

MEETING SUMMARY

March 11, 2025

Suffolk County EMS, Yaphank, NY 11980

NOTE: This summary is a draft summary until approved at the May 13, 2025, meeting.

Members Present: See attendance list, provided as *attachment 1*. Subcommittees did not meet.

Meeting opened at 1900hrs with Chairman Boyd presiding. Chairman Boyd led the group in the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

A motion was made by Mr. Franz, seconded by Mr. Diffley, to accept the January 14, 2025, Meeting Summary, as posted. The motion carried without opposition.

Executive Officer's Report – E. Boyd

- Chairman Boyd stated that much of his report will be covered by others throughout the meeting, but volunteers to help with the upcoming conference are needed. Please reach out if interested in helping.

Vice Chairman's Report – M. Zender

- Vice Chairman Zender reported that the Chase account was updated with signatures for the current officers of REMSCO. Additionally, the account itself was updated and is now appropriate and working properly.

Budget – T. Prendergast

- The balance in the account is \$18,460.55. Deposits for the conference: 2/18/25 \$750.00 (Northwell), 3/10/25 \$750.00 (Stryker), 3/10/25 \$750.00 (Ladder), 3/10/25 \$5,000.00 (CHSLI). Deposit for TOA: 3/10/25 \$5,000.00 (Kings Park Fire District). Total Deposits: \$12,250.00. Checks disbursed (Cleared): Check # 1190 \$148.50 (Language Line Services), Check # 1191 \$319.00 (Infrastructive Solutions), Check # 1192 \$307.20 (All American Awards), Check # 1193 \$734.94 (Michele Miller - Travel Expense), Check # 1194 \$1,128.00 (Suffolk Printing), Check # 1195 \$319.00 (Infrastructive Solutions), Check # 1196 \$3,085.00 (Infrastructive Solutions); Checks disbursed not cleared: Check # 1197 \$73.50 (Language Line Services), Check # 1198 \$17.25 (Language Line Services), Check # 1199 \$200.00 (All American Awards). Total Disbursements: \$6,332.39. Closing Checking balance \$24,378.16.

Correspondence

Correspondence for March 11, 2025, Suffolk REMSCO Meeting

Incoming – date; from whom; subject

1/20/2025; Infrastructure; bill for credentialing.
2/4/2025; Language Line Bill for January
2/6/2025; Infrastructure Bill for January
2/7/2025- 4/15/2025; Mount Sinai Congregational Church (K. Martin); Timber Ridge Park HOA (R. Lynch); Flanders Men's Club (J. Roth); Smithtown Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (A. Simmons); Village of Saltaire (M. Posillico); East Quogue Union Free School District (M. Miller); Moriches Rotary Health Camp dba Camp Paquatuck (K. Cafiero); Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook (R. Psaris); Hauppauge Fire District (C. Thomas); Windex USA, Inc. (C. Manolache); Village of Islandia (B. Kolonoskie); Sharon Manufacturing Co Inc (J. Stamm); Sunbelt Rentals, Inc- 0616 (PMC 0616); New York Like-NE-V655-Long Island-Eastern Long Island (C. Ling), Bretton woods HOA (K. Allen); Notice of Intent to Provide Public Access Defibrillation and Collaborative Agreement
3/10/2025; T. Allen; SFS documents need signing.
3/11/2025; T. Allen; Budget Matrix Template for REMSCO.
3/12/2025; T. Allen; Please revise budget matrix.
4/3/2025; T. Allen; please revise budget matrix.
4/7/2025; T. Allen; requesting that Mr. Masterton write a letter of resignation to Dr. McDonald; requesting Ms. Miller-McEvoy's information.
4/18/2025; EMS Finance NYS; requesting further modifications to REMSCO Budget Matrix.

Outgoing – date; to whom; subject

2/7/2025- 4/15/2025; D. Wayrich to Mount Sinai Congregational Church (K. Martin); Timber Ridge Park HOA (R. Lynch); Flanders Men's Club (J. Roth); Smithtown Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (A. Simmons); Village of Saltaire (M. Posillico); East Quogue Union Free School District (M. Miller); Moriches Rotary Health Camp dba Camp Paquatuck (K. Cafiero); Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook (R. Psaris); Hauppauge Fire District (C. Thomas); Windex USA, Inc. (C. Manolache); Village of Islandia (B. Kolonoskie); Sharon Manufacturing Co Inc (J.

