

Mountain Lakes REMSCO
October 26, 2009
Meeting Minutes
Mt Lakes Office Queensbury, NY

Members Present: Patty Bashaw, Bruce Mason, Gary Scidmore, Micki Guy, Chris Norton, Brian Langdon (phone), Ron Jackson (phone), Eric Day, Storm Treanor, Tammy Trombley, Scott Harwood (phone), Gregg Trask (phone), Mary Jane Connors (phone), Kevin White, Paul Zinn, Bruce Sawyer

Guests: Mary Ramo (NYS BEMS), Joe Farrell (NYS BEMS), Dr. John Broderick, Robert Farrell (attorney), Diane Daly-Gage (stenographer)

Staff: Guy Goodell, Ted Monsour, Scott Richards

Call to Order: Patty Bashaw

Minutes

- Motion to accept the minutes by Chris Norton, seconded by Kevin White. All in favor and carried.

EdCorp Report - Scott Richards

- 12 Classes running throughout the Region.
- EMT-B students will be starting to request ride time at agencies and clinical time in the ER as part of their class requirements.
- Four more classes getting ready to start in the next couple of months
- EMT-I class to begin in Granville has 23 students signed up already
- Looking to start an ALS level course in Franklin County around January

Clinton County Community College Course Sponsorship Report – Storm Treanor

- Advanced class testing in December
- Basic class testing in January
- Will start more courses in January

CONs – Patty Bashaw / Mary Jane Connors

- Patty introduced Joe Farrell from NYS BEMS and Attorney Robert Farrell Board member of Warrensburg EMS and allowed each to give their points of view regarding the recent concerns raised in regard to NYS Medicaid Office of Inspector General and Agencies responding to calls in areas not listed on their operating certificates.
 - At issue is the functional definition of “Mutual Aid”. If it is limited to level of care then expansion of territory would apply to some agencies. If it isn’t limited to level of care (i.e. ALS can provide mutual aid to a BLS agency) then mutual aid agreements would remedy the concern.

- Mary Jane Connors (MJ) as Chairperson of the CON Committee then gave her point of view on the topic and made mention of the DOH policy statement 95-04 which discusses mutual aid.
- After discussion, Patty outlined the Region's plan of action:
 - Agencies with scribal errors on their CON certificates will be administratively fixed by REMSCO vote.
 - Agencies who have been serving an area not listed on their CON and not originally a part of their service area can apply for expansion upon meeting certain criteria.
 - Those agencies that meet the criteria can partake in a one-time CON administrative correction, which follows the standard CON process but with a special truncated procedure.
 - Agencies solely seeking to expand territory for the sake of expanding territory will not fall under this procedure.
 - Fees will be split among the agencies partaking in the process
- Chris Norton discussed North Queensbury RS as an example agency for this procedure.
- MJ also brought to attention the issue of Operating Certificates that do not list the towns in the service area. Saranac Lake is an example of this problem. They anticipate issues when billing Medicaid because no towns are listed on their operating certificate and they want to avoid any possible confusion.
- MJ then discussed the methodology for the special CON procedure and how it was based upon Westchester County REMSCO's policy and experience.
 - MJ made a motion to adopt this CON procedure
 - Chris Norton seconded
 - Procedure in question was not received by Council Members, so discussion regarding entertaining the motion was raised.
 - Bruce Mason made recommendation to accept based upon all reviewing the Westchester Co REMSCO document and also the urgency of disseminating information to agency constituents
 - Roll Call vote:
 - Yes
 - Dr. Broderick
 - Mary Jane Connors
 - Scott Harwood
 - Ron Jackson
 - Brian Langdon
 - Greg Trask
 - Storm Treanor
 - Patty Bashaw
 - Chris Norton
 - Eric Day
 - Kevin White
 - Bruce Sawyer
 - Bruce Mason
 - Paul Zinn
 - Micki Guy
 - No
 - Tammy Trombley
 - Carried

