

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

Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City February 27, 2024

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on February 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM, 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.

Organizational Members		Present
Chevra Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance Corp	Jason Zimmerman, DO Alternate, Joshua D. Hartman	
Fire Department, City of New York Emergency Medical Services	Chief Grace Cacciola Alternate,	X
	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	VACANT	
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	X
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 Alternate, Mordechai Lax, EMTP	X

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At-Large Members

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

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:

Ryan Greenberg, NYS DOH

Yedidyah Langsam, Ph.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM . The Regional EMS Council meetings are recorded to comply with the Governor's Executive Order #3 to webcast meetings. Michelle Klemm conducted a roll call attendance, and a quorum was present.

The Minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:

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- Membership:
 - None

- FDNY EMS:
 - None

- NYS DOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems:
 - A Webex webinar invitation was received from Ryan Greenberg to brief REMSCOs and REMACs from Westchester, New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk regions on the NYS Budget Part V. The event was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024.
 - 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:
 - **Leah Cousino, Staten Island, NY, 361718**, is suspended for one (1) year effective 1/11/24, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.15 (b). The suspension is stayed. Placed on probation for three (3) years effective 1/11/2024. Assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000 (\$1000 stayed).
 - **Stephanie Lugo, Bronx, NY, 361718**, is revoked effective 8/17/22, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a).
 - **Stanford Fire Co. No. 1, Inc., Stanfordville, NY, 1330**, is surrendered effective 1/9/24 for violations of Article 30 3012 (1) (f).
 - 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:
 - EMS Week photos, logos, and videos were received from Ezras Nashim, Whitestone Community Ambulance Service, Rockaway Point Fire Department, Montefiore EMS, and Hatzolah.

- Course Sponsors:
 - CFR, EMT & Paramedic original and renewal course applications were received from Emergency Care Programs, FDNY EMS, B&H Emergency Medical Training Inc., and the Center for Allied Health Education.
 - All applications appear complete for documentation purposes. Requires REMSCO recommendation to approve.

A vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

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- CME/Training:

The following events were received and distributed:

- None

- Other:

- None

The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:

- Agendas, Minutes, and associated attachments for the meeting. The attachments sent included:
 - Budget: <https://saratogaems.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FY24-25-Article-VII-HMH-Part-V-Summary-v2-24.02.01.pdf>
 - Task Force: <https://saratogaems.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NYS-EMS-Task-Force-Infographic-v2-24.02.01.pdf>
 - Article 30 showing proposed changes.
 - EMS Training Budget information
 - UNYON Budget Testimony
 - NYSVARA Legislative Review
- Marie Diglio sent a letter to Dr. James V. McDonald, Commissioner, or the New York Department of Health, urging the Department of Health to award Jamaica Hospital Medical Center with critical capital funding from the Statewide Healthcare Facility Transformation Program to support the development of comprehensive cancer care services.

STAFF REPORT

Emergency Preparedness Update (Scott Chiang)

Scott Chiang reported the following:

- The Regional Council received the FEMA Covid-19 Mutual Aid Program's final funds, which will be distributed to agencies shortly.

Program Agency Update (Marie Diglio)

Marie Diglio reported that the Regional Council Office submitted the vouchers in January and received payment.

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The Program Agency Directors will meet to discuss the changes to Article 30 and work on a plan to address the items that are not beneficial to the regions. They are primarily concerned about getting more funding as the proposed state budget provides the State Department of Health BEMS with approximately 15 million dollars, while Program Agencies have yet to receive any funding. The regions' representatives will contact the chairs of Health Committees in the Senate and Assembly to request their assistance in acquiring additional agency funding. The Office of the Regional Council will provide a template letter to help EMS agencies and committee members advocate for program agencies while contacting senators and assembly members.

Marie Diglio has requested that representatives from the Regional Council attend the Article 30 meetings. Nancy Benedetto, Frank Cheng, and Mordechai Lax have volunteered to participate on behalf of the council.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT, Martina Bacarella, Chair

There was no report. The next meeting of the Ambulance Committee will be on March 26, 2024.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT, Mordy Lax, Chair

Mordechai Lax, EMTP, reported that the Training & Education met on January 26, 2024. The primary topic of discussion was the 2024 Protocol Updates, which will be completed by April 1, 2024.

The next Training & Education Committee meeting is on March 1, 2024.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Josef Schenker, MD

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City has not met since the last Regional Council meeting. The next meeting will be on March 12, 2024.

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

Joseph Raneri reported that the QI Committee will meet on March 6, 2024.

STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT, Robert Crupi, MD

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The SEMAC/SEMSCO met in Troy, New York, on December 5 and 6, 2023. Robert Crupi, MD, reported that a report will be available at the next meeting.

Marie Diglio reported that the SEMAC/SEMSCO approved the NYC Vaccination Protocol to allow Paramedics to vaccinate. However, after approval, Ryan Greenberg stated in an email to Marie Diglio that it was reviewed by the NYS DOH's Department of Legal Affairs and deemed illegal. Marie Diglio spoke with physicians in the region, Dr. Schenker and Dr. Lai, to discuss the outcome, and they decided that our region would implement this protocol.

During the committee meeting, members expressed concerns about the decision-making process for protocols at the SEMSCO level. They were concerned that the Department of Legal Affairs made these decisions instead of SEMAC and SEMSCO. Ryan Greenberg explained that the vaccination protocol had some legal issues that may change with time. Although the protocol has the potential to benefit the community, especially during an emergency or under an Executive Order, there are doubts about its legality outside of an emergency. It might need legislative changes or a pilot program for successful implementation.

Marie Diglio said that SEMAC and SEMSCO had previously approved protocols without the involvement of the Department of Legal Affairs. Once approved, these protocols were implemented by the regions. In case of any issues, appeals could be made to SEMAC and SEMSCO. The Department of Legal Affairs should only intervene in the appeals cases and should not create any obstacles to implementing the protocols in the regions. Their role is to support SEMAC and SEMSCO unless there is a need to address any issue.

The next SEMAC/SEMSCO meetings will be on May 7, 2024, and May 8, 2024.

UNFINISHED 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. The Regional Council will vote on the nominations received at the April meeting and then forward them to the New York State nominating committee.

Regional Council Elections

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Marie Diglio reported that the Regional Council has several At-Large seats opening in June 2024. The FDNY 2507 union is also requesting representation on the Regional Council as either an organizational or At-Large seat.

Congestion Pricing

Marie Diglio will contact Jerry Gelbard and Daniel Meisels to discuss representing EMS at the MTA Congestion Pricing Hearings. The Office of the Regional Council will resend the dates, times, and locations of the hearings.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Marie Diglio reported that the Regional Council will select a Nominating Committee comprised of three members from the Regional Council and the Board of Directors.

Yediyah Langsam thanked Ryan Greenberg for presenting the Executive Budget changes that affect EMS.

The meeting of the Regional EMS Council adjourned at 6:55 PM. The next meeting will be on March 26, 2024.