

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

## Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City March 26, 2024

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on March 26, 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](http://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	X
Greater New York Hospital Association	Andrew Dahl, MD Alternate, Alison Burke	
	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	
New York City Police Department	VACANT	
NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. District 4	Travis Kessel Alternate, James Downey, MBA, EMT	
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 Alternate, Mordechai Lax, EMTP	X

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## At-Large Members

<b>Martina Bacarella, EMT, Secretary</b>	X
Vincent Barranco, EMTP	
Nancy Benedetto	X
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>	
Dennis Laurie, EMT	X
Brian Levinsky, EMTP	X
<b>Mitchell S. Powell, EMTP, Parliamentarian</b>	

### STAFF:

Marie Diglio, Executive Director

Charlie Ung, CTC Assistant

Michelle Klemm, Operations Assistant

Before the meeting, Steve Sasso from T-Mobile presented T-Mobile's First Responders Connecting Heroes Program. This program aims to support first responder agencies with priority access to their nationwide network. More information about the program is available at [First Responder Agencies Get Free Talk, Text & Unlimited Data with 5G Access | T-Mobile for Government](#). He also explained that the company offers personalized plans for individuals at [First Responder Discounts on Unlimited Phone Plans | T-Mobile](#).

After the presentation, Robert Crupi, MD, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 committee had a moment of silence for the death of Manuel (Manny) Delgado.

The Minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

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

- Membership:
  - Vincent Barranco submitted a nomination and resume, nominating Amin Karimbaksh for an At-Large seat on the Regional Council.

*During the meeting, Dr. Robert Crupi read into the minutes the appointment of Robert Bristol as the primary representative of the Office of Emergency Management, with Max Goldfarb as the alternate.*

- FDNY EMS:
  - A 10th Generation Ambulance Agreement between the New York City Fire Department and Northwell Health was received, extending their agreement (and any amendments thereto) from December 1, 2023, until August 1, 2024.
  - A 10th Generation Ambulance Agreement between the New York City Fire Department and Staten Island University Hospital was received, extending their agreement (and any amendments thereto) from December 1, 2023, until August 1, 2024.
  - A 10th Generation Ambulance Agreement between the New York City Fire Department and Lenox Hill Hospital was received, extending their agreement (and any amendments thereto) from December 1, 2023, until August 1, 2024.
  - A 10th Generation Ambulance Agreement between the New York City Fire Department and North Shore University Hospital was received, extending their agreement (and any amendments thereto) from December 1, 2023, until August 1, 2024.
- NYS DOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems:
  - A flyer was received from the Vital Signs EMS Academy announcing the availability of CME for the week of March 18, 2024.
  - NYS DOH Enforcements:
    - **Mackenzie Nicol, Baldwinsville, NY, 441429**, is suspended for three (3) years effective 3/4/24, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (1), 800.16 (a) (3), 800.16 (a) (11) and 800.15 (b) (1). The suspension is stayed pending successful completion of three (3) year's probation. Assessed a civil penalty of \$12,000. \$10,000 is stayed pending successful completion of probation.

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- **Amanda Van Heemstede Obelt, Salisbury Mills, NY, 474737**, is suspended one (1) year effective 3/11/24, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (10). The suspension is stayed. EMT placed on three (3) year's probation effective 3/11/24. Assessed a civil penalty of \$1,000. \$500 is suspended pending probation.
- **Jeffrey Ashdown, Modena, NY, 346727**, is surrendered effective 3/7/24, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.15 (a) (2).
- **Ryan Gittens, Brooklyn, NY, 419796**, is suspended one (1) year effective 3/18/24, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (1)- (3). Assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000.00.
- **Arnaldo Deliz, Jr., Brooklyn, NY, 477062**, is revoked effective 3/18/24, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (1)-(3). Assessed a civil penalty of \$5,000.
- 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 Central Park Medical Unit, SeniorCare EMS, Maimonides Medical Center, Bravo Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc., and Park Slope Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.

*Marie Diglio urged committee members to send in their agency's photos, logos, and videos.*

- Course Sponsors:

- CFR, EMT & Paramedic original and renewal course applications were received from FDNY EMS, Emergency Care Programs, B&H Emergency Medical Training Inc., LaGuardia Community College, and St. John's University.
  - All applications appear complete for documentation purposes. Requires REMSCO recommendation to approve.

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

*Marie Diglio stated that during her visit to Albany, she had a discussion with the state regarding the need for a more substantial approval procedure instead of merely approving a complete application. She said that the New York State Department of Health is currently devising a plan to involve regional councils more actively in their training centers and provide more input about the process.*

- CME/Training:

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The following events were received and distributed:

- Mount Sinai Center for Healthcare Readiness will host “The Future of Healthcare Readiness” conference on May 8, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, at the Goldwurm Auditorium in the Mount Sinai Icahn Medical Institute. The fee will be \$85, which includes lunch, refreshments, and registration. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-healthcare-readiness-tickets-858191161867>.
- A NYS Certified Instructor Update Course will be held via WebEx on June 12, 2024, from 17:00-20:00 hours. Register at <https://cnyems.org>.
- Other:
  - Funeral service arrangements for Manuel (Manny) Delgado were received.
  - Funeral service arrangements for Walter Jehle, a retired FDNY EMS Lieutenant and a lifetime member of Bravo Volunteer Ambulance Service, were received.

