

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

Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City

November 24, 2009

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on November 24, 2009 at 6:00 PM, at the Offices of the Regional EMS Council, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

	Present	Absent
Organizational Members		
Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp	1.	Harold Jacob
Fire Department, City of New York Emergency Medical Services	2. David Prezant, MD	
	3. Glenn Asaeda MD	
	4.	Frances Pascale, EMTP (excused)
	5.	Janice Olszewski, EMTP
Greater New York Hospital Association	6.	Alison Burke
	7.	Phil Eguiguiurens
	8.	Vacant
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation	9. Lorraine M. Giordano, MD	
New York City Office of Emergency Management	10. Mordechai Goldfedder	
New York City Police Department	11.	Victor Politi, MD
NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. District 4	12. Ryan Gunning, EMT James Downey, EMT, alternate	
NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association,	13. Christopher Legaz, EMT	

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

Inc. District 18		
Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee	14.	David Ben-Eli, MD (excused)
United New York Ambulance Network	15. Al Rapisarda, Second Vice Chair Michael Raiola, alternate	
	16.	Dan Leibowitz
At-Large Members		
	17. Vincent Barranco, EMTP, Secretary	
	18. Ralph Cefalo, EMT	
	19. Arthur Cooper, MD	
	20. Martin Grillo, EMTP	
	21. Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair	
	22. Charles Hummel, PhD, EMT	
	23. Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, EMTP	
	24. Nadine Levick, MD	
	25. Joseph A. Marcellino, MPH, Parliamentarian	
	26. Mordechai Lax, EMTP	
	27.	Brenda Morrissey, EMTP
	28. Scott Orlanski, EMT	
	29. Michael Raiola, EMTP	
	30. Vacant	

Staff

Nancy Benedetto, Executive Director Administration
Marie Diglio, EMTP, Executive Director Operations
Joseph Raneri, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator

Guests

John Freese, MD, FDNY

Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Meetings of the Regional EMS Council are recorded to comply with the Governor's Executive Order #3 to web cast meetings. A roll call attendance was conducted; a quorum was present.

Dr. Horwitz asked if there were any comments, questions or changes regarding the Minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting. Hearing none, the Minutes were approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:

Membership:

- The following members requested to be excused:
 - Scott Orlanski

From FDNY:

- Email response from Dawn Diaz, stating that EMS Command Order 2001-006 is no longer in effect.
 - This command order identified how volunteer ambulance agencies could log into the municipal ambulance dispatch system in order to be utilized to supplement response to 911 calls. The unilateral elimination of this command order prevents available resources provided by NYC volunteer ambulance agencies from being utilized in NYC. It also increases time to request additional resources and/or advanced life support back-up since field personnel on the scene of an emergency must dial 911, rather than have a direct contact with the municipal EMS system.

From NYS DOH:

- Letter to Jeffrey Horwitz, DO, Chair, REMSCO NYC, stating the current representative to the State EMS Council (Nancy Benedetto) will be completing her term of office. A new delegate must be selected.
- Copy NYS DOH Policy 95-04: EMS Mutual Aid

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

- Public Notice from New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, Operations Unit, to be read into the REMAC Minutes of the following enforcement actions:

Provider Name	EMT #	Penalty	Violation of	County of Operation
Christopher McCabe	303822	Probation 3 years effective 10/21/09 \$2000	Part 800.15 and 800.16	Clifton Park

Training and Education:

- Announcement of a CIC/CLI update being conducted at the Nassau County EMS Academy on January 22 & 29, 2010. On line registration at www.veebems.org.

Other:

- Mutual Aid Agreements:
 - College Point Community Ambulance Corps and Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance Service
 - Corona VAC and Whitestone VAS
 - Western Queens Mutual Aid Response Plan: Glendale VAC, Forest Hills VAC, Jamaica Estates VAC, Woodhaven-Richmond Hill VAC, Ridgewood VAC
- Email from District 18 sent to volunteer ambulance agencies reminding them of the need to send mutual aid agreements to REMSCO.
- Complaint from District 18 stating Forest Hills VAC responded to a call in the Bayside VAC territory.
- Email from Maimonides EMS questioning the impact of the Medicare/Medicaid Revenue Recovery.
 - Marie Diglio spoke to Lee Burns who stated agencies under contract to municipalities should not be affected. Ms. Burns stated that NYS DOH will be speaking with Medicare/Medicaid staff to clarify this issue. Maimonides has been so informed.
- Corona VAC asked if there was a mechanism for the agency to cover private events outside of its operating territory.
 - Corona was sent an email stating the agency could not provide ambulance service outside of its NYS DOH approved territory. Agencies can provide first aid stations, but can not provide ambulance transport.

