

MEETING SUMMARY

March 12, 2024

Suffolk County EMS, Yaphank, NY 11980

NOTE: This summary is a draft summary until approved at the additional April 16, 2024, meeting.

Members Present: See attendance list, provided as *attachment 1*.

Meeting opened at 1900hrs with Chairman Manzi presiding. Secretary Hannigan verified that a quorum was present, and official business could be conducted. Chairman Manzi led the group in the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

At this point, Chairman Manzi took the meeting out of order and reported that there was an Expansion of Operating Authority (EOA) vote to be handled at the current meeting of the Council. He then turned the floor over to Vice Chairman Boyd for further information on this matter.

Mr. Boyd reported the following:

- It is the responsibility of the REMSCO to handle Expansion of Operating Authority (EOA). What is before the Council this evening is one Expansion of Operating Authority.*
- The EOA application is from the Easthampton Village Ambulance, to expand their ambulance service territory outside of the village to the Easthampton Watershed District and the Northwest Fire Protection District north of the Village of East Hampton. There was a public hearing on the application, and some opposition was voiced. None of the opposition addressed or concerned the question of need. There was some discussion on the matter.*

*A seconded motion was presented by the Suffolk REMSCO Resource Needs Committee for the approval of the Expansion of Operating Authority (EOA) application from the Easthampton Village Ambulance. Secretary Hannigan performed a roll-call vote, and the motion carried unanimously. The record of the motion is provided as *attachment 2*.*

Vice Chairman Boyd expressed his thanks to the Council. Following the EOA application vote, the court reporter was released.

A motion was made by Mr. Edouard, seconded by Mr. Marra, to accept the January 9, 2024, Meeting Summary, as posted. The motion carried.

Executive Officer's Report – J. Manzi

- Chairman Manzi had nothing to report.

Vice Chairman's Report – E. Boyd

- Vice Chairman Boyd had nothing to report.

Budget – M. Zender

- The balance in the account is \$26,210.99, which includes the fees for the EOA application that was just approved. All bills are up to date.
- Mr. Manzi asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report, motion made by Mr. Cammann, seconded by Mr. Franz, and passed without opposition.

Correspondence – Distributed

Correspondence for March 12, 2024, Suffolk REMSCO Meeting

Incoming – date; from whom; subject

2/2/2024 to 3/11/2024; Sweetbriar Nature Center (B. Jaycox); Kadampa Meditation Center (C. Chase), West Islip Public Schools (T. Horan), Town of Islip Housing Authority (J. Foster), LI Adventureland Inc. (P. Gentile), The Nature Conservatory (D. Bellomo), East Quogue School (Mr. Miller), Nixon Peabody LLP (G. Zuccherro), Elwood Public Schools (L. McNamara), Office of the State Comptroller- Finance Office (A. Buchan), Lloyd Harbor Police Department (Lt. J. Morrissey), Mastic Beach Yaht Club (A. Curley), Shoprite of Hauppauge (A. Janson), Long Island Aquarium (C. Pellechia), Christ Lutheran Church (Rev. J. Watrud), Hope of House Ministries (T. Anderson), Northport-East Northport UFSD (M. Dantuono), Bretton Woods Homeowner Association (K. Allen), Sayville Fire Department (M. Curtis), Banner Metacraft Inc. (R. Martin), GE Aerospace (S.

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Mikuias), Atlantique Property Owners Assoc. (J. Van Cott), H&L Contracting LLC-Michael Ennesser (M. Ennesser), St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (C. Moule), Town of Riverhead (D. Marshak), Nixon Peabody, LLP (G. Zuccherro), Fire Island Pines (Leland Rechis) (L. Rechis), East Quogue Fire District (B. Danowski), B'nai Israel Reform Temple (J. Silverman), St. Luke Preschool (J. Marsh); Notice of Intent to Provide Public Access Defibrillation and Collaborative Agreement

2/16/2024; B. Pinsky, copy of CON Presentation for public hearing

2/20/2024; T. Bertha to REMSCO; screenshots of material to be added to the consideration of the proposed Village of East Hampton Expansion of Operating Authority Application

2/26/2024; Letters from E. Whelan Kotz and A. Grabowski; material to be added to the consideration of the proposed Village of East Hampton Expansion of Operating Authority Application

2/29/2024; Amazon packages with new equipment as approved at July 2023 REMSCO meeting

3/11/2024; D. Wayrich; asking for REMSCO to support her becoming NYS Regional Faculty

3/11/2024; Dr. J. Winslow; as the medical director and program agency representative of Dina Wayrich, he supports her in becoming Regional Faculty and asks REMSCO to do the same.

