

Quarterly REMAC Meeting

April 26th 2010

Queensbury NY

Meeting called to order at 12 Noon by John Broderick.

Roll Call – Dr. John Broderick, Patty Bashaw, Bruce Barry, Guy Goodell (Staff), Travis Howe (staff), Dave Lavergne (guest speaker), Gary Scidmore, Buzz Sawyer, Mary Jane Connors, Kevin White, Dr. Charles Gibbs, Dr. Robert Desidario, Dr. William Viscardo, Storm Treanor, Dr. John Beach, Dr. Chris Lamarre, Charlie Adams (guest), Vernon James (guest from Saranac Lake Fire), Peter Berry (guest speaker)

-Presentation by Peter Berry of EMR, a company that provides Electronic PCR and billing services to EMS agencies. One major point was that electronic PCR systems can give Medical Directors easier access to their squad's PCRs which will help in QA/QI.

- Presentation by Paramedic Dave Lavergne. Dave is proposing that agencies come together and make bulk supply purchases. This group would have access to discounted prices from some distributors. Dave is offering to volunteer his time to get it up and running. Presentation provoked discussion about what other regions do as well as supply issues at local hospitals.

- Previous meeting minutes were presented for approval. William Viscardo noticed one small mistake that Travis Howe made note of. Minutes were unanimously approved.

REMSCO Report by Patty Bashaw –

- Working on EMS Conference. Dave Lavergne has been volunteering his time to help out. Conference will be held September 17, 18, 19 at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls NY. Dave mentioned that he has lined up vendors, speakers and classes will include PHTLS and AMLS. There will also be a banquet on the night of the 18th which will include awards.

ED CORP Report- Scott Harwood explained that the Ed Corp is expecting some incoming monies soon. They should be able to pay the council back in May.

SEMAC Report –

- Dr. Broderick discussed that there has been discussion about what providers should and should not be doing while the ambulance is moving. This has been a real safety issue.
- NYS EMS Memorial is May 19th in Albany
- Vital Signs this year will be held in NYC in August

Dr. Broderick mentioned that all minutes and REMAC advisories need to be on the web site for easy access.

DOH Enforcements – Enforcements can be found online. No local enforcements in the last quarter.

ALS Renewals-

Tupper Lake and St Regis Falls were brought up by Dr. Broderick. General discussion about staffing and response plans and 24/7 coverage ensued.

Motion to grant ALS Recertification to Tupper Lake by Dr. Broderick. Second by Patty Bashaw. Carried.

Discussion about the REMAC preferring ALS Squads to carry Narcotics and how to push them to do so without making it mandatory. Dr. Broderick to work on this.

Motion to grant ALS recertification to St. Regis Falls by Doctor Broderick. Second by Patty Bashaw. Carried.

At approximately 1:05pm all phone lines were lost due to vehicle accident. Recording was stopped due to this.

Motion by Doug Girling to grant ALS recertification to the following agencies:

Glens Falls Fire, West Glens Falls EMS, North Queensbury, Lake George, Johnsbury. Second by William Viscardo. Carried.

Thurman EMS – Doug Girling made a motion to extend Thurman's ALS certification to July 31st 2010 due to ongoing coverage issues. This will give them time to fix their problems. REMAC to follow up at next meeting. Second by William Viscardo. Carried.

Motion by Robert Desidario to grant ALS recertification to Easton Greenwich and Newcomb EMS. Second by Doug Girling. Carried.

Guy Goodell raised concerns that have been voiced by providers working for Newcomb. Their concerns are about PA Kevin Bolan who has been helping the squad for years. One provider claims that he was given orders that were not in his protocols. Dr. Desidario the office, Patty and Dr. Broderick will investigate any and all issues.

Motion by Doug Girling to grant recertification to Schroon Lake, Hague and Lamoille. Second by Dr. Desidario. Carried.

Motion by Dr. Davis to increase Elizabethtown – Lewis to the Paramedic level. Second by Doug Girling. Carried.

