



*ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY*  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
*ADVISORY BOARD*

Minutes of the St. Lawrence County EMS Advisory Board  
November 28<sup>th</sup> , 2017

Meeting was called to order at 1900 by Chairperson Carol Muench, roll call taken and duly recorded.

**Members present:** Phyllis McDougall, Richard McDougall, Julianne Sciorra, Mark Deavers, Joyce Dalton, David Sherman, Tammy Sykes, Carol Muench, Jay Moore, Kevin Wells, Ann Smith

**Members excused-** James Barr, R. Storm Cilley, Mallory Buckley

**Members absent -** Christopher Adams, Brenton LaGrow, Ken Gardner, Wayne Love, Donald Thompson, Tammy Mitchell, Ron Hance

**Guests:** - Michael LeCuyer

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes from March**

- Motion to approve September Minutes with the correction that Julie Sciorra was excused and the time of start should be 2000 not 20000

**Motion made by Mark Deavers to approve with changes, seconded by Phyllis McDougall, all in favor, motion carried**

**Office of Emergency Services – See attached report**

- Challenges getting ambulance out the door, channel 7 news was contacted by a community member who waited for 40 minutes. The news channel contacted Mike LeCuyer. Mike discussed with the reporter multiple regarding the challenges within the EMS system and the reporter only put abuse of the system into the article. Other valuable information given regarding issues within EMS was not included.
- Discussion on whether it could be sorted out through Spillman CAD system if they are second calls that are being missed. It was suggested that the communications committee look at it.
- It was also discussed that issues need to be taken to local political representatives to address challenges.
  - Ann Smith is slated to speak at the county operations committee meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm.

**NCEMS Program Agency and REMSCO/REMAC report together**

- Discussion on the retirement of Lee Burns as the NYS director of EMS, along with multiple other state staff retiring, leaving uncertainty within the system.

- Discussed the importance of filling out surveys and responding to the request for information to help move the system forward. Agencies need to be engaged to assist in finding solutions. No one person or entity is going to resolve all the issues, it needs to be a collaboration of all.
- The state EMS council has supported to change the eligible age for EMT testing to 17 from 18. There are concerns over this, but the goal is to hook their interest when they are young and this may open the door to move some education into the BOCES system.
- A high-level overview of the up and coming changes to the NYS Continuing education program was discussed. NYS rolled out the proposed changes at the Vital Signs Conference in Rochester. The change involves decreasing the number of hours required every three years to maintain certification as an EMT of any level. Ann stated that this was not finalized and specific categories of education were only in draft form so there could be changes.
- There was a question regarding the spring EMS courses in the county, they have not been announced, Ann will share this with the course sponsor.
- Ann briefly discussed the changes in the regional CME system that would take effect next year and encouraged agencies to ensure that they completed their CME agency evaluation forms if they are considering offering Skills sessions.
- Pay attention to drug shortages and your inventories.

#### **Life Net/Air Methods – No report**

- **Upcoming Trainings**
  - Spring Fling the last weekend in April
  - December 7<sup>th</sup> Managing behavioral emergencies at FDRHPO in Watertown with Dr. Benham, will be attempting to video tape for others to see.
  - E5 Training in January posted on North Country EMS website.
  - Following the announcement of the Managing behavior emergencies, there was discussion regarding concern for safety of EMS providers during a transport. A recent incident was discussed where a hospital contacted State Police to see if they would follow the ambulance in case the patient became violent. The state police agreed to go but after contacting superiors they were not able to. The ambulance company who was called to transport was advised of this after arriving at the hospital and they became defensive and even challenged the patient which made him defensive. The agency was dismissed and another called who did the transport but the hospital ended up having to send staff as well. This lead to a discussion on the use of soft restraints and a need for agencies to understand that the hospitals are facing staffing shortages just as they are.

#### **Executive Committee-**

- Need to review by-laws before next meeting for any changes

#### **Communications Committee-**

- Internal discussions on known status dispatching with agencies, but there is concern for coverage of their own contracted service area. Mutual aid is weighing heavily on the system when some departments are not able to reciprocate the mutual aid. Discussions need to be started with neighboring agencies on coverage

### Legislative Committee-

- See discussion above regarding age change EMT testing eligibility

### Personnel-

- Need to make sure that Dr. Coates gets on the mailing list for meetings
- The following members have been reappointed to the board with a new term expiration of 12/20
  - Carol Muench, Julianne Sciorra, Kevin Wells, Mark Deavers, Phyllis McDougall, R. Storm Cilley, Richard McDougall, and Ron Hance
- Need to look at new officers at January meeting to present in March
- The recommendation was made for the following members to be replaced on the board, as identified in article X of the St. Lawrence EMS County Advisory Board
  - Ken Gardner, Wayne Love, Brenton Lagrow, Christopher Adams
  - Article X of the by-laws read:
    - *“Two unexcused absences or a total of four missed meetings in a calendar year will be grounds for recommendation by the Personnel Committee to the Board for replacement on the Board”*

**Motion to remove anyone who has missed 4 meetings or 2 unexcused by Mark Deavers, seconded by Kevin Wells. All in favor motion carried.**

- Discussion on sending out emails for recruitment of new members was discussed and potentially creating a poster for agencies to post.

