

SEMSCo Meeting March 5, 2008

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Deborah Funk.

Roll Call – Several members of the Council are still waiting for Department approval, and although seated at the table, were unable to vote!

Approval of 1/24/2008 Minutes

Correspondence

Letter received from Commissioner Dane responding to the SEMSCo letter requesting an interdepartmental task force look at inter-facility transports system and the use of paramedics for those hospital transports.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Dr. Deborah Funk

Reported on the FASNY March EMS Program at Montour Falls NYS Fire Academy. It was a good program with great attendance. Dr. Funk said thank you to FASNY.

1st Vice Chair's Report – Donald Faeth

Went to the FASNY Stoneybrook Conference and also said thank you for invite.

2nd Chair's Report – Robert Delagi

Also attended the FASNY Stoneybrook Conference. It was a great experience.

EMS Bureau Staff Report - Director Ed Wronski

Director Wronski spoke of the FASNY Conferences and indicated his appreciation that EMS could be part of their Conferences each year. He was however concerned that while on this trip he was at the Watkins Glen MacDonalds, he was given the senior citizen discount without asking for it!

Director Wronski announced that EMS Week will be May 18th – 24th 2008. May 22nd is the corrected date set for the EMS Memorial Service at 11 AM. They will be honoring two (2) EMS providers at the Ceremony. He encouraged Council members to attend.

A meeting with Dr. Lyndon and Bureau staff occurred to work on regulation language for handling blood products.

Director Wronski remarked on discussions from the January SEMSCo Meeting regarding SEMAC issuing protocols. He stated that protocols are a Regional issue for REMACs and SEMAC will be the State body to approve them and provide guidance for them.

The money for EMSC Grant has been restored for another year.

There have been continued discussions concerning Level 3 being far from existing centers to serve the rural areas and give care until they can get the patient to higher level. State Trauma Advisor Committee is meeting to finalize recommendations to the regulations that affect Trauma Centers. It may have major affect on Level 3 centers if they are in a 50 mile radius of a Trauma Center.

Diversity in Councils (geographic and representatives) was discussed. Minority appointments should be considered both at the State level and the in regions councils.

New Electronic PCR policy which updates the current one to assure that the Region is getting the same data that the State is receiving electronically. The e-data is current and will be very useful. The Bureau is working on an RFI that could be out in the next few months to build a platform to help accept the data from any regions and analyze it.

Director Wronski stated that there is a meeting with the DOH Executive Staff on vetting and confirming new Council members in the near future. He apologized for the long delay. (i.e. Central New York Region has been waiting since November 2006)

State EMS Medical Advisor's Report/ SEMAC – Dr. Henry

Dr. Henry had a conference call with Dr. Marshall and Andy Johnson to discuss the terms “protocols and standards”. The REMACs have the authority and responsibility to develop protocols for their respective region. He had a copy of chart showing all levels and their skills. Southwestern Region is concerned with State SEMAC “stop signs” that might effect what a region is currently doing in ALS. With a paramedic shortage, CCs have been trained to do more in their region.

Dr. Henry reminded the Council that the EMS role of identifying the critical patient and transporting them to the appropriate hospital/center affects the mortality rate in a positive way. (i.e. Trauma pt. to a Trauma Center; 12 lead pt. to a PCI Center, CVA pts. to a Stroke Center.)

Dr. Henry also spoke to the issue of non-vetted members of SEMAC – he requested that members waiting for Department approval come to the meetings and participate with the discussion even though they can't vote at this time.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee – Dr. Funk

Dr. Funk explained/clarified the term TAG and the requirements of membership for them. Anyone who wishes to be part of a TAG must submit a request in writing to the Bureau with an attached resume/vita.

Safety Culture TAG Report – Warren Darby & Paul Bishop

Paul Bishop gave a presentation on the results of the Safety Survey taken at Vital Signs to the Council. Warren Darby gave report on the 8 working projects within the TAG.

BREAK

Medical Standards – Dr. Mark Henry for Dr. Marshall

Motion to accept the protocols for SouthernTier Region with minor changes. SEMAC has approved them. Roll Call Vote - Motion passes.

Motion to accept the protocols for Monroe-Livingston Regions with minor changes. SEMAC has approved them. Roll Call Vote - Motion passes.

Finance – Dr. Michael McEvoy for Phyllis Ellis

Spoke of the Budget Template. It has gone out and is due before the May Meeting. Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 27th to go over the templates. There will be a Conference Call before the September Meeting to finalize the report.

There was continued discussion of the results of the Committees Course Sponsor Survey Report. Percentage difference between State reimbursement and tuition costs were reviewed. Staff has provided the year 2007 reimbursements.

Education & Training – Debbie Fults-Jones

Motion to accept Emergency University's PAD curriculum with recommended changes. Roll Call Vote - Motion passes.

EMT cards from the Bureau have been delayed but have come out the week of February 25th.

Course Sponsor Renewal Packets are being mailed out in April. They are due back by September.

The Law does not allow extension of certification cards unless you test prior the card's expiration.

Specialty Care Transport TAG is working on educational standards.

CLI Curriculum TAG is reviewing the current outlines and comparing the material to make it a skilled based curriculum.

Safety Tag – is looking to integrate safety messages/training into all EMS training courses.

On-Line TAG for internet courses is in place to establish standards & guidelines. They are getting follow-up information from other states.

Aging Instructors TAG is looking into this group of instructors in helping to maintain their experience requirements on the ambulances.

In April there will be a third draft of the National Educational Standards. Requested Council members to review and give any suggestions to Committee Chair. They will be doing regional teleconference meetings across the Nation on these Standards in the near future.

