

Southwestern Regional Emergency Medical Services Council

Summary Record of Meeting

February 1, 2017

Formal minutes of this meeting consist of a verbatim transcript of the proceeding which is accessible at the program agency's website www.SouthernTierEMS.org . This Summary Record of Meeting is provided to assist the members of Council in recollecting the salient aspects of the meeting should such be needed during future activities without having to undertake sorting through the volumes of transcript pages.

Call To Order of Informational Portion of Meeting:

Chairman Ed Frederickson convened the session to order (25 members, 2 STEMS staff, 1 DOH staff and no guests present, attendance listing on file at STEMS) at 6:35 P.M. at the Good Times Multi-Purpose Facility in the upper assembly room.

Correspondence:

E. Frederickson reported that no general correspondence had been received beyond the normal DOH communications.

Officers Reports:

Chairman – E. Frederickson opened the meeting by offering a Moment of Silence in remembrance of the passing of long term council member Walt Reisner who had very ably represented council in Albany and at the WREMAC table. Chair Frederickson next commented that it had been his privilege to attend the STEMS EMS Leadership Class and spoke very highly of the experience. He continued on to note that the 3rd Quarter report had been submitted to NYSDOH and he distributed a committees membership assignments listing for the 2017 year.

Vice Chair – M. Carbone noted the attendance of NYSDOH Bureau of EMS Director of Education and Certification Services Lee Burns at Council and welcomed her to the table.

Treasurer - M. Forness distributed a Treasurer's Report exhibiting current fund balances and expenses incurred since the previous meeting and noted that submittal for the Vital Signs Training Conference reimbursement from an Allegany County agency had been returned unpaid due to the submittal not following Council protocol.

No other officers' reports were received.

Committee Reports:

WREMAC - DR. Walters provided an update on the status of the statewide Collaborative Protocols specifically noting that an on-line video rollout would occur that would require an hour of a basic EMT's time and additionally an hour of an AEMT's time. EMTs would have 60 days to complete the credentialing once the protocols are released. D. Kahm added that the state plan has been to release the protocols in an electronic format although STEMS would be investigating the possibility of providing a printed paper version throughout the region for those who might be interested in having such.

SEMAC - Dr. Walters reported that (1) a lengthy discussion had occurred on revising the stroke protocols and emphasized that it is important for receiving hospitals to receive pre-arrival notification for possible stroke cases along with receiving certain background information; (2) a discussion had occurred regarding a proposal to allow CFRs to administer nebulized albuterol and that the proposal had been voted down; (3) the Check & Inject Program had been discussed and that it had received significant participation in the field; and (4) the future of the Critical Care Level remains under discussion with a TAG Report due at the SEMAC's May meeting.

L. Burns added that all of the BLS protocols are being reviewed by many medical provider groups although the final decision on content rests by law with the SEMAC. She noted that the protocols are being formed in an algorithm style which is flow chart based.

SEMSCO - R. Hasson opened by noting that in advance of the Council meeting a written summary of the meeting had been distributed to Council membership. He reported that concern exists about the large number of failures that were experience with the Instructor Exams, mostly due to two or three content sections. He reported that STEMS has scheduled a March 11 Instructor Update Course which will hopefully address the weak areas. He reminded Council that all instructors must periodically take the update course. R. Hasson also reported that the Vital Signs Conference will be held in Rochester in October.

NYSDOH - L. Burns reported that (1) the proposed 2017-18 state budget will have a devastating effect upon the Bureau with its budget likely being reduced by \$3.6 million. She explained how the state budgeting process works and explained that although a certain figure is budgeted that by the time that such goes into operation that reductions in the budgeted amount result. Additionally she informed Council of how funds are split between two operating categories with most funds that affect regional operating being channel through the Aid To Localities Program which has more technicalities that did the previous method. She encouraged course sponsors to quickly file their course reimbursement requests and if at all possible and to do such well before fiscal year end; (2) in 2016 the state had lost 28 ambulance agencies as contrasted to 21 being lost in 2015. She expressed deep concern about the sustainability of the volunteer service recommending that attention be give to mergers and consolidations while emphasizing the importance that the volunteer service has to statewide EMS coverage. D. Conroe related his concern that the bureaucratic requirements were becoming too burdensome on the volunteers and gave a couple examples of such where simplifications could occur. He predicted that although excellent care would be given that such would end up arriving too late due to a continuing decline in the number of agencies/EMTs and that mortality rates would thus increase. He suggested that whenever requirements are developed that specific attention be given to reducing their bureaucratic impact on providers. P. Wilson suggested that the volunteers investigate sharing

administrative functions since most administrative items are common in nature; (3) she concluded her comments by reporting that significant activity is occurring amongst hospitals statewide in the area of applying for trauma certifications.