The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:

- Agendas, Minutes and associated attachments for the November 2009 meetings.
- Letter to Governor Paterson advising him that EMS program agency funds have not been released, causing financial difficulties for all regional EMS councils in NYS.
- Email sent to volunteer and private ambulance agencies reminding them that mutual aid agreements must be submitted to REMSCO.

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

- Letter to FDNY EMS identifying areas of concern regarding the proposed Volunteer – FDNY EMS 911 System contract.
 - No response has been received from FDNY.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT/PROGRAM AGENCY REPORT

It was reported that the Program Agency contracts still have not been approved. At least one program agency will be closing its doors this month, another may follow in January. The funds used for program agencies come from a dedicated EMS fund and there is no reason to delay disbursement of this money. A letter regarding this financial disaster has been sent to the Governor.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

No Determinations of Public Need were received.

No Transfer of Operating Authority applications were received.

Public Access Defibrillation (Pad) Notifications

- 11 New and 7 Renewing PAD Program applications were received during October 2009.

A letter has been sent to FDNY identifying areas of concern regarding the contract for Volunteer Participation in 911 System. No response has been received from FDNY.

No new applications for specialty vehicle security tags have been received.

FDNY RCC is not accepting log-ins from volunteer ambulances

There was continued discussion that FDNY RCC is not accepting log-ins from volunteer ambulances into the 911 system (MARS). This began on October 13, but there appears to be no reason for it. Chief McFarland was emailed and he responded that he was not aware of any change in policy.

An email response from Dawn Diaz, on behalf of John McFarland was received and stated that EMS Command Order 2001-006 is no longer in effect. This command order identified how volunteer ambulance agencies could log into the municipal ambulance dispatch system in order to, "*maximize system utilization of available resources,*" be utilized to supplement response to 911 calls. The unilateral elimination of this command order prevents available resources provided by NYC volunteer ambulance agencies from being utilized in NYC. It also increases time to request additional resources and/or advanced life support back-up since field personnel on the scene of an emergency must dial 911, rather than have a direct contact with the municipal EMS system.

In light of current economy this unilateral decision, if true, appears arbitrary and capricious, and detrimental to efforts aimed at utilizing available resources to maximize system response and preserve human life.

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

The Ambulance Committee asked, in the form of a seconded motion, that the Regional Council be advised to send letters to the FDNY commissioner, and copy our elected officials, and ask what system is in effect to utilize the volunteer component of this City's EMS system in 911 responses.

This was discussed by the Regional Council. It was stated, if this is true it may be a violation of the Coordination of Prehospital Resources protocol which was mandated by the NYS Commissioner of Health. It was also asked if FDNY leadership is aware of this situation. After additional discussion, the Council votes as follows: 16 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 opposed; the motion carried.

Mutual Aid

Ambulance agencies have been advised to submit mutual aid agreements to the office of the Council for approval. The following mutual aid agreements were received and approved:

- College Point Community Ambulance Corps and Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance Service
- Corona Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance Service
- Western Queens Mutual Aid Response Plan: Glendale VAC, Forest Hills VAC, Jamaica Estates VAC, Woodhaven-Richmond Hill VAC, and Ridgewood VAC.

The Regional Council conducted a roll-call vote since this is a statutory responsibility. The vote was as follows: 18 in favor, unanimous approval.

Medicare/Medicaid Revenue Recovery

The possibility that Medicare/Medicaid may refuse payment for ambulance calls outside of official NYS DOH territory was discussed. It was further stated that if audited, an agency can be fined for calls up to 7 years in the past. Responding to the occasional mutual aid call or to a regional mutual aid (MCI) activation is not a problem, but using mutual aid as the reason for routine operations in areas outside an agency's NYS DOH territory may cause Medicare/Medicaid to target that agency and conduct an audit. This is of great concern to services in this city that participate in the municipal 911 system and respond to calls outside their operating territories on a daily basis. Although this is a municipal contract, it is unclear how Medicare/Medicaid may view this. Although, the NYS DOH has stated that the contract should protect agencies, Committee members felt that agencies should be warned and advised to seek legal counsel. NYS DOH is working with Medicare/Medicaid but does not have authority to circumvent federal decisions. Greater NY Hospital Association is also aware of this issue and will be contacted. Information will be provided as soon as it is confirmed.

The Council votes as follows: 17 in favor, 1 abstention, and 0 opposed; the motion carried.

A TAG to review the Council's scanner project has been developed. This project uses the Council's photo IDs to scan personnel into and out of events.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM. The next meeting of the Ambulance Committee will be January 26, 2010.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT

The T&E Committee will meet on January 5, 2010.

The following individuals have completed all intern requirements and are recommended by the NYS Bureau of EMS for instructor certification:

CIC:

- Lawrence Newman (NY Methodist Paramedic Program)
- Jessica DeResto (FDNY)

CLI:

- Joseph Nocerino
- Shu Liaw (NY Hospital Queens)
- Adi Gonzalez (FDNY)
- Ariadne Perez (FDNY)

The Council voted unanimously to approve.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Arthur Cooper reported that the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. The following are meeting highlights:

- **Public Notice from New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, Operations Unit, to be read into the REMAC Minutes of the following enforcement actions:**

Provider Name	EMT #	Penalty	Violation of	County of Operation
Christopher McCabe	303822	Probation 3 years effective 10/21/09 \$2000	Part 800.15 and 800.16	Clifton Park

- **Protocols:**

Comments from Protocol Public Notice were reviewed. No changes recommended.

Proposed Protocol revisions: approved, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

General Operating Procedures

Use of End Tidal Capnography (ETCO₂)

- Remains mandatory for Endotracheal Intubation

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

- If available for other advanced airways (i.e., King Airway, Combi-tube, LMA)

ALS Protocols

503-A – Ventricular Fibrillation / Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia

- Hypothermia field treatment added – administration of cooled saline.

503-B – Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA) / Asystole

- Hypothermia field treatment added – administration of cooled saline.

503-C – **POST-RESUSCITATION MANAGEMENT FOR NON-TRAUMATIC CARDIAC ARRESTS**

- **NEW PROTOCOL**

5XX – Vomiting

- **NEW PROTOCOL**

- Adds Ondansetron IV for patients with severe vomiting, unable to take medication by mouth.
- 4 mg for adults
- Pediatric dose must be identified by pediatric physicians

These proposed protocols will not make the December 2 SEMAC meeting, due to the SEMAC requirement of a 30 day public notice. These will have to go to the February SEMAC meeting, and not be part of the January 1, 2009 protocol package distributed to the region. REMAC will have to decide if these protocols are emergent and require immediate implementation at that time.

- Revisions to the Medical Standard Bylaws to merge the ALS and BLS memberships were approved.
- The REMAC Bylaw revisions will be voted on at the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. The next meeting of the REMAC Committee will be January 12, 2010.

Dr. Cooper motioned that REMSCO and REMAC ask SEMAC to approve these hypothermia protocols even though the 30-day comment period has not ended. The Council voted as follows: 17 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 opposed. The motion carried. [Staff note: it was later found that there are two ongoing studies in update areas covering the procedures in these hypothermia protocols. These studies are not completed.]

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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

STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. David Prezant gave a presentation on the proposed revisions to triage (adding an orange category.) There were concerns that we would be using a method of triage that no other providers in the country would be using. Dr. Prezant stated he had spoken to counterparts in Westchester and New Jersey, both of whom were interested in the new triage. Dr. Prezant stated the FDNY would provide up to one year's worth of new triage tags to non-municipal ambulance agencies.

Arthur Cooper, MD motioned that REMSCO support REMAC decision to recommend approval of this new triage to SEMAC. The motion was seconded by Yedidiah Langsam and voted on as follows: 17 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 opposed; the motion carried.

Lorraine Giordano, MD, asked if the data from the Avianca crash could be used in conjunction with revised triage parameters to identify how patients from that event could have been triaged. There were many pediatric patients in the event. Council members agreed this was an excellent idea. Dr. van Amerongen of Methodist hospital did research on this event and may have knowledge of where the data is being stored.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Cooper reminded members that Edward Wronski, Director of the Bureau of EMS would be retiring this month. He asked that a letter be sent congratulating him on this retirement and service to the community.

Dr. Levick stated the Federal Register extended the application period for the National EMS Advisory Council, until December 1st. Members are encouraged to apply.

The National Academy Summit can be viewed on the web.

The next meeting of the Regional Council Committee will be January 26, 2010.