- Administrative Corrections to Operating Certificates – Mary Jane Connors (MJ)
 - EMT of CVPH
 - Informational for Council Members
 - Their certificate should have included Essex and Franklin counties
 - The hearing was recorded and successful
 - The Council failed to notify the State
 - UPDATE – Ted forwarded needed items to the State, so they could make the requested edit to the Operating Certificate
 - Lamoille Ambulance
 - Certificate illegally has “Inter-facility Only”
 - Requests “Inter-facility Only” to be removed
 - New Certificate to read “Essex County and the City of Plattsburgh”
 - Motion made by Ron Jackson
 - Seconded by Bruce Sawyer
 - Discussion
 - Dr. Broderick asked for clarification that this was not going to result in an expansion of service, but simply reflects current services and meeting DOH guidelines.
 - Unanimous – Carried
 - Saranac Lake
 - Adjust certificate language to list specific towns covered in their operating region. Current area of service merely states “Saranac Lake School District”.
 - Motion made by MJ to change the language on the certificate to:
 - The Village of Saranac Lake and the Saranac Lake School District in the towns of Brighton, Harriestown, Franklin, North Elba, Santa Clara and St. Armand
 - Seconded by Chris Norton
 - Unanimous
 - Bruce Sawyer abstained
- CON Expansion Application Deadline
 - November 30, 2009
 - Kevin White Motioned
 - Chris Norton Seconded
 - Discussion
 - Dr. Broderick and Kevin White voiced concern that if the letter going out to agencies isn’t worded properly it could be construed that an agency could use this process to attempt to expand their territory into a service area not historically accessed by that agency.
 - Patty Bashaw recommended the office have the letter proofed by the CON Committee to ensure language would not imply expansion into new territory.
 - Mary Jane Connors responded to their concerns by stating the language in the policy statement is geared toward agencies that would have previously qualified to be grandfathered in by the State, but can’t anymore due to the

removal of the grandfathering clause, and stated language in the letter will allude to that specific criteria.

- Motion carried unanimously

REMAC Report – Dr. John Broderick

- The following agencies had their ALS renewal applications approved:
 - Argyle Rescue
 - Bay Ridge Rescue
 - Bolton Vol Fire Co
 - Fort Edward Rescue
 - Granville Rescue
 - Indian Lake Vol Ambulance
 - Northern Ambulance
 - Skenesborough Emergency Squad
 - Warrensburg Emergency Medical Services
- The following agency had their increase in service approved:
 - Luzerne-Hadley Consolidated Fire District
- The following agencies had their ALS certificates extended until Jan 25, 2010
 - Lake George Emergency Squad
 - Tupper Lake Volunteer Ambulance
- Outside Medical Direction was discussed. This was prompted by a third party solicitation to provide Medical Direction
 - Consensus was Med Dir should be kept locally
 - Region needs to find ways of recruiting more Med Dirs
- City of Glens Falls Fire had their ALS status extended to their new Municipal Ambulance Certificate.
 - They are required to re-apply at the Jan 2010 REMAC meeting for ALS status.
- New study regarding stroke care to be started for this financial year.
- H1N1 and EMS was discussed
 - Encouraging Teks to be vaccinated
 - Wearing masks on calls involving at risk patients
 - Developing a REMAC policy statement addressing issues with pandemic flu response
 - High call volume for transport, which could potentially impair response times to more severe medical emergencies
 - Docs to continue to monitor call volumes to see if other steps needed
- Online medical control test – based upon the protocol exam was approved
 - Mt Lakes to issue an ID number for the sake of keeping things centralized
 - Current numbers will be sent to Mt Lakes to ensure no duplicates and issue new numbers in the event there are duplicates
- Letter to Ed Wronski from REMAC
- Patty Bashaw added:
 - Local entities need to be aware of the 3rd party Med Dir solicitation
 - REMAC discussed the possibility of having agencies compensate for Med Dirs, due to the difficulty of retaining Med Dirs
 - FEMA has an online course (IS-520) regarding continuity of operations in the event of a pandemic.
 - Protocol Books printed by 3rd parties without REMAC approval.

- Mt Lakes office to work with publisher to work out details of printing more of the bound copies
 - A reprint of the loose leaf books are needed as well
- Remediation protocol was approved by REMAC
- Ryan White Law information was distributed
- Dr. Paul Vinsel was re-added to the REMAC

Director's Report

- REMSCO members received and had no questions

DOH Enforcements

- 8/10/09
 - Edward Ashley
 - Three (3) year suspension of EMT-Basic effective 7/29/09. The suspension is stayed. Three (3) month actual suspension of AEMT-Paramedic certification effective 7/29/09. Three (3) years probation effective 7/29/09. \$2,000 fine.
- 8/14/09
 - Jeffrey Mondo
 - Suspended from 8/14/09 thru 11/1/09. For failure to comply with a previous Stipulation and Order and violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.15(a) and 800.16(a). No fine.
- 9/21/09
 - Samuel Stetter
 - Suspended effective 9/21/09. For failure to comply with a previous Stipulation and Order. No fine.