March 11, 2025
Suffolk County EMS, Yaphank, NY 11980

Stamm); Sunbelt Rentals, Inc- 0616 (PMC 0616); New York Like-NE-V655-Long Island-Eastern Long Island (C. Ling), Bretton woods HOA (K. Allen); confirmation letter of receipt of Notice of Intent to Provide Public Access Defibrillation and Collaborative Agreement
 2/11/2025; D. Wayrich to all PAD participants; survey
 2/26/2025; J. Hannigan to E. Boyd, M. Zender and T. Prendergast; Trauma and CPR Save pin design approvals; conference giveaway design approval.
 3/3/2025; J. Hannigan to E. Boyd, M. Zender and T. Prendergast; Trauma and CPR Save pin final design approval and quotes; conference giveaway final design approval and quotes.
 3/7/2025; J. Hannigan; ordered Trauma and CPR Save Pins, conference giveaway.
 3/10/2025; J. Hannigan to T. Allen; documents signed.
 3/11/2025; J. Hannigan to T. Allen, proposed budget matrix set for approval.
 3/13/2025; J. Hannigan to T. Allen; revised budget matrix sent.
 4/4/2025; J. Hannigan to T. Allen; Masterton resigning as representative to SEMSCO.
 4/7/2025; J. Hannigan to M. Miller-McEvoy; requesting CV and DOB for state for SEMSCO.
 4/17/2025; J. Hannigan to T. Allen and EMS Finance; budget matrix revised and resent.
 4/22/2025; J. Hannigan to T. Allen; Michele Miller-McEvoy requested information sent.

End of March 11, 2025, Correspondence

Suffolk County EMS Division Staff Reports – Dr. Winslow / D. Keegan (for P. Marra)/ S. Januszkiewicz

- Dr Winslow reported the following:
 - “From the Health Department, the cases and severity of cases of this winter’s influenza and coronavirus illnesses have markedly decreased. This is the 12th week of widespread influenza activity but the levels of cases are decreasing and are at the lowest numbers since December 28 of 2024.
 - From the State Council, the last meetings were held in Troy on February 26 and 27. Of note from the meetings, the 2026 proposed New York State Governor’s Budget Part R includes several important items for your information. This includes EMS as an essential service language, standardized reporting of performance standards, and the development of a comprehensive statewide EMS plan with the participation and cooperation of regional county plans throughout the State. It should be interesting to see how this proposed budget moves through the NY State Assembly this year and I encourage you all to review Part R.
 - The most recent meeting of the Suffolk County REMAC was held on January 28 and the REMAC Subcommittee meetings were held on February 24. As Dr Marshall is present tonight as REMAC Chair, he will give the REMAC report.
 - Also, the Suffolk County Medical Control 2024 annual report has been completed. A copy of the report was emailed to the REMSCO members today. I want to thank Stony Brook University Hospital and the physicians and paramedics at Stony Brook for all their hard work in the management and performance of Suffolk County Medical Control, which in my opinion is a best practice in EMS medicine and is the finest in New York State. Thank you to Chris Gallway, the Medical Control supervisor, who could not be here tonight to present the report himself due to a conflict. Thank you, Chris.
 - One other meeting to mention is that this coming Wednesday March 12 is the Suffolk County RTAC meeting here in Yaphank at 2pm where we will be discussing the regional approach to trauma care and some recent case reviews from our trauma centers. All REMSCO members are welcome to attend.”
- Mr. Keegan reported the following on operations:
 - The transition to FRES continues to be moving forward smoothly
 - For those not aware, SCEMS would like to welcome Steve Januszkiewicz to the team. He is the FRES Training Officer assigned to assist with education and training.
 - Permits were secured for the agencies needing access to the Ponquogue Bridge while the construction details are being worked on.
 - The TOA for Kings Park Fire Department to Fire District is being processed. The application has been sent to the state for Fitness and Competency, we hope to present at the May meeting
 - No updates to the Cyano kits at this point, as discussed at the January meeting, we are hoping deliveries will resume in the second quarter. More to come as it becomes available.
 - We are asking agencies to provide a 90-day window for all drills that they wish the county to participate in to allow for scheduling.