Outgoing – date; to whom; subject

2/2/2024 to 3/11/2024; D. Wayrich to Sweetbriar Nature Center (B. Jaycox); Kadampa Meditation Center (C. Chase), West Islip Public Schools (T. Horan), Town of Islip Housing Authority (J. Foster), LI Adventureland Inc. (P. Gentile), The Nature Conservatory (D. Bellomo), East Quogue School (Mr. Miller), Nixon Peabody LLP (G. Zuccherro), Elwood Public Schools (L. McNamara), Office of the State Comptroller- Finance Office (A. Buchan), Lloyd Harbor Police Department (Lt. J. Morrissey), Mastic Beach Yaht Club (A. Curley), Shoprite of Hauppauge (A. Janson), Long Island Aquarium (C. Pellechia), Christ Lutheran Church (Rev. J. Watrud), Hope of House Ministries (T. Anderson), Northport-East Northport UFSD (M. Dantuono), Bretton Woods Homeowner Association (K. Allen), Sayville Fire Department (M. Curtis), Banner Metacraft Inc. (R. Martin), GE Aerospace (S. Mikuias), Atlantique Property Owners Assoc. (J. Van Cott), H&L Contracting LLC-Michael Ennesser (M. Ennesser), St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (C. Moule), Town of Riverhead (D. Marshak), Nixon Peabody, LLP (G. Zuccherro), Fire Island Pines (Leland Rechis), (L. Rechis), East Quogue Fire District (B. Danowski), B'nai Israel Reform Temple (J. Silverman), St. Luke Preschool (J. Marsh); confirmation letter of receipt of Notice of Intent to Provide Public Access Defibrillation and Collaborative Agreement

2/7/2024; P. Marra to LTV Studios; rental of space and broadcasting for public hearing on 2/16/2024

2/7/2024; J. Hannigan to Newsday (J. Lee); notice of public hearing to publish in newspaper

2/7/2024; P. Marra to Newsday (J. Lee); specific notice of public hearing and payment

2/7/2024; J. Hannigan to East Hampton Star; notice of public hearing to publish in newspaper

2/8/2024; P. Marra to East Hampton Star; specific notice of public hearing and payment

2/9/2024; certified letters sent to all EMS Agencies, Fire Districts/Departments, and hospitals in Suffolk County; notice of public hearing on 2/16/2024

2/16/2024; D. Wayrich to The Children's Center at UCP; (lnielsen@ucp-li.org); PAD Application received, but no EHCP or CEO/designee provided; please provide to move forward

2/16/2024; D. Wayrich to Ralph's Fishing Station; (M. Davenport); PAD Application received, but no EHCP or CEO/designee provided; please provide to move forward; PAD non-compliance letter sent

2/16/2024; D. Wayrich to Surf Club of Quogue; (T. Carbone); PAD Application received, but no EHCP or CEO/designee provided; please provide to move forward; PAD non-compliance letter sent

2/16/2024; J. Hannigan to public hearing board and REMSCO officers; B. Pinsky's copy of CON Presentation for public hearing

2/20/2024; J. Hannigan to public hearing board and REMSCO officers; T. Bertha's to screenshots of material to be added to the consideration of the proposed Village of East Hampton Expansion of Operating Authority Application; resent on 2/27 as PDF

2/26/2024; J. Hannigan to public hearing board and REMSCO officers ; letters from E. Whelan Kotz and A. Grabowski; material to be added to the consideration of the proposed Village of East Hampton Expansion of Operating Authority Application

2/27/2024; J. Hannigan to Amazon; order new equipment as approved at July 2023 REMSCO meeting

3/11/2024; D. Wayrich to ClubSafe (B. Karl); Cow Neck Farm & Robins Island Private Estate (G. Alanis); Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc (K. Devlin); in non-compliance with PAD Program and Public Health Law 3000-B, please submit PAD paperwork; cc'd to NYS BEMS Daniel Clayton

End of March 12, 2024, Correspondence

Suffolk County EMS Division Staff Reports – Dr. Winslow / W. M. Masterton (excused, see [attachment 3](#)) / P. Marra

- Mr. Marra reported the following:
 - MCI trainings were conducted at South Country and Amagansett for an Active Shooter Drill. There is also an upcoming MCI Drill in Southampton.
 - Cyano Kits have been received and distributed to the appropriate agencies.
 - Public Health and Emergency Preparedness will be conducting a Drill for the Access with Functional Needs Population at the end of the month.
 - Division participated in two ChemPac training sessions with NYS DOH, two local hospitals, and Suffolk County Medical Control.
 - The CISM Team hosted a dispatch training for new members on January 29th and was well attended.