ePCR

- Morrisonville-Schuyler Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service submitted a request for REMSCO approval to use ePCR technology.
 - EMS Charts will be their provider
- Motion to approve ePCR request
 - Kevin White Motioned
 - Tammy Trombley Seconded
 - Unanimously Carried

Vital Signs Conference 2009

- David Hobbs was recognized as the EMT-B of the year
- Mt Lakes Congratulates Dave on his well deserved accomplishment

Old Business

- Paramedic Course issues
 - Scott Harwood reported there was a meeting scheduled for November 4th
 - The DOH was invited to the upcoming meeting as well
- ORDA CON
 - Nothing to report from Patty or MaryJane
- IRS abatement requests for previous late filings were approved

SEMAC – Dr. John Broderick

- No quorum present to vote with
- State wide influenza was discussed

SEMSCO – Storm Treanor

- Funding issues abound
- Course sponsors can no longer receive upfront funding
- New curriculum State wide
- QI is moving forward

State Report – Mary Ramo

- Any CLI Students that took the course 15 months ago need to finish soon to avoid the 18 month time limitation

Bruce Barry Essex County Council Seat

- Bruce Barry application for the open Essex County Council seat
 - Buzz Sawyer Motioned to accept application
 - Kevin White Seconded
 - Unanimously Carried

Other Council Seats

- Patty stressed the importance of filling all seats to ensure a quorum
- Washington County is hoping to fill it's vacancies soon
- Paula Caulkins Lacombe resigned from her Clinton County Council seat on good terms to focus on her recent promotion
 - Buzz Sawyer motioned to accept her resignation, with regret
 - Eric Day seconded
 - Unanimously carried
- Eric Day's first term expired as a member of Clinton County
 - Buzz Sawyer motioned to extend his seat for another term
 - Tammy Trombley seconded
 - Unanimously carried

Council Executive Committee Terms

- Buzz Sawyer motioned to keep positions as is
 - Patty Bashaw – Chairperson
 - Kevin White – Vice Chairman
 - Storm Treanor – Treasurer
 - Chris Norton - Secretary
- Chris Norton Seconded
- Unanimously Carried

Other

- Crown Point Bridge Closure in Essex County is impacting EMS
 - Work around solutions with air transport have been implemented
- Letter from Council to Ed Wronski
- Buzz Sawyer requested a plaque to Paula Caulkins Lacombe

Finance Committee – Patty Bashaw, Storm Treanor

- Program Agency Contract Advance request not yet received
- 1st Quarter FY 09-10 not yet received
- Council is extended fully into the line of credit for \$30,000.00
- Funds drying up for payroll, fringe benefits and operating expenses
- Finance Committee is monitoring weekly the bills and cash flow to determine if staffing needs to be cut until monies are received from the State

- Advance for the Program Agency Contract, Q1 Voucher and Q2 Council Voucher are all due at the time of this meeting.
- Outstanding bills will be addressed with vendors until payment can be made, as a way of keeping communication flowing
- Dr. Broderick posed the question of what other means of income can the program agency and council have
 - Patty made the statement that it's difficult to start a venture since you cannot use contract money to pay staff for something other than contract deliverables. So, starting something else would require outside monies.
 - Storm stated that this year we have a three year contract and the hope is once we're past the initial approval process money will come in on a consistent basis.
 - In light of these things Dr. Broderick asked if Betty Littles office was contacted, or will be contacted to assist in getting the State to fund the contracts.
- Storm also discussed the issue of at least 27,000 up to 59,000 claimed owed to the State. These are misallocated funds, which Mt Lakes' CPA firm has been addressing with the State. The State is working on finalizing their numbers and coming up with a payment plan for Mt Lakes.
- Discussion concluded with the understanding that emergency measures for keeping the office running essential services would be developed in the event the State prolonged payment. The hope being that payment would be received before coming to that.

Washington County Mutual Aid Plan

- County wide plan for EMS agencies, which also has language specific to ALS agencies.
- Motion to accept by Buzz Sawyer
 - Seconded by Gary Scidmore
 - Carried unanimously

Chris Norton motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin White

Respectfully submitted by Ted Monsour