March 11, 2025
Suffolk County EMS, Yaphank, NY 11980

- Please take a copy of the NYS Budget Summary that would impact EMS. Copies have been provided on the sign in table.
- Lastly, we would like to commend the efforts of our Fire and EMS crews for the prompt response and extinguishment of this weekend's East Brush Fire. Thankfully, only two patients required treatment.
- Mr. Januszkiewicz reported the following on Education and training:
 - The online registration of CME classes has come out, and flyers have been sent to the system. Please share them with all.
 - The updated CME manual had been added to the REMSCO website.
 - The transition of the contracts for per-dem instructors from Suffolk County DOH to FRES is ongoing but has mostly been completed. New per diem instructors are also being brought on staff, including some new CICs.
 - The EMT class through Eastern Suffolk BOCES is coming to an end, and SCEMS will be meeting with them again soon to plan for next year. The interest in the program has grown, and SCEMS and BOCES are excited to continue to grow. The same applies to the EMT class that is taught at St. Anthony's High School.
 - Division is working on the Rave Alert platform that FRES has been using to send out notifications to the system providers. Thus far, contacts from the REMSCO website have been added and are in the process of getting validated. Information on being added to the list will be announced soon.
 - Six EMT classes are due to end and test within the next two months, and applications for summer classes will be submitted shortly, including an AEMT class beginning in May and another in the fall. A CFR class will be held at East Quogue FD soon. Reminders to all agencies with youth squads, the age of participation is 16 years old by the last day of the final month of the class, so younger members can become CFRs. An instructor update class was also submitted to the state and will be announced once approved. An instructor class and a paramedic refresher is tentatively planned for the fall. All upcoming classes and schedules can be found on the REMSCO website. Please help us spread the word to the system for classes.

SEMSCO Representative Report- M. Miller-McEvoy:

- Ms. Miller-McEvoy reported the following:
 - BEMS is transitioning. This division is expected to grow by 150 positions. They are creating new sections including an Emergency Management sector.
 - Currently behind in agency inspections due to staffing shortages. They are still prioritizing patient safety investigations.
 - The last three CC to Medic Bridge programs have been posted.
 - Ambulance build regulations will be going out for public comment this year.
 - New policies coming out soon will include independent CME recertification, and educational benchmarks.
 - 330 Paramedics did not submit for reimbursement (\$1600 each) who were eligible for reimbursement were sent letters from BEMS. Agencies were also sent letters for providers who appeared on PCR's that received letters. Please look out for these letters, and submit them so those that can get a reimbursement, do.
 - Hospital offload data delays and data acquisition was looked at by the Finance Subcommittee. Particularly in Nassau County, who sends out a weekly report, located on www.nassauems.org under EMS coordinator tab, documenting wait time and transports per hospital.
 - The full report from Ms. Miller-McEvoy can be found here as *attachment 2*.
 - Mr. Boyd asked if the Igel Pilot had been moved into protocol; it has been added as "if trained and equipped" beginning with the July 1, 2025, implementation. He also asked about the BLS IM Glucagon Pilot; it will be added as of July 1, 2025, as well.

March 11, 2025
Suffolk County EMS, Yaphank, NY 11980

Education and Training

- No report.

Resource Needs- E. Boyd

- The \$5,000 TOA fee has been received from Kings Park, and the application is currently at the state. It is expected for the next meeting.

Communications and Technology

- Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Miniutti were excused, no report given.

Nominations Committee – S. Slovensky

- Mr. Slovensky reported that he received a letter changing the REMSCO representative for Northwell Health/South Shore University Hospital from Mr. Pellicone to Mr. Cimino. A motion was made by Mr. Slovensky to approve the change. It was seconded by Dr. Winslow and passed without opposition.

Performance Improvement – B. Talmage

- Mr. Talmage reported that he has nothing to report. Dr. Winslow offered to bring the REMAC QA/QI and REMSCO Performance Improvement Subcommittees together, as their work is similar. The offer was accepted, and the REMSCO agreed. Mr. Talmage asked if anything was released from the state on QA/QI, but noting of note for this region (as we already have an established QA/QI process) was released. The ePCR data reporting issues are hindering this progress.

REMAC – Dr. Marshall

- Dr. Marshall reported that REMAC discussed policies, including adding a note of clarification to the regional policy on automated ventilators- that chronically ventilated patients can be placed on an ATV for transport.
- There was a short presentation from a doctoral candidate who is asking for surveys to be filled out. This can be found on the REMSCO Website.
- Work on the pieces of the regional policy manual that were not updated in the last round will begin shortly, and work continues on the manual itself.
- The QA/QI Subcommittee will begin to pull from ImageTrend for metrics, though there are still issues with data.
- The protocol changes are due to go into effect July 1, 2025. The big changes are the movement of BLS Igel from a pilot to “if trained and equipped” and the addition of olanzapine and the removal of Haldol from the formulary.
- A request was made to put together educational material on what the upcoming protocol changes will be; this item will be taken to the REMAC.