### Old Business

- Overview of items discussed at last leadership meeting including AHA changes of cost of cards and the move to electronic CPR cards. The next meeting will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Public Safety Complex.
- Firefighter Rehab plan was not voted on by the Fire Advisory Board as they did not have a quorum.
- Draft schedule of next year’s meeting was given out at the September meeting for review
  - January 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - March 27<sup>th</sup>
  - May 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - September 25<sup>th</sup>
  - November 27<sup>th</sup>

**Motion by Mark Deavers to approve the schedule for next year's meeting, seconded by Jay Moore, all in favor, motion carried**

**New Business:**

- Discussed the importance of making a good showing to stand behind Ann when she presents at the operations committee in January
- Education should be done to the public and urgent care centers that arriving at a hospital via ambulance does not mean that you will be treated faster. The hospitals present were asked if there was an avenue that they could bring this to the attention of their hospital operated urgent care centers/clinics as patient have been told that.
- Discussion on an issue involving the length of time it took to move a patient from Gouverneur Hospital to Claxton Hepburn for treatment that was brought forth by Dr. Zuker. Jay Moore has encouraged Dr. Zuker to become involved and has invited him to the county advisory meetings.
- Massena Fire Department is working on a BLSFR, the board discussed supporting their efforts.

**Motion to give a letter of support to the Massena Fire Department in becoming a BLSFR by Mark Deavers, seconded by Dave Sherman, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Mark Deavers, seconded by Phyllis McDougall, all in favor, motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

*Ann Smith*

Ann Smith  
Secretary

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**  
**OFFICE of EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
*48 Court Street*  
*Canton, New York 13617-1194*  
*(315) 379-2240 - Fax (315) 379-0681*

**FIRE**  
**E.M.S.**

**EMERGENCY**  
**MANAGEMENT**

TO: Ruth Doyle, County Administrator  
 FROM: James Chestnut, Supervisor of Dispatch Operations  
 DATE: November 2, 2017

The following is a report of CAD calls for October 2017:

	OCT 17	YEAR 2017
FIRE DEPTS DISPATCHED	402	3,643
EMS DISPATCHED	1,653	15,143
LOCAL PD CALL FOR SERVICE	264	2,255
NYSP DISPATCHED BY B-COMM**	1,061	12,426
NYSP DISPATCHED BY SLC ES***	292	1,925
INFORMATIONALS CALLS*	937	9,445
SHERIFF'S CALLS FOR SERVICE	<u>879</u>	<u>9,654</u>
 TOTAL CALLS DISPATCHED IN SLC	 5,488	 54,491

\*Informational calls include pocket dials, hang up calls, and test calls

\*\*Dispatched by NYSP at B-Comm from Lewis

\*\*\*St Lawrence County ES dispatched

Phone calls handled in dispatch center incoming and outgoing by line:

Emergency Services Dispatchers handled:

911	2686
EMS	3561
TEXT_2_911	7
NYSP	157
SHERIFF	<u>3023</u>
TOTAL	9,435

TOTAL PHONE CALLS HANDLED FOR OCTOBER: 9,435  
 YTD: 98,844

*Michael LeCuyer, Director*  
*James Chestnut, Supervisor of Dispatch Operations*