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- Mr. Marra asked REMSCO to support a training session for new members on April 19th and 20th for the CISM Team. He requested funding up to \$400 to support the training of new CISM Team members. A motion was made by Mr. Marra, seconded by Mr. Miniutti and passed without opposition.
- Migration to NEMSIS 3.5 approaching, agencies will be responsible for compliance with the state requirements. If any agencies would like assistance, please reach out to Division.
- Division has a Mutual Aid Agreement between NAFCO and AMR that was discussed and approved at the January meeting. The agreement is consistent with the terms of AMR's other 911 Mutual Aid Agreement. The term of this agreement is one year with the option to renew with one-year extensions.
- Dr Winslow reported the following:
 - The following are updates from State Council:
 - The ePCR transition to NEMSIS 3.5 is occurring at this time with a go live date of July 1st 2024 for all EMS agencies to be responsible for utilizing an ePCR platform that is compliant with 3.5. It is up to the EMS agencies to ensure that their ePCRs are being submitted to the receiving hospital and to the State. If any EMS agency has any questions about ePCR they may contact Chief Marra at Suffolk County EMS.
 - There is a request for regional REMSCOs to be utilizing all their grant funded monies as many areas in New York State are under the allocated 25,000 dollars per year. The state would like to ask for an increase in the upcoming year but only if all REMSCOs use up all their grant money. It was recommended that regional REMSCOs start using their money for education and training projects including travel and/or lodging expenses for meeting attendance for the REMSCO membership such as sponsoring REMSCO members to attend Vital Signs, EMS Expo, or to pay for an expert speaker to come to your region for a conference.
 - There is also a request for increase in funding for the regional Program Agencies. Currently the Suffolk County EMS Division has an MOU with the Suffolk County REMSCO to staff the Program Agency, which is meant to work collaboratively and to support regional REMSCOs REMACs and RTACs in addition to quality improvement initiatives and administrative support for EMS.
 - There was discussion about supporting current NYS Assembly bills to increase Medicaid payments to EMS agencies for no transports, which is an estimated 20-30% of the total calls, and for payments for telemedicine consultation for EMS providers who work in or transport to alternate destinations and community paramedicine programs.
 - There was discussion and support for EMS as an essential service which has made it into the Governor's proposed budget. There have been several virtual meetings and Webex's and several in-person town hall style meetings to discuss this issue and other parts of the Part V section of the Governor's Budget. Dr. Winslow recommend that all REMSCO members review the Part V language and if you need a copy or a link then please reach out to SCEMS, but it is posted on the Boardable where you all have access as REMSCO members.
 - The sunseting of the EMT-CC was discussed at the Education and Training Committee meeting and at the SEMSCO and a motion was passed that the date of July 1, 2027 will end the current NYS level of certification called EMT-CC and all these providers will become Advanced EMTs on that date. This has been an ongoing issue dating back to 2017 when it was first proposed and currently EMT-CCs have been allowed to re-certify through CME but there are no longer any original or refresher EMT-CC classes. There have been many EMT-CC Bridge Programs to become New York State certified Paramedics and these programs have successfully bridged hundreds of EMT-CCs to become paramedics. As you recall, last June a letter was sent by the Suffolk County REMSCO to the NYS BEMSAT Director that the Suffolk County REMSCO did not support the sunseting of the EMT-CC after a letter was written by the North Fork Ambulance

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Association last May. Currently, there are several EMT-CC Paramedic Bridge classes throughout the State and they shall continue until the last one is planned for April of 2026. There are currently 136 EMT-CCs in Suffolk County after we successfully bridged five more in December of 2023. There is a CC to Medic Bridge link on the Suffolk REMSCO webpage with all the information for the next bridge class with applications due to Northwell by April 5th and the class begins on April 18th. If any of the remaining EMT-CC's in Suffolk County wish to bridge to paramedic please consider taking one of the upcoming classes.