Dr. Davis expressed concern about Moriah's coverage issues. They are currently using daytime mutual aid to help cover most calls.

Patty Bashaw states that she wants to know what the REMAC is going to do if squads have homes in their schedules.

Discussion about the counties and how their mutual aid systems work.

John Broderick states that he will contact all of the county call centers to see if they can provide the REMAC with statistics on squads using mutual aid prior to our meetings.

Motion by John Broderick to extend Moriah's ALS certification until next meeting due to the coverage issues. Second by Doctor Davis. Carried.

Keeseville – Motion to recertify at ALS level by Patty Bashaw, Second by William Viscardo. Carried.

It was noted that some squads that are currently certified at the Critical Care level will need to apply for Paramedic level if they have Paramedic students. This is so they can get reimbursed by the state. It was noted that the staff should include information on this when sending out renewal packets.

Rockwell Falls Ambulance – Doctor Girling explained that they received transferred CON from the fire department and now need to ALS certification under their new name. Motion by Doctor Girling to grant them ALS certification at the Paramedic level. Second by Bruce Barry. Carried.

Town of Wilmington – It was noted that they received transferred CON from Fire Department. Motion to grant Paramedic certification by Patty Bashaw. Second by Bruce Barry. Carried.

Saranac Lake- William Viscardo explained that Saranac Lake's plan has been to move towards paid coverage. Also, CON transfer has been tough due to having to deal with several different towns and entities. The agency does have a contract with the village to move forward. They plan to have paid staff on during the day (12 hour shifts).

When asked he also stated that the squad will let calls rollover to central dispatch when they have holes in schedule.

States that they are close to filing the CON paperwork and asks if the REMAC should just extend their ALS certification another three months.

Storm Treanor – Can Saranac Lake call County Dispatch in the morning to relay that they have coverage issues that particular day?

Phones came back on at 2:12pm

Dr. Pond raises issue about Saranac Lake dispatchers not being EMD certified. States that the REMAC needs to "raise the bar" and make every agency use EMD dispatchers.

Motion by Dr. Pond – All calls should be dispatched by someone that is EMD certified. Second by Dr. Lamarre. Carried.

Motion by Dr. Pond – if squads don't respond within three minutes, mutual aid gets called.

Kevin White – Lets focus on rules already made and see if they work before making more.

Consensus after discussion – Lets focus on rules already made and EMD first.

Motion by Dr. Viscardo to extend Saranac Lake's ALS certification until July meeting. Second by Bruce Barry. Carried.

FREMSA – Dr. Viscardo states that FREMSA provides intercepts with squads like Northern and St. Regis Falls. It was noted that the REMAC needs to start seeing some PCR's from this agency.

Motion to Increase their ALS certification to paramedic level and to recertify for six months by Dr. Viscardo. Second by Bruce Barry. Carried.

John Broderick brought up the following as informational –

- Online preceptor course. Concerns raised included the fact that it would be watered down and the student would not pick up important stuff.
- Protocols on you smart phones- There are apps available for this.
- Anaphylaxis Pediatric protocol is not online. Travis is working on this.
- North Warren EMS – Dr.'s Broderick and Girling working on transfer of medical direction to Girling. Dr. John Esper the former Medical Director is going to be bringing issues he has with North Warren and specific call to the regional QA/QI group.
- Cardizem – There was a question raised about how much we should be requiring squads to carry. There was also discussion about how the squads are obtaining their medications now. During discussions sublingual Zofran was brought up. It was decided that a full discussion and review of formulary is needed. This will be done at the July meeting.
- Medical Control ID numbers – It was noted by Dr. Broderick that there may be value in centralizing the ID numbers. After discussion it was decided to keep existing numbers but in the future all new doctors will be assigned a central ID number by Mountain Lakes.
- CME approval for EMT's – Dr. Broderick stated that the REMAC does not do this.
- Staffing and Response Plan – The staffing and response plan was discussed but the members present decided not to change anything.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dr. Desidario. Second by Patty Bashaw. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm

Minutes Submitted by Travis Howe