

Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

The WREMAC met on March 21, 2007 3:00 p.m. at Chef's Restaurant, Buffalo, NY.

Minutes from the January 17th meeting were previously distributed via e-mail and hard copy.

Motion to accept minutes: Kenyon

Second: Cooley

Approved

Attendance: See enclosure

Correspondence: J. Takats

- 12/21/06 - Letter from Marjorie Geiger (NYS DOH) regarding Landing Zone Safety, an educational tool has been developed by the SEMAC for distribution to prehospital services.
- 12/21/06 – Letter from E. Wronski regarding streamlining the approval process for the updated regional ALS Protocols, that are updated to the 2005 AHA ACLS and PALS guidelines.
- 1/07 – Letter from Dr. Takats to all ALS Providers notifying of compliance information for 12 Lead within 30 minutes of an encounter with a pt. C/o chest pain.
- 1/5/07 – Informational sheet from the Medical Society of the State of NY & Excellus BlueCross BlueShield announcing the launch of a joint community initiative regarding end-of-life care (MOLST)
- 1/16/07 - Copy of a letter to Jim Mihalko from Robert Koperski, Niagara University notifying him of the use of their AED on a patient that had coded while at their ice rink.
- 1/17/07 - E-mail from Dr. Patel informing agencies and providers under Dr. Buckley's Medical Direction of a skills night on February 7, 2007. If the providers that needed the updated skills did not attend, they would be taken off line.
- 2/5/07 - Letter from Ed Mager to Rebecca Marsh of the Machias VFD that they have not yet received their recertification paperwork, and issuing a statement of deficiency.
- 1/29/07 - Letter from Dana Fauth, RN, nurse from the Elmwood Village Charter School – to Cindy McCloud, notifying them that the school will be participating in the NYS PAD program as of February 1, 2007. Required paperwork also included.
- 2/5/07 - Letter from Ed Mager to Mr. John Sheffield, of the Elmwood Village Charter School, confirming receipt of their letter informing the state that they are participating in the PAD program as of 2/1/07 (along with necessary paperwork) and enclosing the DOH's policy statement 06-03.
- 2/8/07 - Letter to Dr. Takats from Greg Stoklosa of the Newton Abbott FD informing that their agency has decreased their level of care from Paramedic to Intermediate.
- 2/23/07 – Letter from Ed Wronski to the Mike Maak, Big Lakes Regional EMS Council Chairman, informing them of the Southwest council's decision to independently contract with the Southern Tier Health Care System, Inc. Also informing them that if they can identify an acceptable contractor to the council, they may request that the council be designated as it's own program agency. Also denying their council a State staff person to work with on the continued RFP process that they can meet with face to face.

- 2/23/07 – Letter from E. Wrosnki to M. Forness confirming the council’s decision to separate from the other 2 councils, choosing their own program agency. Also discusses allocation of monies – the \$381,000 will be split 3 ways, giving each council \$127,000.
- 2/23/07 – Letter to G. Gill informing them of the Southwest council’s decision to independently contract with the Southern Tier Health Care System, Inc. Also informing them that if they can identify an acceptable contractor to the council, they may request that the council be designated as it’s own program agency.
- 3/3/07 – Correspondence from Dr. Myers regarding the Base Station course. Looking to conduct it end of June, early July at the Erie County Fire Training Academy.
- 3/5/07 – Letter to East Seneca VFC stating a deficiency is being issued to their agency due to failure to provide certification renewal paperwork. Paperwork must be returned to DOH by 3/20/07.
- 3/8/07 – Letter to Rebecca Marsh of Machias VFD regarding the lack of paperwork for the renewal of their certification. Paperwork was due no later than 2/19/07. New date is March 14, 2007

3/9/07 – Correspondence from E. Mager to J. Takats informing of a partial shipment of protocols books and confirming what the WREMAC roll out plan is expected to be.

REMAC Chair Report: J. Takats

Southwestern Regional EMS Council has selected their Program Agency. Big Lakes and Wyoming Erie have yet to do so, but are currently in active states of searching.

The Chairs of both the Big Lakes and Wyoming Erie Regional EMS Councils were present at the meeting to update the committee on the progress and standings of the councils.

The RFP Committee, which had 3 representatives from each council met and made their recommendation. The Southwestern Council made their decision and has selected the Southern Tier Health Care System for their new Program Agency.

The Big Lakes Regional EMS Council chose to re-issue the RFP to additional potential bidders. The mailing was on March 7th. Wyoming Erie Council had their council meeting on 3/7, and chose to not re-issue the RFP, and to bring in the three original respondents for a presentation in front of the full council on 5/2. Wyoming Erie will make their decision at that meeting.

Big Lakes gave a deadline of 4/2 at 2:00 for respondents to the re-issued RFP. They are hoping to have their decision made by 5/1

The WREMAC is concerned that due to the lack of a program agency, that deliverables, secretarial services, and QI activities are nearly non-existent. The sooner a new program agency / agencies are in existence to assist, the better.

G. Gill stated that the last time a new program agency needed to be selected and set up, was many years ago. Many of the current deliverables haven’t been able to be completed due to files that are in the WREMS office and are unattainable. The PAD postcard data for the PAD program is extinct, not up to date. Records have been requested numerous times from E. Wrosnki, and he has been told that it is not possible to obtain the files.