Legislative – R. Franz

- Mr. Franz had an extensive report, and it can be found here as *attachment 3*.

Bylaws- J. Atkinson (Excused)

- Mr. Boyd stated that there was a tabled motion regarding the bylaws, and now that REMSCO members has a chance to review, the vote can continue. There was much discussion. Mr. Talmage noted that a page was missing; the REMAC as its own entity was discussed; there were still grammatical errors that needed fixing. It was decided to take it back to the Bylaw Subcommittee, to be reviewed at a later date. The motion was tabled until May.

March 11, 2025
Suffolk County EMS, Yaphank, NY 11980

Public Information- J. Manzi

- Mr. Manzi had nothing to report.

Old Business

- Secretary Hannigan spoke about the upcoming REMSCO Tom Lateulere conference:
 - The Platinum sponsor for the conference is Catholic Health EMS(thank you to them). All four gold sponsorships have been taken by Stryker, Northwell health, Ladder Suites, and Integrated Wireless Technologies. Five Silver (\$300 ea.) and seven Bronze (\$200 ea.) remain. This is a good recruitment opportunity as well as for vendors.
 - Seventy-five people are already registered for the conference.
 - Speaker material is currently being reviewed. The deadline for submissions is March 26, 2025. Anyone interested in helping with this task please email Ms. Hannigan.
 - Volunteers are needed for the day of the conference; please reach out if interested.

New Business

- Ms. Miller-McEvoy announced that Long Island Community Hospital has been renamed to NYU Langone Hospital-Suffolk.
- Dr. Winslow was asked if there is anything on measles that needs to be communicated to providers. Dr. Winslow confirmed that there has only been one case in the area and the patient had flown in from another country. He recommends vaccination as the most effective means of prevention.

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Diffley, seconded by Dr. Marshall, at 1941 hrs.

Next meetings of the Suffolk Regional EMS Council will be on
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
7:00 PM
Suffolk County EMS, 360 Yaphank Ave., Yaphank, NY 11980

ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW


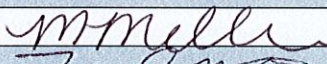
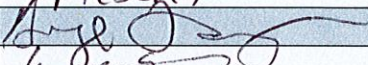
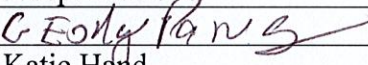
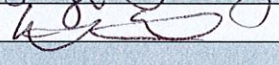

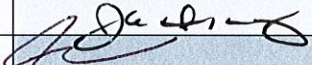
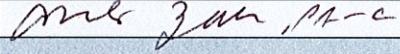
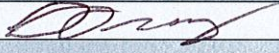
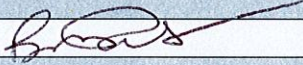
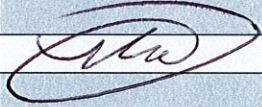
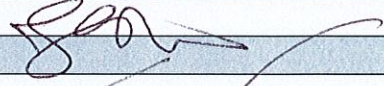
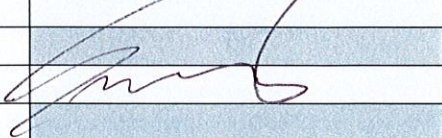
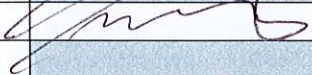
Prepared for the Suffolk Regional EMS Council by Jennifer Hannigan, Executive Secretary.