1. Med Standards and SEMAC heard and subsequently tabled a proposal to move manual defibrillation from Paramedic to the AEMT level. The discussion was lively and surprisingly animated. Stay tuned on this – it will be resurrected in January. The TAG, workgroup (or whattayacallit) working on BLS protocols announced they still had some tweaking to do with their draft. That too, will be ready for the January meeting. Lastly, you might recall the FDNY in January 2017 proposing a demo project adding skills to the CFR level. This went down in flames after an impassioned plea from the Uniformed EMTs, Paramedics and Inspectors Local 2507 rep Don Faeth about the seeming lack of altruism on the part of FDNY. Well, lo and behold, it turns out said changes have been deemed FDNY operating procedures, not protocols; hence State approval is not needed. Whodda think it? Lastly, on the list of strange and interesting: ALS Services, Inc. filed an appeal of a Nassau REMAC suspension of their operating authority. An appeals review committee will report in (you guessed it) January.
2. BEMSAT Director Lee Burns announced her retirement at the end of this year. This will be no small event – Lee was the first and only Bureau Director to come directly from the ranks of EMS; she leaves a legacy of advocacy and accessibility that has truly made a difference. Deputy Director Thomas Behanna has also (already) departed for a position in the State Comptroller's Office; Frances Lopez, Voucher Clerk extraordinaire, known by every Course Sponsor and Program Agency, has left the Bureau. Donna Johnson, Executive Secretary to the State Council and Conference Director for Vital Signs will also retire at the end of the year after 35 years of service. No word on replacements.
3. The Stroke Protocol revisions that kinda went into limbo when they failed to come up for vote at the last SEMSCO have been rolled into the draft Statewide BLS protocol revisions. Watch for that in January.
4. The Bureau advised of a proposed change to Part 800.6(b) lowering the minimum age to become an EMT from 18 to 17. Apparently, the comment period ended, as it no longer appears at <https://regs.health.ny.gov/regulations/proposed-rule-making>. The impetus for this change likely arose from meetings orchestrated between Essex County and the Governor's office (thanks, Lee Burns). You may also see some further movement on revamping Medicaid rates for EMS transport based on these very productive talks. As an aside, the age change was hotly debated and ultimately approved by SEMSCO, which seems a bit out of synch since the Regulatory comment period opened and closed in the interim. Whatever...
5. Also on the regulatory front, the State Trauma Regs currently parked under EMS are in the process of being repealed and moved into Section 405 of the State Hospital Regulations. Nothing exciting or different than we know it – just codifying the switch from DOH vetting Trauma Centers to the American College of Surgeons (ACS) doing the verifications. Yippee.
6. N-CAP is a DOH program you might mention to families and friends of overdose patients. The Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program details are at [www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/opioid\\_overdose\\_prevention/directories.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/opioid_overdose_prevention/directories.htm).
7. Get ready for further reductions in EMS funding. Next year's cuts will most likely reduce funding for the Bureau, not the Training Fund or Program Agencies. Rich Brandt has been saddled (at least temporarily) with the craptacular EMS Budget following the departure of Tom Behanna. Pray for Rich.

8. Some notes along the Training and Education lines: firstly, an update in on the way for the CME recertification program. It will roll out at Vital Signs and then to the whole world. No details on what it will involve, but rumor on the street is that it will be HUGE! Instructor exam pass rates are improving; CIC pass rates are up from 45% to 69% and CLI pass rates have leveled off at 85%. The Bureau is conducting a survey on interest in Computer Based Testing (CBT). The survey is on the Moodle site linked to at <http://training.vitalsignsconference.com> – you need to create a new account to access the survey. Note that NYS written exams use the NYS BLS Protocols, not the Collaborative Protocols. So hey, lookie there when you are fervently studying for your written exam. Lastly, the Bureau announced an intended expansion of specialty course sponsors – you know, the sponsors of CLI and CIC courses – giddyap!
9. The Bureau reports people submitting multiple written exam applications are playing their fax machine like a Vegas casino game. While it is fortuitous that the applicants apparently plan to fail, you can only register for one exam at a time. Multiple exam registrations will be denied. Get the word out to your homies: knock it off!
10. Now if you think the upcoming January 2018 State EMS meetings are gonna be fun based on all the business being put off until then, you should have seen the tour bus (yes, your read that correctly) of representatives from Western NY that arrived for the September meeting. The “tourists” came to show their support for an appeal by Twin City Ambulance asking SEMSCO to reverse approval by the Big Lakes Regional Council approval of Mercy EMS to expand their operating authority to include the entirety of Niagara County. The Systems Committee initially heard the appeal and voted to uphold the Big Lakes approval based on their review of the facts (amongst which included the Niagara County Legislature endorsing the Mercy expansion of operating territory). SEMSCO also heard the appeal and, after a nail biting five-minute break called because of a technical glitch in the webcasting equipment, also voted to uphold the Big Lakes approval. Seconds after the SEMSCO vote, the triumphant tourists filed out.
11. Another, apparently less crowd enticing appeal also came before Systems and SEMSCO. This appeal by Rockaway VAC sought to overturn a NYC REMSCO denial of their (RVAC) CON application for a new ambulance operating authority. Systems recommended and SEMSCO upheld the NYC denial.
12. Don't be caught up in the recent “fentanyl analog paranoia” sweeping the nation. It is not possible to die from skin exposures to carfentanil, despite numerous stories of responder exposures being hyped in the media. For some clear-headed ideas, see <http://community.fireengineering.com/profiles/blog/show?id=1219672%3ABlogPost%3A639236>.
13. The Safety Committee reports draft revisions to the ambulance design standards (800.22) have been submitted to the Bureau along with draft revisions to Policy Statement 00-13 on EMS Vehicle Operations. Both should be available for SEMSCO review at the January meeting. Safety is also working on a scene safety awareness program for providers, de-escalation and defensive/escape tactics training and specifications for EMS provider ballistic vests.
14. NHTSA released the most comprehensive report ever published on EMS use of lights and sirens. See [www.ems.gov/pdf/Lights\\_and\\_Sirens\\_Use\\_by\\_EMS\\_May\\_2017.pdf](http://www.ems.gov/pdf/Lights_and_Sirens_Use_by_EMS_May_2017.pdf).