Requested input from the WREMAC as far as what is needed monetarily that the councils could assist with. It is essential that the REMAC put together a budget for the councils, so that they can be budgeted. Dr. Takats stated that the problem with that is that staff support is only projected; there aren't any hard facts.

W. Reisner – needs correspondent with the WREMAC for their area.

G. Gill questioned whether the REMAC is aware and or familiar with the Regional Training Plan. Dr. Takats replied that no, they do not.

W. Reisner reported that their region is developing a regional web page. To continue further with the information that they would like to include, they need permission from the WREMAC. Paramedic enrollment and on line applications are among the information that will be made available.

Much discussion followed regarding this. Questions arose as to whether it would be beneficial to set up and continue with the required work if it was unsure as to what the future holds as far as Regional Councils and a single REMAC. W. Reisner stated that their region is simply building this web page and information contained in it, but would not be maintaining it. After much discussion a motion was made as follows:

The WREMAC to approve the web page created by the Southwestern Regional EMS Council's Program Agency, with the intent that the WREMAC will assume control of the Web page in the future. Also approved the database to be available for the use of the Big Lakes and Wyoming Erie Regional Councils.

Motion: S. Lakomy

Second: M. Kenyon

Approved

Nurse Advisory Committee – A. Hedges

No Report

Prehospital Advisory Committee – G. Gill

No Report

Disaster Committee –

No Report

ALS Protocol Committee – S. Lakomy

Protocols were distributed at the meeting to those in attendance. There are approximately 4,000 of them at the local Department of Health office. How they are going to be distributed is based on the WREMAC's decisions. It is imperative with the rollout, that we keep track of the distribution of them.

QI / QA – R. Martin

Dr. Takats spoke with Dr. Martin regarding this committee. She is willing to continue as Chair, assuming she can get an assistant to help. No volunteers came forward.

Equipment Committee – C. Cooley

The committee is currently reviewing the equipment list. Meeting at 2:00 on the days of the REMAC meetings. Anyone is welcome to come. An electronic agenda will be sent out with the agenda, prior to the meetings.

Research and Education – J. Myers

Registration for the next Base Station Course has been distributed. It is scheduled for June 28th at the Erie County Fire Training Academy from 9am-4pm

SSI – J. Teuscher

No Report

12 Lead – J. Teuscher

138 letters had been distributed, with only 37 respondents. 15 of them will be applying for a “Hardship Waiver”.

Unfinished Business:

At a previous WREMAC meeting, the following agencies had been approved contingent upon receiving the proper WREMAC paperwork. Those papers have been received and are on file. Agencies include: North Java, Niagara Falls, Kennedy and Conewango.

Motion: M. Kenyon

Second: S. Lakomy

Approved

New Business:

The following agencies have completed Change of Medical Director applications on file:

- Stockton VFC From DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Fire Department of Westfield from DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Dunkirk FD from DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Cassadaga VFD from Di Francesco to Cooley
- Lily Dale VFC from DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Forestville FD from DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Portland VFD from DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Ripley Hose Co. #1 from DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Sheridan FD from DiFrancesco to Cooley
- Brocton VFD & EMS from DiFrancesco to Cooley

Motion to approve: M. Kenyon

Second: R. Elman

Approved

It was then brought to the committee’s attention, that Quick Clot and other clotting agents can now be purchased Over the Counter. The WREMAC doesn’t have the authority to regulate the use of this among agencies. Is there an interest on part of the WREMAC to look into and or endorse the recommendation of this product generically. It was discussed that we should be consistent with the SEMAC and not endorse a specific product. This should be referred to the Equipment Committee, as should any and all potential new products for analysis and feedback. Upon the request of a review from an agency for the use of one of these products, it will be forwarded to the Equipment Committee. In addition the Education Committee will also participate in reviewing new products.

Article 30 Part 800 includes the minimum standards for what should be stocked. If an agency would like to use the product, it should first be brought to the attention of the agency's Medical Director and approved.

After much discussion on this topic, it was tabled until the next meeting.

C. McCloud – While the Department of Health has been doing the WREMAC work in the absence of a program agency, they have compiled a notebook of pertinent information and history, including minutes, letters, and protocols. It is available in CD or a book. If you are interested in this, please e-mail Cindy McCloud at CJM04@health.state.ny.us

Issues from the floor:

J. Myers – At the last REMAC meeting he distributed papers for review regarding standing orders for an analgesic. There are no ill effects; this has been modified from the 2006 protocols

There is a shortage of Cardizem preload syringe. There are two alternates: 1 – requires refrigeration and 1 is a premix bag that is intended for drips.
An alternate is Lopressor.

Protocols:

W. Reisner – Prepared for a rollout, to distribute books, online tools, and mechanics when ready. Will review the protocol book and online to compare and confirm that they are identical. A goal of April 15th was set to begin training.
Question raised as to whether it is all online, or if CDs will need to be distributed? (online only) The Department of Health is the source for books that will go out to the agencies. Providers cannot be credentialed on line, that is something that needs to be accomplished on a person-to-person basis. Once they pass the test and prove their skills, they are then cleared to use the protocols.

A motion was made to set the date of 7/1/07 to have all protocols in use by credentialed providers.

Motion: J. Myers

Second: C. Cooley

Approved

After a brief statement regarding communication, and the need to be sure that information is distributed to all parties of interest, the March 21, 2007 meeting of the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2007 at 3:00pm at Chef's.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph R. Takats III, D.O., Chairman