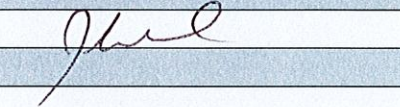
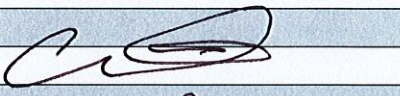
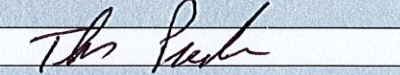
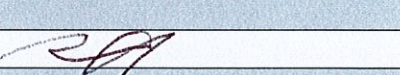
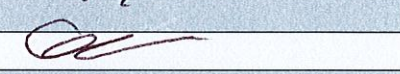
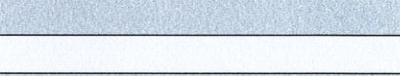
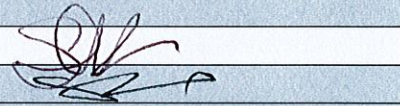
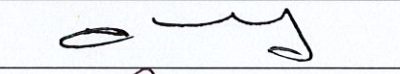
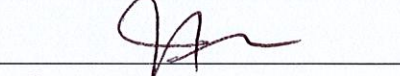
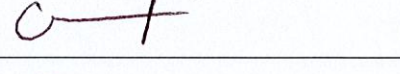
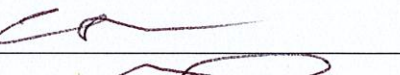
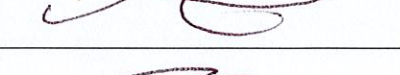

SUFFOLK REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Date: March 11, 2025

Location: Suffolk County EMS, Yaphank

Constituency	Representative/ Alternate	Signature
UCP of Greater Suffolk	Robin Lane	
	Patricia Caso	
Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council	Michele Miller-McEvoy	
	Frank Milza	
Commercial Transport Sector	Joseph Cutrone	Present 
		
East End Ambulance Coalition	Katie Hand	
Fire Island Law Enforcement and Safety Coalition	Ian Levine	
	Martin Leiderman	
North Fork Volunteer Rescue Association	Jerry Diffley	
	Peggy Killian	
NYS Society of Physician Assistants	Mark Zender, PA-C	
NYSVARA, District 7	Robert Franz	
	Edward Merchant	
Sun River Health	Angelo Viera	
	Carlos Ortiz	
Southampton Town EMS Advisory Committee	Ian King	
	Martin Leiderman	
Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association	Bruce Talmage	
	Amanda Zinicki-Ceckowski	
Suffolk County Department of Health Services Commissioner	W. Michael Masterton	
	Dina Wayrich	
Suffolk County Community College	Matt Zukosky	
	Jena Canavan, RN	
Suffolk County EMS Coordinator	Paul Marra	
Suffolk County EMS Medical Director	Dr. Jason Winslow	
Suffolk County Emergency Nurses Association	Connie Kraft, RN	
	Donna Rivera, RN	
Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council	Edward Boyd, Esq.	
Suffolk County Fire District Association	John Manzi	
	Raymond Reilly	

Suffolk County FRES	Gregory Miniutti	Excused
	Steve Januszkewicz	
Suffolk County FRES Commission	Bryan Prosek	
	Frank Boneventre	
Suffolk County Legislature	Hon. Tom Donnelly	
	Bill Shilling	
Suffolk County Medical Control	Christopher Gallway	Excused
	Stephen Slovensky	
Suffolk County Police Department	Dr. James Vosswinkel	
	Peter DiPrima	
Islip Town Ambulance Chiefs Association	Jamie Atkinson	
	Scott Crosby	
Northwell Health / South Shore University Hospital	Cono Cimino	
	Thomas Prendergast	
Suffolk REMAC	Dr. R. Trevor Marshall	
	Dr. Jack Geffken	
Catholic Health Services of Long Island	Dr. Eric Decena	
	Winston Lee	
Suffolk RTAC	Susan Henderson	
	Dr. Rich Scriven	
University Hospital EMS	Stephen Slovensky	
	Shawn Edouard	
GUEST NAME	AFFILIATION	SIGNATURE
Anthony Guerne	Northwell	
Juan Amato	NYU Langone Health	
Christopher Klein	Northwell	
Cousy Rowe	SSUH Pass	
Mike Prosek	Port Jeff EMS	
Rich Th	Mastic Beach	

