meeting was adjourned at 14:18 hours.

Next SEMAC meeting - Tuesday 5/7/19

Next SEMSCO meeting - Wednesday 5/8/19

Location is the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY