

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

## Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City January 30, 2024

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on January 30, 2024, at 6:00 P.M., at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York. The meeting was simultaneously broadcast on YouTube, and a full recording can be found on our website at [www.nycremsco.org](http://www.nycremsco.org).

Organizational Members		Present
Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp	Dov Jacob Alternate, Ari Weisz	
Fire Department, City of New York Emergency Medical Services	Chief Grace Cacciola Alternate,	
	Chief John Nevins Alternate, Bradley Kaufman, MD	
Greater New York Hospital Association	Andrew Dahl, MD Alternate, Alison Burke	X
	William Goffin, EMT Alternate, Dominick Battinelli, EMTP	X
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation	Daniel Meisels, EMT-P Alternate: Jory Guttsman	X
New York City Office of Emergency Management	Robert Bristol Alternate, Mordechai Goldfeder, EMTP	X
New York City Police Department	PO Johnathan Matamoros Alternate, Det. John Johnstone	
NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. District 4	Travis Kessel Alternate, James Downey, MBA, EMT	X
NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. District 18	Jerrold Gelbard Alternate, David Meketansky	
REMAC NYC	Josef Schenker, MD Alternate, David Ben-Eli, MD	X
Downstate New York Ambulance Association	Michael Raiola, AEMT Alternate,	X
	Michael Vatch, MPA, NRP, CCEMT-P	X

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	Alternate, Mordechai Lax, EMTP	
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## At-Large Members

<b>Martina Bacarella, EMT, Secretary</b>	X
Vincent Barranco, EMTP	
Nancy Benedetto	
Arthur Cooper, MD	X
<b>Robert Crupi, MD, Vice Chair</b>	X
Meghan Kessel, RN	
Manfred Fuchs, EMTP	X
Sean Graves	
Jerry Gombo	X
<b>Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, EMT-P, Chair</b>	X
Dennis Laurie, EMT	X
Brian Levinsky, EMTP	X
<b>Mitchell S. Powell, EMTP, Parliamentarian</b>	X

### STAFF:

Marie Diglio, Executive Director  
Scott Chiang, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator/CTC Coordinator  
Joseph Raneri, Information System Data Coordinator  
Charlie Ung, CTC Assistant  
Michelle Klemm, Operations Assistant

### GUESTS:

Frank Cheng, FDNY  
Wanda Luciano, FDNY

Yedidyah Langsam, Ph.D., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The meetings of the Regional EMS Council are recorded to comply with the Governor's Executive Order #3 to webcast meetings. A roll call attendance was conducted, and a quorum was present.

The Minutes of the November 28, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

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## *The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:*

- Membership:
  - A letter was received from Rabbi Kalish of Chevra Hatzalah appointing Jason Zimmerman, DO, and Joshua Hartman in the vacant Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp organizational seats. Dr. Zimmerman will hold the primary seat, and Joshua Hartman will be the alternate.  
***A vote was conducted, and the motion was carried unanimously.***
  
- FDNY EMS:
  - The FDNY Search & Rescue Field Medicine Symposium will be on May 2-5, 2024. A flyer with more information and a registration link has been distributed.
  
- NYS DOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems:
  - A letter from Alda Osinaga, MD, MPH, Medical Director, informed the region that NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem has met the criteria for designation as a Primary New York State Stroke Center pursuant to 10 NYCRR 405.34. The application was approved on January 17, 2024.
  - An email from Drew Chesney informed the Council that the The New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS and Trauma Systems, in conjunction with the State EMS Council (SEMSCO) Training and Education Committee, is progressing towards the discontinuation of the NYS EMT-Critical Care (EMT-CC) certification. They have requested feedback on additional measures, which can be provided through <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/critical-care-technician-sunset>.
  - Ambulance Operating Certificates were received for Flushing Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Citywide Mobile Response, and GMR Event Services LLC DBA Crowd Rx.
  - NYS DOH Enforcements:  
None
  - Enforcement Actions (for both providers and agencies) can be viewed on the NYS DOH BEMS&TS EMS Disciplinary Actions-Enforcement Actions page at <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/sanctions.htm>.
  
- Ambulance Agencies:
  - An email was received from Christopher Capo, President of Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps, requesting a status update on their previous territory due to the ongoing territory dispute between Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Bay Community Ambulance Corps.