STEMS - A. Kahm (1) distributed a report on activity that had occurred since Council's previous meeting; (2) noted that the EMS Leadership Class went very well and that funding was being sought for offering a second class; (3) reported that Narcan administrations can now be reported on-line; and (4) that only 21 [out of 200] openings remained for the Spring Annual Training Conference.

Membership - Community Relations - No reports were received from these committees.

Education - M. Forness reported that Regional Specialty Courses offerings were being reviewed.

EMS Service - R. Hasson reported that (1) there were no CON applications pending; (2) no response had been received from Independence about their returned incomplete application; and (3) the SCIO application processing had been completed at NYSDOH.

County Reports:

Allegany County - M. Barney reported that the Spring EMT and CFR classes were underway and that a daytime CFR course was in the planning stages.

Cattaraugus County - B. Kuhn reported (1) statistics on EMT Original, EMT Refresher, CFR and CFR refresher courses that had occurred in the Fall, all of which had exemplary passing rates; (2) that considerable time was being expended on the two way radio conversion to a truncated system.

Chautauqua County - K. Peebles reported that (1) the county sponsored EMT Refresher course had started and that of the 22 enrollees that only 1 was from the original course that had been held the three years previously. All other students were long time EMTs; (2) the paramedic class was proceeding; and (3) that the 3 fly cars had been ordered for the new county based program with delivery anticipated in 10 weeks and full program start-up anticipated to occur in about 12 weeks. The program will start out with 3 full time and 6 part time paramedics and that the Paramedic Supervisor had been hired and is developing operational details. D. Imfeld reported that the county was in the processing of established a WNY Mutual Link operation wherein on-scene video conferencing could occur. S. Cobb reported that the Sheriff's Department's EMT Deputies program was working well.

Call To Order of Formal Portion of Meeting:

Chairman Ed Frederickson called the official formal meeting to order at 7:41 P.M.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

T. Reisner moved **that the minutes of the December 7, 2016, meeting be approved as presented**, second by C. Baker. **All aye.**

Treasurer's Report:

M. Forness reviewed the Treasurer's Report handout. She noted that all bills had been paid and that the year to date account balance was \$15,569.33. R. Hasson moved **acceptance of the Treasurer's Report**, second by K. Bushman. **All aye.**

Enforcement Notifications:

M. Carbone read aloud a notification that had been received from NYSDOH regarding disciplinary action taken with Kenneth Relyea Sr. of Canastota.

Old Business:

Vital Signs Reimbursement Account - M. Forness reported that \$6,000+ remained in the account, due mainly to an (Allegany County) agency's non-compliance with the reimbursement policy. M. Forness moved that **the Executive Committee be charged with recommending as to how the unexpended Vital Signs Account funds should be reapportioned**, second by S. Lanphier. **All aye.** D. Imfeld then moved that **since there would not be another Council Meeting occurring before the fiscal yearend that an electronic vote of the membership be authorized if earlier action needs to be taken on the Vital Signs funds reapportionment**, second by D, Marsh. **All aye.**

Response Modes - Dr. Walters noted that the NYSDOH policy was being addressed by all 3 counties.

New Business:

Controlled Substances Deadline - E. Frederickson noted that the deadline for compliance had received renewed attention at the state level. L. Burns updated Council on actions that had happened between the involved state departments.

Annual Provider Meeting -- T. Reisner moved that **Council provide financial support in an amount not the exceed \$5,000 for the Annual Provider Meeting, commonly known as the STEMS Annual Spring Training Conference**, second by M. Forness. **All aye.**

State Budget - M. Forness moved that **Council write a letter to state legislators and the Governor in support of keeping the EMS budget at its current fiscal year level for the upcoming fiscal year**, second by S. Lanphier. **All aye.**

Instructor Update Class Funding - T. Sampson moved that **Council cover any shortfall gap funding needs for the Instructor Update Class in an amount not to exceed \$750.00**, second by M. Forness. **All aye.**

CME On-Line Management Service - D. Kahm reported that she had reached out to Target Solutions for providing an optional CME On-Line Service to regional providers. STEMS would cover the initial initiation fee and then the providers would need to cover on-going processing fees. The idea was in the feasibility exploration phase at the current time.

Member Illness Announcement - D. Marsh advised Council that member Maggie Thompson would be on an extended illness leave. By consensus Council decided to send a Get Well Card along with its wishes that a complete recovery be achieved.

Adjournment:

At 8:00 P.M. M. Forness moved that the **meeting be adjourned**, second by S. Lanphier. **All aye.**

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas E. Conroe
Secretary

Next Meeting:

April 5, 2017, at Good Times of Olean.