February 27, 2025

Troy, NY

SEMSCO

- Working on SEMSCO orientation presentation
- State EMS
 - BEMS is transitioning. This division is expected to grow by 150 positions. They are creating new sections including an Emergency Management sector
 - Currently behind in agency inspections due to staffing shortages. They are still prioritizing patient safety investigations
 - The last 3 CC to Medic Bridge programs have been posted
 - Rural Ambulance Task Force report will be out shortly
 - Ambulance equipment regulations are going back out for public comment
 - Ambulance build regulations will be going out for public comment this year
 - Guidance/Framework regulations for community paramedicine are in the building phase and will be required to be established in 90 days
 - New policies coming out soon will include independent CME recertification, and educational benchmarks
- Final roll call vote on NYC protocol changes, motion passed
- Final roll call vote on TXA, nebulized epi, racemic epi protocol changes, motion passed
- Motion to table SEMAC term limits, pending review of the bylaws committee
- Final roll call vote to eliminate restrictions from CFR and EMT classes as it relates to tuition vs. reimbursement, motion passed.
 - State EMS would like to remind everyone this is the first step. It will need to go to legal affairs next. Once final process is completed the State will put out a statement
- State EMS wants to emphasize that Part R of the budget does not suddenly make things law. There will still be a process sorting things out through regulation and legislation. Example is the ISO equivalency rating and that it is not done anywhere in the country. This will take time to develop
- DEI Tag group has completed their work, 400 responses, which accounts for less than 2% of providers statewide. The report is available now and the tag group can now sunset
- EMS Provider Mental Health Day Program in Saratoga -June 9th
- EMS for Children survey results have been put on pause due to the Presidential pause

Subcommittee Meetings

Finance Subcommittee

- Hospital offload data delays and data acquisition
 - Nassau County – sends out a weekly report, located on www.nassauems.org under EMS coordinator tab, documenting wait time and transports per hospital. Have other counties looked at doing this?
 - Time to arrival at the hospital to turn over to hospital: <30 minutes
 - Looking for help from the E-PCR database to gather information
 - Offload delay reports: 2023=700, 2024=1000 with an uptick in the western region
 - Asking program agencies/REMSCO to encourage providers to fill out reports if/when they experience delays
 - Staffing at hospitals may not be the only issue as the data is showing that smaller hospitals are more apt at handling influx and some of it relates back to hospitals internal policies of how patients are triaged (going to waiting room, getting a bed, etc.)
 - Hospital directors were notified that this data collection was occurring
- Budget requests will be worked on and submitted by the next meeting for next year
 - Course Sponsorship YTDE 4/31/25: \$2.75 million spent, Training: \$5 million spent, there is still money to be spent. 330 Paramedics did not submit for reimbursement (\$1600 each), eligible providers were sent letters from BEMS. Agencies were also sent letters for providers who appeared on PCR's that received letters.

- Scholarship funding for SUNY schools; looking for clarification in course sponsors being unable to take above the scholarship amount if a student accepted that scholarship. This has to do with current contract regulations and allows for the difference to be funded. It was put in for 5 years but only slated for 2 years, pending new contract release provided the monies are spent in this fiscal year
- Letter sent to Commissioner of Health to receive funding from the Managed Care Organization Tax. Governor's budget did not include any portion of the billions of dollars towards EMS
- Medicare add on payments expires on March 31 with a loss of funding as of March 14.
- Medicaid is expected to see significant reductions in funding. While it is only in the first-round agencies who receive funding through Medicaid should be prepared for serious shortfalls
- Survey going out to all Paramedics who graduated in 2023 and 2024 to look into how they funded going to school
- 11 counties will be receiving letters of up to half a million dollars for EMS training

Education and Training

- Course sponsorship forms have been updated and will allow for more streamlined data
- Met with PSI about testing, reporting, vouching and missing data.
 - Also met with National Registry to discuss a variety of topics for the future
- Recent pilot program taking people with no knowledge of EMS to take a course. They found once engaged there was a significant increase in interest. Ryan Greenberg strongly recommends looking at ways to engage and recruit through non-traditional methods
- Formation of TAG to handle a "Pilot Leadership Development Program"- Policy 23-08b
 - Confliction on the words "Field Training Officer" vs. other titles.
- NYS Policy 23-07 established the NYS Scope of Practice, some areas in the State are teaching things not conforming to this document and that needs to be addressed. There should be a collaborative committee established to report to the appropriate subcommittee (Med Standards) before being brought to SEMAC.
- Looking to increase funding for the next fiscal year for course sponsorship and training
- The system is not designed to create immediate work ready providers, at all levels. There needs to be a greater investment into fostering a mentoring environment at an agency level. Agencies need to understand that education and certification does not equate to job readiness
- National Guard – during COVID NYS credentialed 300 service members to be EMTS. They are now currently up for recertification
 - In addition, 160 new guard members are testing this week. 4 class of 40 students each.