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*Travis Kessel reported that the Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps does not have an operating certificate. Any inquiries must be directed to the New York State Department of Health.*

- Course Sponsors:
  - CFR, EMT & Paramedic original and renewal course applications were received from Emergency Care Programs; LaGuardia Community College; Kingsborough Community College; Emergency Aid Training; Montefiore Institute for Emergency Care Training; Borough of Manhattan Community College; Code One Inc.; B&H Emergency Medical Training Inc.; FDNY; NYPD Emergency Service Unit; and Rescue Training Institute.
  - All applications appear complete for documentation purposes. Requires REMSCO recommendation to approve.

*A vote was conducted, and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- Other:
  - NYSVARA has scheduled a ZOOM Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, to discuss the 2025 FY NYS Executive Budget. The meeting will focus on various EMS topics, such as expanding the definition of EMS, making EMS an "Essential Service," and adding emergency medical services to the "Hospital-Home Care-Physician Collaboration Program," which will be renamed as the "Health Care Delivery Collaborative Program." Additionally, the meeting will address the following topics: permitting EMS providers to provide care in the community during non-emergent situations (Community Paramedicine), establishing statewide EMS supplementation task forces, and setting up a Rural Paramedic Telemedicine Urgent Care Program. A Zoom login will be sent in a reminder message.
  - A save-the-date was received for the next NYC RTAC meeting that will be held on February 5, 2024.
  - A copy of the December 6, 2023 edition of the *New York State Register* was received detailing new NYS EMS Education regulations posted for public comment. The regulations concern the Educational Requirements for Certified Emergency Medical Services Providers and Hospital Cybersecurity Requirements.

*The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:*

- Agendas, Minutes, and associated attachments for the meeting.
- The Council submitted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Program Agency and Regional Council vouchers to the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS.
- Marie Diglio sent a letter to David Prezant, MD, the Chief Medical Officer of the Fire Department of the City of New York. The letter confirmed that on October 17, 2023, the New York City Regional Emergency Medical

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Advisory Committee (REMAC) reviewed and approved the revised General Operating Procedures (GOP) and Appendix P. These protocols relate to treat-in-place/alternative destinations and will be followed by the following agencies: FDNY, NYC Health + Hospitals, Medisys, Montefiore, Mount Sinai, Northwell, and New York Presbyterian.

- Details on the MTA Congestion Pricing Public Comment Period, which will be held from December 27, 2023 to March 11, 2024. Public members may submit written or audio comments or attend a hybrid virtual/in-person hearing. The hearings will be accessible online at the project website [mta.info/CBDTP](http://mta.info/CBDTP) and live streamed on the MTA YouTube channel [youtube.com/@mta-live](https://youtube.com/@mta-live) on the following dates:
  - Thursday, February 29, at 6:00 P.M.
  - Friday, March 1, at 10:00 A.M.
  - Monday, March 4, at 10:00 A.M.
  - Monday, March 4, at 6:00 P.M.

Marie Diglio reported that a NYC REMSCO representative should attend the Public Hearings to testify in opposition to the congestion pricing plan. There is an opposition letter prepared.

*Mordechai Lax, EMTP, motioned that a representative of NYC REMSCO shall attend the hearing. Travis Kessel seconded the motion. A hand vote was conducted, and the motion was carried unanimously.*

## STAFF REPORT

### Emergency Preparedness Update (Scott Chiang)

Scott Chiang reported the following:

- The FEMA Covid-19 Mutual Aid Program has approved its third round of funds. The distribution of funds will occur in approximately a week. Some agencies have yet to cash their checks from the previous distributions.
- The Office of the Regional Council is presently updating its emergency notification system. As a part of the process, the staff will contact different agencies to collect updated contact information. The office will need two line-officers from each agency as contacts. This information will then be entered into the RAVE system, used during emergencies and mutual aid activations.
- Intranasal Narcan is available to agencies. Please email Scott Chiang to arrange to pick it up.

### Program Agency Update (Marie Diglio)

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Marie Diglio reported that the Regional Council Office submitted the Program Agency vouchers for the second quarter. Also, SEMAC/SEMSCO will hold a meeting next week to discuss the newly released legislation.

In addition, SEMAC/SEMSCO Subcommittees are meeting virtually, and non-SEMAC and SEMSCO members can join. The Office of the Regional Council shared committee members' names and email addresses with NYS DOH for Boardable access. Emails are sent via the portal. If you are not receiving them, please contact the Office of the Regional EMS Council.

The next meetings of the SEMAC/SEMSCO will be on December 5, 2023, and December 6, 2023.

## AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT, Martina Bacarella, Chair

Martina Bacarella reported that the Ambulance Committee met before the Regional Council meeting. The following is a summary of the meeting:

- There were no new applications for Transfer of Operating Authority.
- There were no new applications for Determination of Public Need.
- The committee discussed sending a NYC REMSCO representative to the MTA Congestion Pricing Hearings to testify in opposition to the plan.
- The Ambulance Security Sticker TAG has requested a new decal and quote from the vendor. The Office of the Council will follow up with the vendor, and if the vendor fails to respond, the office will opt for a new vendor.

The next meeting of the Ambulance Committee will be on February 27, 2024.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT, Mordy Lax, Chair

Mordechai Lax, EMTP, reported that the Training & Education met on January 26, 2024. The following is a summary:

- 2024 Protocol Updates: Mordechai Lax, EMTP, reported that the main topic of discussion was the 2024 Protocol Updates. The training modules will be completed by April 1.
- MOLST Training: The New York State Department of Health's MOLST training module is available on our side of the Learning Management System. Agencies can assign the module to their providers, or the region can assign it.

The next Training & Education Committee meeting is on February 23, 2024.

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## REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Josef Schenker, MD

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on January 23, 2024, at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York. The following is a summary:

- Approved Motions:
  - The Online Medical Control Physician Training will be moved to the LMS on March 1, 2024, and OLMC physician expiration extensions will be extended until September 1, 2024.
  - The protocol implementation date will be July 1, 2024, mirroring the New York State SEMAC process. Training materials will be available by April 1, 2024.
  - Ezras Nashim was approved to operate as an ALS agency.
  - Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps. was approved to participate in the BLS iGel Project conducted by the Hudson Valley region. The paperwork was complete.
  - To write a letter to public officials stating that EMS supports changing the Public Meeting Law to allow virtual meetings.
  - Kelly Gorman, RN, was approved for the vacant EMS Community Emergency Department RN Seat.  
*A hand vote was conducted, and the motion was carried unanimously.*
  - The committee approved the Staten Island EMT Course Sponsor upgrade to Paramedic Refresher.  
*A hand vote was conducted, and the motion was carried unanimously.*
- The Executive Committee will review the attendance status of REMAC members to determine future membership status.

The next REMAC meeting is on February 13, 2024.

## JOINT REMSCO/REMAC QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, Michael Redlener, MD & Joseph Raneri

Joseph Raneri reported that the QI Committee met on January 3, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting:

- The committee completed the review of a regional restriction appeal and decided on remediation.
- The QI Committee brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to approve the course sponsor upgrade application for Staten Island EMT to provide ALS Refresher training.
- The QI Committee is developing QA project reports on advanced airways and pain management.
- The rollout of the FirstWatch Dashboard is currently in progress. Agencies who have yet to receive login information should contact Joseph Raneri.

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The next QA/QI Committee meeting is on February 7, 2024.

## STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT, Robert Crupi, MD

The SEMAC/SEMSCO met in Troy, New York, on December 5, 2023, and December 6, 2023.

### New York State Executive Budget

Marie Diglio reported that the Governor of New York State released an Executive Budget with a significant section on EMS changes. Part B of the Governor's proposed budget for 2025 introduces new EMS-related language that goes beyond Article 30 and extends into Article 28. One of the proposed changes is exploring different uses for Paramedics, but there is concern over the shortage of providers. Also, the EMS Task Force, intended for rural EMS, could broadly impact EMS services. Currently, the proposed language is under review. The State Council has vetted many changes and made reasonable adjustments.

She reported that the main issue is funding. The Program Agencies and Regional Councils require more financial support, since there has been no increase in funding since 1997, and the current situation is unsustainable. Meanwhile, the state provides additional funding to the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS. Members are advised to address this issue by urging legislators to allocate more funding to the region. The Office of the Council will provide members with template letters.

The next SEMAC/SEMSCO meetings will be on February 5, 2024, and February 6, 2024.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### EMS Week

Marie Diglio has announced that the Regional EMS Council will host the EMS Week Awards Ceremony on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Russo's on the Bay. The event will begin at 1 PM. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Regional EMS Council. As part of the celebration, awards will be given to recognize outstanding contributions. Agencies can sponsor



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awards, and currently, Zoll Medical Corporation and Live-On New York are sponsors. Additional sponsors are needed to make the event free for providers.

The meeting of the Regional EMS Council adjourned at 6:26 P.M. The next meeting will be on February 27, 2024.

Approved