- The terms of the two State Council representatives for Suffolk County are due to be renewed. This was discussed at the last REMAC meeting on January 23rd and Dr. Winslow was appointed by the Suffolk County REMAC to represent Suffolk County to the SEMAC for a further two years. At this time, I recommend that EMS Coordinator Chief Paul Marra be appointed to the State Council to represent Suffolk County to the SEMSCO. Dr. Winslow thanked Chief Mike Masterton for his service to Suffolk County REMSCO representing Suffolk to the SEMSCO over the last six years. I would like to make a motion to appoint Chief Paul Marra to the SEMSCO to represent Suffolk County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miniutti. There was much discussion, and a motion was made to table it to "New Business" for further discussion by Mr. Atkinson and seconded by Mr. Diffley.

Correspondence- J. Hannigan

- Dina Wayrich is requesting that Suffolk REMSCO support her in the form of a recommendation letter for her application to become regional faculty. A motion was made by Mr. Manzi to do so, seconded by Dr. Winslow, and passed without opposition.
- A letter sent to Chairman Manzi from South Country Ambulance on the EMT-CC. This was read aloud and can be found here as *attachment 4*.

Resource Needs – E. Boyd

- Vice Chairman Boyd reported that the EOA for the night is completed, and he has nothing further to report.

Communications and Technology- J. Atkinson

- Mr. Atkinson reported that he had nothing to report.

Public Information Committee – P. Cammann

- Mr. Cammann reported that work on the next REMSCO Awards will begin soon.

Nominations Committee – S. Slovensky

- Mr. Slovensky excused, no report.

Performance Improvement – B. Talmage

- Mr. Talmage reported that he has nothing new to report.

REMAC – Dr. Winslow for Dr. Acosta (excused)

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- Dr. Winslow reported that there are several updates to the Collaborative protocols that REMAC will be discussing in two weeks. The major updates are adding a new Allergic Reaction protocol for the administration of Diphenhydramine and Decadron for patients not exhibiting anaphylaxis, adding IV acetaminophen for relief of pain, and push dose epinephrine for the Paramedic under the ROSC protocol, added that waveform capnography is required as soon as practical under the Behavioral Agitated Patient protocol. The new Collaborative protocols also added IV nitroglycerin for Difficulty Breathing - Acute Pulmonary Edema but the Suffolk County REMAC currently does not require IV nitroglycerin so that will need to be discussed and clarified. There is a new Hypothermia and a new Hospice protocol. The dose of Ketamine under sedation is a maximum of 250mgIM and the Midazolam dose for Adults and Pediatric Seizures is 0.2mg/kg IN or IM to a max of 10mg. REMAC will be developing an educational update and the go live date for the protocol update will be July 1st. There is a new MOLST policy from NYS DOH so please review that as well.
- Currently there are three EMS Agencies that have applied to the Suffolk County and then to the Hudson Valley REMAC to begin the BLS Igel Supraglottic Airway in cardiac arrest pilot program: Smithtown, Riverhead and Ronkonkoma.
- REMAC has new agency medical director credentialing requirements, so all agencies are asked to review the qualifications and to make sure that they reach out to the REMAC leadership if they are considering having a new agency medical director as REMAC approves of all agency medical directors in the 911 system. This is not to be confused with the current NYS DOH discussions about EMS provider credentialing at the regional level which are ongoing.
- As a reminder, on February 1st St Catherine of Siena ceased having OBGYN services so the area EMS agencies should be made aware of that.
- REMAC has been told that there is a shortage of epinephrine 1:10,000 solution from some of the area supplies so we sent out an advisory on that and it is posted on the Suffolk REMSCO website under headlines. This is a temporary situation.