Legislative and Regulations Subcommittee

- Governors Executive Budget- Part R
 - Community Paramedicine Program extension to 2027. Only 55 agencies participating. Less than 10 are doing anything beyond vaccinations. Legislation does nothing to expand the program beyond what an agency is authorized to do
 - Buprenorphine has been added to the formulary
 - Definition of EMS as an essential service
 - EMS becoming licensure as opposed to certification
 - Definition of what EMS actually is
- Introduction of bill (S5000/A4077, not S1515) that would remove EMS services from the real property tax cap which would allow municipalities to expand and support other local EMS services. This would allow taxation on a large-scale level (i.e.: county) to supplement funding for services that answer other areas that would traditionally not respond to or be eligible for funding. Essentially creating a county ambulance service for specific areas
- Assembly Bill (was A185 and is now A515) gives state income tax credit to volunteer members in good standing up to \$1200. It would require members to be in good standing for a minimum of 5 years and maintain continued eligibility
- Senate Bill (S6058, now S1123/A1064) would give income tax credit to volunteer members in good standing [*sic*] up to \$2500. *This is a different bill than the one mentioned above*
- Bill (S6630/A6274, now A288) repeals provision of law that volunteers who receive a real property tax exemption for services may not receive the income tax credit for such services
- Ryan Greenberg emphasized that every year the Governor has done something for EMS in every single budget and she has made it a priority for help EMS. He is confused as to why agencies and providers continue to only complain and not recognize the changes that are made. He is frustrated that EMS tends to complain more about what we don't like or about

third parties (like nurses) but refuse to collaboratively come together to move the bar forward. He says we do not have to agree with everything, but EMS has become an echo chamber of complaints.

EMS Systems

- New performance standards have gone through the first stage. It should be made available for public comment later this year
- Issue with data collection from EPCR's as it relates to EMS provider certification numbers.
 - NYS has worked with imagetrend to correct this so that only numbers may be entered up to 6 digits (removing the options for letters)
- Working with the safety committee to better prepare for adverse weather events which appear to be occurring more frequently
- Recently an agency was in the news stating how they will not respond to low acuity calls (lift assists and community assists). A representative from the agency was present and provided discussion as to the reasoning behind the process. The issue they were having was they had people calling 911 to help them carry up groceries and non-priority issues. This manifested into a lengthy discussion on the overall ethics/morals/abuse of EMS conversation. There seems to have been a pretty poor PR performance once the news took it. There will now be a working group established to look at addressing some of these issues.

EMS Safety

- Currently working on the management of escalation tactics policy
- Hazardous response plan survey is out.
- Part 800 regulations will be coming out for public comments
- TAG meeting for stretcher operations occurred. They had some technical issues and ran short on time. They will be requesting the Commissioner of Health to send a letter to stretcher manufacturers about the push/pull bar. They will also look to create an educational component to stretcher operations
- Committee has been tasked to review the most recent white paper to look at any safety-related component. They would like additional reports that are posted for them to also be reviewed

Quality Metrics

- Webpage updates are underway, and hopes are this new format will be more fluid when changes need to be made to policies
- Hoping to bring a quality improvement/ quality metrics program to agency leadership, currently looking for around June in NYC
- NEMSIS gender changes in the "ecode" due to Presidential Executive order as NEMSIS is a Federally funded program
- Looking at working with hospitals and their leadership about implementing patient outcome metrics and feedback loop. Currently it would cost little to invest but hospitals feel no incentive. This will help on quality metric feedback data review. Ryan Greenberg believes there is already a policy statement on this and will look into it further

EMS Innovations and Research

- Still working on State guidance for a model for regions for behavioral health care and crisis stabilization centers. Hoping to present that framework in May. Committee members have discussed working with law enforcement, similar to what the TAG on Daniels law is experiencing
- Working with the Wadsworth Center still on clarifying details and guidance on CLIA process

Protocol and Medical Standards

- Currently working on SGA policy and moving away from calling it "Igel". There is worry from doctors that giving a generic title that agencies may go out and use any device on the market. Discussion occurred about verbiage as to emphasize that it needs to be an FDA approved device and specific training requirements must be met
- Dr. Winslow discussed verbiage and layout of multiple protocols. He would like "Optional" listed in a more obvious manner. (Agencies equipped and trained that participate in specific programs/pilots)
- Dr. Winslow is concerned about the verbiage in the Buprenorphine protocol slated for July 1 and whether agencies are required to participate in it and whether it is a "pilot" vs. medical director authorized. Pilot requires more steps for approval which may restrict regions interested. Medical director authorization still requires local region approval

Suffolk REMSCO – March 11, 2025 Legislative Committee Report – Bob Franz

EMS in the Governor’s State Budget 25/26: (Includes Ryan Greenberg’s comments from NYSVARA Unofficial Notes of NYS DOH BEMS&TS briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers on 2/20/25)

EMS services are paid far less than it costs each time a NY Medicaid patient is treated and transported. This is the time to write to our State legislators to invest in the budget’s Medicaid fee schedule to bring it more in line with the emergency ambulance Medicare payment rate.