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

- Agendas, Minutes, and associated attachments for the meeting.
- The Office of the Council sent information regarding Senate Bill (S8670A) and Assembly Bill (A9558) concerning the MTA’s Congestion Pricing Plan to exempt only FDNY EMS Providers to committee members, ambulance agencies, and EMS providers, urging them to advocate for all providers to be exempt.

*Marie Diglio stated that only firefighters, not FDNY EMS, may be exempt from the bills. Also, the Office of the Regional Council has emailed the State Health Committee Chairs of the Senate and Assembly, requesting their support in exempting all EMS providers from the bills. Committee members will receive template letters to send to elected officials and the bill authors to show support for exempting all EMS providers.*

*Grace Cacciola suggested that the Office of the Regional Council contact Queens Councilwoman Joanne Ariola for additional support.*

- Organizational representatives were sent membership letters, notifying them of their eligibility for reappointment to the Regional Council.
- Membership letters were sent to the following individuals, informing them they are ineligible to be reappointed to the Regional Council as At-Large Members: Vincent Barranco, Mitchell S. Powell, Jerry Gombo, and Sean Graves.

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*Marie Diglio reported that four At-Large seats are available on the Regional Council. Those interested should contact Michelle Klemm in the Office of the Regional Council with a letter of recommendation from a Council member, a curriculum vitae, and a letter explaining why they would make a good candidate.*

- Welcome letters were sent to Jason Zimmerman, DO, and Joshua Hartman, organizational representatives of Chevra Hatzalah on the Regional Council.

## STAFF REPORT

### Emergency Preparedness Update (Scott Chiang)

There was no report.

### Program Agency Update (Marie Diglio)

Marie Diglio reported that the Office of the Regional Council is in discussion with New York State and other Program Agencies to review the governor's budget. They have been in active communication with the chairs of the health committees and have requested that funding be distributed more equitably. There are also concerns regarding the EMS Task Force and the state's plan to hire an additional 135 people. More information will be available after the May SEMAC/SEMSCO meetings.

## AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT, Martina Bacarella, Chair

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

- The Security Stickers TAG requires an updated quote from the vendor.
- A template letter will be sent to committee members to support EMS providers being exempt from MTA Congestion Pricing. Copies of the bills were sent to members prior to the meeting.

The next meeting of the Ambulance Committee will be on April 16, 2024.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT, Mordy Lax, Chair

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Michelle Klemm reported that the Training & Education met on March 22, 2024. She said the 2024 protocol update will be available on the Learning Management System by April 1, 2024. Also, a REMAC Advisory will be prepared before the next REMAC meeting.

The next Training & Education Committee meeting is on May 17, 2024.

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

Josef Schenker, MD, reported that the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City has not met since the last Regional Council meeting due to a lack of a quorum. The committee will review attendance and determine whether members will remain on the committee.

The next meeting will be on April 9, 2024.

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

There was no report.

## STATE EMS COUNCIL REPORT, Robert Crupi, MD

Robert Crupi, MD, reported that a report will be available after the SEMAC/SEMSCO meetings in May.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### EMS Week

Marie Diglio announced that the Regional EMS Council will host the EMS Week Awards Ceremony on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Russo's on the Bay. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Regional EMS Council and Emergency Medical Services, and part of the celebration will include presenting awards to recognize outstanding contributions. Nominations for awards and award sponsorships are currently being accepted. The Office of the Regional Council will resend links for award nominations and award sponsorships.

### Regional Council Elections

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Marie Diglio reported that four At-Large seats are available on the Regional Council. Please send in your nominations.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Voluntary Hospitals Withdrawing from the 911 System

Grace Cacciola reported that multiple 911-participating voluntary hospitals are withdrawing from the 911 system, creating a shortage of personnel. Although FDNY EMS is training additional classes, it cannot maintain the personnel necessary to staff the ambulances specifically for overnights and weekends. She also explained that several hospitals, including SUNY Downstate and Beth Israel, are scheduled to close. Beth Israel will shut down on July 1, 2024, and Kingsbrook Jewish has already closed in the region.

During the meeting, the committee discussed the need to approach regional course sponsors to clarify the requirements for flexible working hours in the profession. Additionally, they deliberated on the involvement of the New York State Department of Health in approving hospital openings and closures. They also spoke about whether the department examines the impact of a hospital's services on the community it serves and its effects on emergency medical services. After a brief discussion, one of the members suggested contacting Ryan Greenberg at the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS to inform them about the situation in the region due to the closures.

The meeting of the Regional EMS Council adjourned at 6:55 PM. The next meeting will be on April 16, 2024.