

Westchester County EMS Advisory Board (EAB)

Notes from the February 10, 2015 Meeting

Location: Department of Emergency Services

Daniel Blum	A
Cullen, John	E
Dawson, David	X
Dewey, Stephen	E
Faucher, Roland	X
Kalish, Chris	X
Maddalo, Anthony, MD	X
Marello, Steven	X
Nigro, Emil, MD	X
Ochs, Adam	X
Volk, Michael	X
Wacha, Jennifer	X

Legend

X = attended
A = absent
E = excused
G = Guest

18:30 – Chairman Faucher called the meeting to order and the minutes from the November 18, 2014 meeting approved.

18:32 – Press / Public Information:

Chris Kalish reported that a writer from Westchester Magazine has contacted DES, REMSCO, REMAC, and others to gather information for a public interest story on volunteer EMS in Westchester. Several interviews have been conducted. Her story was submitted to her editor on February 16, but the publication date has not yet been announced.

18:35 – Westchester REMSCO Meeting

Chris Kalish reviewed the notes from the January 22 meeting of the REMSCO
Summary below:

Chair:

- By-laws change proposal – consolidation of member categories.
- Proposal to move from 30 members to 26 (quorum would be 14).

Communications:

- Some general discussion regarding Ebola preparedness.
- June 13 – Hazmat / WMD exercise (Rain Date June 14) – fire, hazmat, EMS
 - DES will offer training course prior to the exercise.

- NYS Firefighter 1 curriculum has been updated to include the requirement for basic first aid (BFA) and CPR.
 - DES will offer CPR/BFA training in Valhalla
- In May, 2015 – An EMS Officer’s workshop (the EAB recommendation) will be held.

REMAC:

- Feb 2 next meeting
 - (no updates)

Training:

- Yonkers fire department will run a series of EMT-P classes.
- (Goal to have a paramedic on each engine) – Phelps Hospital will support the clinical rations.

SEMSCO:

- SEMAC updated and overhauled the spinal protocol (similar to CT, Maine) – backboarding is for extrication, not immobilization
 - Collars without backboards will be approved in protocol
- Epi-pens to school environments (teachers can get certified and treat) – most schools are not interested (per teachers’ union)
- Vehicle signage and naming – an agency got name dba as “ambulance” and labeled their fly-cars that way – state reiterated vehicle marking policy to avoid confusion.
- NYS EMS testing results: 60% completion rate for BLS classes - 47% ALS (people who enroll and pass)
 - State wants to bring rates up (more remediation)
 - Only 1.7% fail final exams (.5% of ALS fail final exams) - psc

Membership:

- Chris Kalish, Sue Briggs, Cesar Perez all re-elected

Next WREMSCO meeting scheduled for March 26, 2015.

18:50 – EAB Mandate:

There was extensive discussion on the next project for the EMS Advisory Board. It was agreed that it is a reasonable time to survey EMS agencies to collect a baseline of issues, status, and needs.

There was some debate over the level of detail to gather from constituents and what the appropriate domain is for the group to address.

The draft survey instrument was circulated again to all members of the EAB for review and comment:

[REDACTED]

One area of substantial discussion was agency adoption of 24/7 rostered crews. It was felt that

it would be a significant gap in quality if agencies practiced “discretionary EMS” (agency members deciding whether to respond to an emergency at the time of dispatch). It was posited that there are agencies in the region that do not know who will respond to a call at a given time of the day or night (or if a crew will be able to respond at all) and that the decision of a member to respond is made at the time of dispatch. This is not confirmed and it was suggested that (if possible) a report be run by 60 Control to identify situations where an agency was dispatched and a crew did not respond.

Next meeting May 12, 2015

19:27 – Meeting adjourned