Part B – Extend the Community Paramedicine limited programs previously established for another two years with an expiration date of 5/31/27 (page 10). (SEMSCO supported change was not included -The extender program has no provisions to expand the scope of the present program or add additional EMS agencies to the program to replace any from the original approved group that may have dropped out.)

Part O - Administration of a controlled substance (medication(buprenorphine) by Paramedics for substance abuse withdrawal. (There is also a standalone bill A02253 introduced by Linda Rosenthal. On Sunday February 9, 2025 Newsday did an extensive article on this proposed legislation which featured Chief Gregory Miglino, Jr. of South Country Ambulance (page 105).

Part R – Ensure Access to EMS: Includes various changes for EMS consisting of six components (page 136).

New additions to PHL Section 3001 – definition of EMS, Communities and Scoring Matrix of the Emergency Medical Community Assessment Program (EMCAP).

Includes Section 3019 establishes an Emergency Medical Community Assessment Program to evaluate and enhance the EMS through out the state. The program will assess the capabilities and performance of communities (EMS agencies, Counties, Towns, Villages etc.) and the service they provide to the communities they serve, assigning scores to identify strengths, deficiencies and areas for improvement. Criteria and scoring matrix would be established by DOH in consultation with SEMSCO. Assessment results would be publicly assessible and integrated into County EMS plans. Report to be published at least every five years.

Public Need – Certificate of Need Determinations – clearer tool set of criteria and standards for new or expanded EMS services.

EMS as an Essential Service (Counties can create Ambulance Districts)

Demonstration Projects (Enable EMS to do more demonstration projects or pilot programs)

Definition of EMS (modernize definition would broaden it to cover responding to emergencies, non-emergencies, community awareness and public health)

Establishment of Licensure Standards for EMS Providers

2025 EMS Legislation (Legislative Committee SEMSCO) - Thank you Paul Marra and Mike Masterton for your assistance.

The following 2025 bills are all in a committee.

- a. A6136B/S6645, Now A34/S31: Provides that the thruway authority shall issue permits for ambulances and fire vehicles for toll exemptions. Assemblyman Eachus/Sen. Comrie
- b. S4020B, Now TBD: An Act to amend the general municipal law and the public health law, in relation to emergency medical services to deem EMS as an essential service. Expect this to be refiled. Sen. Mayer (see part R)
- c. S6058, now S1123/A1064: Income Tax Credit Bill -This legislation gives state income tax credit against any income tax owed to volunteer firefighters and members of a volunteer ambulance corps in good standing up to \$250; requires such member must be in good standing for a minimum of five years and maintain continued eligibility. Sen. Oberacker/Assemblyman Angelino
- d. A185, now A516/S5837 - Gives state income tax credit to volunteer firefighters and members of volunteer ambulance corps in good standing up to \$1200; requires such member must be in good standing for a minimum of five years and maintain continued eligibility. Assemblywoman Woerner / Sen.Skoufis.
- e. S3223 Now S3768/A2442: Allows for reimbursement of transportation costs for emergency care without prior authorization by the social services official including emergency medical transportation by an ambulance service certified under article 30 of the public health law; authorizes the commissioner of health to establish a reimbursement methodology to ensure providers are reimbursed. Sen. Sanders/Assemblyman Hevesi
- f. AB7174, now A1309 / S5333: An initiative to preserve and extend the community-based paramedicine demonstration program to expire May 2025: Authorizes collaborative programs for community paramedicine services as part of the hospital-home care-physician collaboration program. Assemblywoman Paulin (part R) / Sen. Rivera
- g. S5000/ A.4077 Now S1515 / A02177A: Would remove EMS services from the real property tax cap, allowing local municipalities to expand and support their local EMS services. Sen. May / Assemblywoman Lupardo
- h. S6630/A6274 Now A288 / S6019: Repeals the provision of law that volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who receive a real property tax exemption for service may not receive the income tax credit for such service. Assemblywoman Barrett./ Sen. Baskin