

Southern Tier Regional EMS Council



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Robert C. Rajskey, Chairperson
Bernadette Josbeno-Oakes, Vice Chairperson

Southern Tier Regional EMS Council
Thursday, March 11, 2010; 7:00 PM
EMSTAR, Elmira, NY

Present: Bob Rajskey, chairperson; Steve Bennett, Patrick Bermingham, Frank Brzozowski, Jim Chrabaszcz, Fred Crist, Donna Fiske (for L. Donley), Don Duvall, Patti Gressel, Bill Hawk, Dr. Huffner, Henry Jerzak, Bernadette Josbeno-Oakes, Rick Kimball, Jim Kintz, Al Lewis, Carol Lucas, Dr. Manganaro, Dave Molyno, Ann Repsher, Mike Sprague, Maryann Sweely, Teri Symonds, Mary Ann Teeter. Staff: Judy Blair
Absent/Excused: R. Churches, S. Churches, C. Cuyle, B. Kennedy, D. Patterson, M. Smith
Guests: Ross Zastrow, Nicole O'Toole, Bryce Rowles

Item	Description	Action
Call to Order	The meeting of the Southern Tier Regional EMS Council was called to order by Bob Rajskey, Chairperson. The roll was called; a quorum was present.	None
Correspondence and announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Correspondence form Mr., Patterson – illness in the family prevented his attending tonight’s meeting. •Incident action planning. I-300 review, April 8, in Hornell. •ASIST, a program to assist in dealing with people with threatening or attempting suicide, March 15-16 in Bath •Other correspondence: Dear Respected Council Members, please accept my resignation from STREMS Council, effective after Council meeting as scheduled on March 11, 2010. It has been my pleasure to serve on this valuable community service organization. Respectfully submitted, Patti A. Gressel. <p>Enforcement Notices were read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Cornell, from Old Bethpage, surrendered his certification effective 1/6/10 • Thomas Sykora of Utica surrendered his certification effective 1/12/10. <p><u>Announcements:</u> EMSTAR now has a page on Face Book – check it out for new things coming along.</p>	None.

Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were approved on a motion, with a date correction, by Dr Huffner, seconded by Mr Brzozowski.

None

SEMAC/SEMSCO reports

Mr Duvall reported that he was unable to attend the meetings due to the State's budget situation. A cap was put on travel expenses, and expenses for members from the western part of the state exceed that limit, and require prior approval. Reimbursement had not yet been received for the two previous meetings.

Dr Huffner discussed several issues from SEMAC:

- New York City EMS proposed two protocol additions.
 - One - hypothermia, they'll be able to collect data in terms of the place and value of hypothermic, active cooling of patients who undergo cardiopulmonary resuscitation and have a return of spontaneous circulation.
 - Two- mass casualty triage protocol, changing the MCI triage protocol in the City of New York, making their system different from the rest of the world. The protocol adds an orange category for the patients who are somewhere between nothing is wrong with them/walking wounded and dire straits/absolutely must be seen.
- VA transfers: patients who might present with acute ST elevation MI's in some areas are choosing not to go to the STEMI systems because they are being told that they would be responsible for the costs associated with that. Some VA systems are going to address that.
- Revatio is a drug used for treatment of patients who have primary pulmonary hypertension. It is a new trade name for Viagra. When we mention sexually enhancing medication, Revatio is a drug that must be included in terms of patients who might get nitroglycerin. Primary pulmonary hypertension is a very very rare disease and if patients are on it, they are counseled to make sure that they mention that, they know about it, but it's good for EMS to know about that.
- There have been significant issues in New York City about the willingness of interventional cardiologists to attempt PCI, percutaneous intervention, on patients who come in near dead or are very, very elderly, and the reason is that the state very, very closely follows the mortality statistics on individual providers and publishes them. So what they're seeing in New York City with a lot of these interventionalists is a reluctance to do these high-risk patients, because there's such a high mortality rate. So the state is going to endeavor to develop a process whereby patients who are near

terminal or who meet certain criteria will be exempted from the mortality statistics.

Mr Lewis discussed an issue in the Governor's proposed budget. There is, in the budget language, a change in Municipal Law 209(b) which allows volunteer fire department ambulance companies to begin to bill. An unintended consequence of that change eliminates the fly car programs in upstate New York. New York is the only state that allows for Medicare to pay for fly car response. However, if the volunteer ambulances are allowed to bill, Medicare will no longer cover the fly car expense. Motion that the STREMS Council goes on record opposing Governor Patterson's language in the 2010-11 budget which supports the elimination of General Municipal Law 209 (b) (Lewis/Lucas); passed.

Letter to be sent to the Governor and other key personnel.

STREMAC

STREMAC received the resignation of Dr. Shepherd, who is now working out of this region. Dr Morrow is nominated for STREMAC membership. Motion to approve (Teeter/Repsher); passed.
AED Permit approval recommended for Addison Ambulance, Mecklenburg Fire Department, Breesport Fire Department, Schuyler Ambulance, Wayland Ambulance. Motion to approve (Huffner/Sweely), passed.
ALS Permit approval recommended for Hornell Ambulance and Rural Metro Ambulance. Motion to approve (Huffner/Sprague).
Jasper Ambulance and Woodhull Ambulance will begin using e-PCRs.
Protocol revision: committee will meet Friday at 2PM.

None.

Training Committee

Did not meet.

Public Relations Committee

Did not meet.

Quality Improvement Committee

Will meet later this month.

CISM

For January and February of 2010, there have been 11 debriefings, 1 defusing, and 11 education opportunities.

Executive Committee

Several Council members' terms have expired. Mr Lewis, Ms Teeter, Mr Chrabaszcz and Ms Repsher have been invited to serve another term, and are willing to serve. Motion to accept (Sweely/Crist) approved.
One member has not attended any meetings in two years, and according to Council bylaws. Motion to remove Ms. Cuyle from membership (Rajsky/Jerzak), approved.

Applications will be solicited from Schuyler Hospital.
Designations: The Council needs to designate the agencies that will serve as:

- Program Agency – EMSTAR
- Newspaper – Star-Gazette, and Hornell and Corning papers as appropriate
- Attorney – Clover Drinkwater
- Accountant – Ed Hoffman Jr
- Bank – Elmira Savings Bank

Motion to approve (Huffner/Chrabaszcz) approved.

Other Business

Mike Sprague discussed a feasibility study to consolidate three ambulance services in northern Steuben. There were ten responses to the RFP, ranging from Florida to California to Wisconsin. The responses have been narrowed down to two; interviews are upcoming. Steuben Emergency Management has applied for a Homeland Security grant, for a county-wide ID program to include fire and EMS. Systems Committee will look at regional requirements. Bradford Ambulance has a new captain; Ross Zastrow and several regional agencies have assisted in getting her started.

None.

Adjournment; Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for March 11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM on a motion by Mr. Brzozowski, seconded by Dr Huffner.