

Ryan P. Greenberg was introduced as the new Director of the Bureau of EMS and Trauma Systems. Cathy Burns was introduced as the new Trauma Program Coordinator.

As part of an ongoing project established by the SEMSCO in response to widespread reports that career and volunteer EMS agencies across NY State are coping with shortages of certified EMS Providers, a survey has been developed to gather information and gauge the impact. Survey responses will include aggregate data only, no personal and / or agency identifiers, or individual responses will be released. The survey can be accessed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSEMSWorkforce>

Ongoing discussion occurred regarding the Governor's recent State-of-the-State address included encouraging word about strengthening rural EMS systems, creating employment opportunities in EMS, allowing community paramedicine, increasing availability of EMS Training Programs and enhancing EMS Supervisory Training; all aimed at ensuring a growth platform for the EMS profession in NY State. Unfortunately, this year's EMS budget and cash ceiling both remain flat, with no provision for growth and expansion. Enabling legislation recognizing Community Paramedicine / Mobile Integrated Health Care as an essential extension of emergency medical services' links to the health care system was again defeated due to intense lobbying by the NY State Nurses Association.

The BLS Protocol TAG completed its work on the NY State BLS Protocol document revision. The final draft was presented and a protocol by protocol review held. The Final Comment Period will end mid-July 2018, and final document will be presented at the September 2018 meeting for a vote to accept, with the anticipated start date of January 2019. It is projected that a statewide update will occur in the on-line environment.

The Bureau of EMS EMT Certification Computerized Testing Pilot Program has ended. This pilot was designed to test the efficacy of on-line computer based testing for the NY State Written certification exam. The end-user satisfaction scores thus far indicate a high degree of acceptance.

NY City's proposed Stroke Protocol was approved. This protocol is designed to modify prehospital screening using the Los Angeles Motor Scale plus speech (LAMS plus speech) and preferentially diverting patients to a stroke center capable of mechanical thrombectomy with emergency neurological surgery backup. The issues include the fact that the postulated sensitivity and specificity of LAMs plus speech has not yet been validated.

The Bureau of EMS anticipates resurrecting the Regional Faculty program over the summer. The lack of qualified instructors across the state is evident, largely due to the inability to recruit, credential, retain, and update instructors due to the lack of Regional Faculty.

The Upstate Collaborative AEMT Protocols, adding several medications and one procedure, each within the scope of practice, were approved.

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Discussion was held regarding the EMT-CC to EMT-P Bridge, with a significant amount of progress on the backbone of the program, which is the didactic on-line platform. While EMS Providers and Course Sponsors are extremely anxious to hear the requirements and are looking forward to bridge start-up, the Bureau has appropriately maintained the approach that there is still process work to be done, the process has not yet been finalized, and it would be irresponsible to release information piecemeal, thereby causing more confusion. The Bureau understands and appreciates the issue and is hoping to release information this summer.

At the January meeting, the draft changes to the CME Program were released. The changes include a revision to the total amount of hours required to recertify at all levels, along with a redistribution of hours by category.

The new format is expected streamline CME recertification. Due to the impact of staffing shortages and the resultant re-directed work flow, the Bureau of EMS was unable to meet their predicted release date of May, 2018, but do expect release within the next two (2) months. Reminder that despite this draft being initially released at the Vital Signs Conference in October, 2017, this remains a draft and is not yet in effect.

The proposed change in minimum age needed for EMS certification from age eighteen (18) to age seventeen (17) is progressing through the rule-making regulatory process. The comment period has closed, and the Bureau of EMS has responded to the comments received. The next step is the draft regulation review by the Division of Legal Affairs (DLA) relative to the comments received which will either result in a new draft, or the forwarding of the current draft for legislative approval.

Transition to the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) standards continues to progress as expected. The Bureau of EMS reports ongoing steady progress and success with upgrading CICs and CLIs, with the highest percentages of passing on the 1st or 2nd attempt, citing about 80% of the instructors completing the process. The Bureau continues working with instructors through a very successful remedial process as needed, to promote success.

EMSC reported that the recent annual federal survey, sent to select ambulance services across NY State has been completed, stating that more than 98% of the agencies surveyed statewide responded. Preliminary results yield while most ambulances have pediatric patient equipment, the vast majorities don't have a pediatric emergency care champion or a method to ensure competency in pediatric equipment. Future emphasis needs to be placed in this area through ongoing certification, continuing medical education and credentialing.

SEMAC received an appeal from ALS Services, Inc., requesting that their suspension be overturned. SEMAC voted to uphold its decision to uphold the Nassau REMSCO's suspension of ALS Services, Inc., due to the service's ongoing failure to comply with the required stipulations.

SEMSCO's 2018 Officers have been duly elected: Patty Bashaw as Chair; Mark Phillippy as 1st Vice Chair; and Steve Cady as 2nd Vice Chair.

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SEMSCO's Legislative Committee brought forth motions as follows: support A908 requiring insurance carriers to pay ambulance services directly, instead of through patient pay / reimbursement; support A2733A related to the passage of changes to Article 30 to allow Community Paramedicine / Mobile Integrated Health Care; and to oppose A7505A, related to amending the Public Health Law to have the Commissioners of Health and Dept. of Transportation to establish ambulance driver safety standards. Please note that the vote to oppose is not a vote against safe ambulance operations, but rather, it's a vote to oppose the inclusion of the DOT in an EMS related law, a law impossible to enforce, and because it's a topic already addressed in other policy areas.

The PIER Committee is in receipt of 2017 EMS Awards submissions by the regions, reviews are underway, and State Award Winners will be announced in the near future.

An EMT-centric recruitment & Retention Tool has been developed and will be available on the Bureau's website.

The EMS Memorial will be held on May 23, 2018, commencing at 11:00 AM in Albany. This year, eight (8) EMS providers who died in the Line of Duty in 2017 will be enshrined.

NY State EMS Vital Signs Conference will be held in Syracuse, October 10-14, 2018.

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