PIER – Don Faeth

Buffalo Vital Signs October 3-5, 2008 – SEMSCo Booth discussion. Photos for the booth will be taken of each member at future SEMSCo meetings. Camera will be at the May Meeting for photos of all Council and Committee Members. It will also be at the September Meeting for a second attempt to get a “respectable” photo.

Announced again that EMS Week is May 18th - 24th. Requested that PIER Committee be notified of any Regional events happening this week.

New EMS Recruitment Poster discussion was held during the Committee meeting.

Viewed existing Recruitment videos and looked at other such videos on the internet.

Universal EMS pin is moving with some artistic help. A preliminary design has been chosen by the Committee. Presently working on the colors and final approval.

Do's & Don'ts Brochure was discussed with Staff. The final draft will be brought back for final approval soon. Awaiting a photo shoot for the final pictures.

Children's play script is continuing to be developed. Deb Fults found a book that paralleled what Committee was attempting to do with the play. There was discussion on EMS personnel having an identity crisis as to what to call the responding provider. Law Enforcement has police officer, Fire has fire fighter. EMT was suggested in Committee as a generic term for an EMS provider.

Evaluation – Robert Delagi

New State Policy 08-01 for Statewide E-PCR was discussed. There are now 110 services providing electronic data within the State.

AMS utilization survey has been distributed and will be collected for the May Meeting.

ACEP Meeting - Dr. Kaufman

Discussed National data points for the next report card and the New York's ability to collect them. Discussed what our own data points should be and the need for our own NYS report card of useful data points. Have identified 6 data areas for further discussion.

EMS Systems – Mike Mastrianni for Andy LaMarca

Communications TAG – Survey sent out and response is due back this month.

EMS Code TAG - Review of Part 800 TAG - 800.15/800.16, Code of Conduct and Sanctions is ongoing. Also reviewing 800.22 - Ambulance Specifications.

EMSC Survey is being sent out to randomly to selected services.

Staff Report – no appeals or CON actions since the December Meeting.

Emergency CON application was approved in Southwestern Region in accordance to Article 30 Section 3010(c) to expand the operating authority of an ambulance service to cover a small rural service with few members and regulatory compliance issues.

It was discussed that a Town Municipal CON does not include a Village within it. The Village will need to submit a separate municipal CON to cover the village.

The Department received notification of a new municipal declaration from the Village of New Berlin.

The Bureau is working with the program agencies to complete the submission of the 2006 PCR data.

Reported that a school nurse had used AED on a 13 year old female student. The child was transported with vital signs to a local hospital and later transported to New York City Hospital.

Spoke of the Federal Highway Administration – DOT enacting a rule requiring all workers with the right-of-way of a federally funded highway to be wearing high visibility safety apparel which meets the ANSI class 2 or 3 requirements.

Legislative – Mike Quinn for Al Lewis

Motion to support A-1770 Sales Tax relief for purchase of new and used ambulances. Passed.

Motion to support A4527/S3026 Fuel tax relief when used in ambulances. Passed.

Ms. Geiger told the Committee that there was no movement on the State Budget.

Motion to support A9203 – Assemblyman Gottfried – sets a fund for training for emergency medical & trauma care, including disaster preparedness response training and programs. Passed.

Bills to track:

A8646 Establish a trauma Center fund (out of the EMS Budget).

A3728 Allows volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to participate in public health insurance plans.

A03550/S1851 Allows fire districts to create separate ambulance companies in addition to emergency first aid and rescue squads.

A8000/S1210 Requires operators of ambulances to complete safety training course to be designed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Asked the Safety TAG to review this.

Budget Bill A9806 Part U/ S6806 Consolidation and/or dissolution of fire districts protection districts. This bill changes the methodology. Fire Associations are against this part of the bill.

Dr. Dailey request Committee to look carefully at the Health Insurance Bill and the need for adequate coverage for providers. The Assembly bill has no Senate companion bill that would allow for this.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Cooper requesting the Chair to write a letter to the Commissioner regarding the need for the younger generation being attracted to EMS careers. Dr. Art indicated that there were some faces on the Council that have been around a looonnnnnnggggg time! Discussion occurred on this “Aging Issue” within EMS. The Bureau at the May meeting will bring back some age data on providers. Wronski pointed out that this seems to be an issue throughout government. i.e. Average age of a new State employee is presently 35 years old. Dr. Cooper withdrew his request at this time and the PIER committee will continue to work with the Bureau on Recruitment ideas.

Warren Darby asked Director Wronski if Staff had been able to look at the possibility of amending the SEMSCo By-Laws to allow a “proxy” vote when a region’s seated member is unable to attend. Wronski indicated that the alternate member could not vote because the voting member needed to be vetted. Director Wronski was asked if the associate member could be vetted to provide continuous voting representation during transitions. Darby indicated that CNY REMSCo has not been able to vote on any SEMSCo issue for 16 months because of a delay in being approved by the Commissioner. Wronski stated they would look at that as a possible solution.

Tim Czapranski gave a presentation regarding a study in the Monroe-Livingston Region of Cold Response of priority 4 patients to Alternate Destination. Trained paramedics assess patient and works with family about clinic options and with family approval calls Medical Control final approval.

New Business

Coleen Vesely made a plea to make communications easier in rural areas. Director Wronski indicated that the Council in the past has supported the need to improve communications, especially in very rural areas. He will bring the State SWNYN timetable back to the May Meeting.

Next SEMSCo Meeting – May 29th