15. FirstNet, the national first responder cellular network, is moving forward. AT&T won the contract, worth \$100 billion over 25 years to AT&T. See [www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov) for more info. No word yet on whether NYS will sign onto the plan. If you're a diehard Verizon customer, fear not – the price and service wars are on, baby!
16. EMS for Children reports hospital regulations for pediatric care in EDs are in development. EMSC is also reviewing pediatric components of the proposed BLS protocols.
17. Vital Signs will be in Rochester, October 25-29 ([www.vitalsignsconference.com](http://www.vitalsignsconference.com)) and will feature a NAEMSE Instructor course as well as a Saturday noontime brown bag lunch with an open discussion of EMS issues moderated by State EMS Director Lee Burns and SEMSCO Chair Steve Kroll.
18. Sad news for some of you gray-haired EMSers out there: Dr. Michael Guttenberg has decided to enter hospice care for his terminal 9-11 related cancer. Few have contributed so broadly to EMS and Emergency Medicine in NY. Keep our brother in your thoughts and prayers.
19. The feds have a new poster available on preventing workplace injuries in EMS: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2017-194/default.html?s\\_cid=3ni7d2promo2017](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2017-194/default.html?s_cid=3ni7d2promo2017). This comes on the heels of a four-year study by NIOSH of ED data. Great info!
20. Speaking of injury, NIOSH has posted more videos of their ambulance crash testing studies. Scope out their new stuff at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ems/videos.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ems/videos.html).
21. The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) released an updated version of their model clinical guidelines (a reference for writing EMS protocols). Version 2.0 is available at [www.nasemso.org/documents/National-Model-EMS-Clinical-Guidelines-Version2-Sept2017.pdf](http://www.nasemso.org/documents/National-Model-EMS-Clinical-Guidelines-Version2-Sept2017.pdf).
22. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration EMS folks are holding hearings around the country on the EMS Agenda 2050 (i.e., what is the plan for the next 30+ years?) - <http://emsagenda2050.org/regional-public-meetings>. They do have a straw man document developed by their working group: <http://emsagenda2050.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/EMS-Agenda-2050-Straw-Man-September-2017.pdf>. Since its release, blood has been boiling; some EMSers have organized petitions and you can bet your bippy the hearings will have overflow attendance. I won't spoil it for you – look at the straw man document yourself...
23. Got heroin? Or maybe some fentanyl? If you're still working the streets, you no doubt got it all. NYS has launched a web site to help your patients and their families: [www.health.ny.gov/community/opioid\\_epidemic](http://www.health.ny.gov/community/opioid_epidemic). Bookmark it.
24. SEMSCO took nominations for officers for next year. Patty Bashaw was nominated for Chair; Mark Phillippy for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair and Steve Cady for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair. Elections will be in – you already know this – January.
25. You got these notes in your hot little hands and read all the way to the end probably because you wanted to know wazzup with the CC? Ask and you shall receive – the Bureau issued Policy Statement 17-07, which outlines the intended path for the EMT-CC sunset. See [www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/policy/policy.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/policy/policy.htm) and keep your eyes peeled for additional updates that will likely come through this same (Policy Statement) channel.
26. Talk about adding insult to injury: the FDA recently cited the maker of the EpiPen® for failing to properly investigate hundreds of auto-injector failures and had



- inadequate oversight and control over EpiPen manufacturing. The letter is posted at [www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/2017/ucm574981.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/2017/ucm574981.htm). Incredible that Pfizer is literally robbing EMS agencies blind selling poorly made and defective products.
27. Recent high profile news stories of financial ruin resulting from helicopter air ambulance bills led the US Government Accounting Office to examine oversight of air ambulance billing practices. They made several recommendations to the US Department of Transportation. See [www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-637](http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-637).
  28. SEMSCO will meet again January 9-10, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy. No word on meetings beyond January.

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who previously represented the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs on SEMSCO before being replaced by Mike Murphy. Contact Mike at [mmcevoy@saratogacountyny.gov](mailto:mmcevoy@saratogacountyny.gov) or visit [www.mikemcevoy.com](http://www.mikemcevoy.com). If you want a personal copy of these "unofficial" SEMSCO minutes delivered directly to your email account, go to <http://eepurl.com/iaXHY> to put yourself on the list (or adjust your delivery settings). Also, past copies of NYS EMS News are parked at the bottom of the EMS News page at [www.saratogaems.org](http://www.saratogaems.org). Feel free to download any notes you missed. Tell your friends. The more, the merrier.