Legislative – R. Franz

- Mr. Franz reported that several in person or virtual presentations were made on EMS legislative matters over the past month including Part V of the Governor's executive 24/25 budget. Council members should avail themselves of these information sessions.
- Governor Hochul announced a new program to provide volunteer firefighter stipends for the firefighter training courses that firefighters are required to complete. Depending on the course, stipends are \$500 to \$1,250. These stipends, hopefully, will aid in the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The amount of \$10 million has been budgeted for this item. There is no corresponding program for EMS training for Paramedics or EMTs.
- SEMSCO approved to support needed growth in the EMS workforce, the Legislative Subcommittee asks SEMSCO to recommend to the Bureau of EMS that training funds be used to support and pay for the Paramedic training of a number of Paramedics equal to the number that are going to be hired by NYS to staff the new NYS EMS Task Force.
- Bill # S5000 (May) / A4077 (Lupardo) that would remove EMS services from the real property tax cap to reduce barriers to EMS funding.
- Bill # S8486 (Hinchey) / A9102 (Kelles) that would establish a mechanism within the Medicaid Fee Schedule to provide reimbursement to EMS agencies and telemedicine providers for treatment-in-place and transport to alternate destinations.
- Bill # S6630 (Mannion) / A6274 (Barrett) that allows volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to claim both state income and local property tax credits.
- Bill # S7286 (Martinez) / A7524 (Thiele) that increases the volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers personal income tax credit from \$200 to \$800 for eligible individuals.

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- For the third year in a row the Governor has included a section on emergency medical services which includes the following topics: making EMS an "Essential Service," establishing statewide EMS supplementation Task Force, establishing a Rural Paramedic Telemedicine Urgent Care Program, and permitting EMS providers to provide care in the community during non-emergent situations.
- As was mentioned at the January meeting, the Nassau / Suffolk Legislative Committee had a presentation for a frank discussion on the future of Ambulance Service in Fire & EMS on February 28 at South Country Ambulance Company. There was opposition to OSHA's proposed amendment to section 29 CFR 1910.156 "Fire Brigade Standards" which includes new or proposed NFPA standards which would impose additional requirements on the fire service. Also, there was opposition to the sunset of the EMT-CC in 2027 due to the shortage of Paramedics and the large number of EMT-CCs on Long Island. The EMT-CC sunset was approved by SEMAC and SEMSCO. The SEMSCO Finance Committee is finalizing a report "Where are the Emergency Responders: Update on the Workforce Shortage: 2023. It was mentioned that NYS EMS provider numbers decreased 17.5% from 2019 to 2023.
- Mr. Franz made a motion to write a form letter of support to the legislatures in the state that can be submitted by the agencies of REMSCO, seconded by Mr. Talmage. The motion passed without opposition.

Bylaws- J. Atkinson

- Nothing to report.

Public Information- P. Cammann

- The 2023 REMSCO Award letter was sent out and is available on the website. Online submissions are not available this year as was promised by the state. Submissions are due by May 10, 2023. Mr. Manzi reported the CPR Save Awards took place on March 2, 2024, at Centereach Fire Department. He thanks the members from REMSCO that made the day successful. Mr. Manzi will be calling a meeting soon, he would like to fine tune the process and go to two award ceremonies a year: one during EMS Week, the other during Fire Prevention Week.
- The Tom Lateulere Memorial Conference is scheduled for April 27, 2024. Mr. Masterton is not available to help, and Mr. Manzi asks for volunteers. A zoom meeting will be scheduled and members will be sent an invitation.
- Dr. Winslow stated that speakers are still needed, please reach out if anyone is interested.

Old Business

- Nothing to report.

New Business

- The sunseting of the EMT-CC certification was discussed at some length. Topics included the importance of the EMT-CC to the Suffolk County EMS System, plans for the future of the providers who do not wish to bridge to paramedic, the vote that was cast by the SEMSCO representative from Suffolk County (for the sunseting of the certification level), and the care/volume of calls that involve an EMT-CC provider. A motion was made by Mr. Diffley and seconded by Ms. Miller that Suffolk County REMSCO will send a letter to the state asking they reverse their decision to sunset the program, and that they need to offer an alternate that is equal to CC. Motion passed without opposition.
- The tabled motion about the SEMSCO representative from Suffolk County REMSCO was opened back up for discussion. It was decided that the Nominating Committee will take nominations for the position, and a special meeting of the REMSCO will take place on April 16, 2024, at 7 PM. All nominations should be submitted to the Nomination Committee via Steve Slovensky by that meeting.

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Diffley, seconded by Mr. Pelicone, at 2005 hrs.

Next meeting of the Suffolk Regional EMS Council will be on

March 12, 2024
Suffolk County Fire Academy, Yaphank, NY 11980

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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.