



Monroe-Livingston Regional EMS Council
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024
Livingston County EMS Base
5582 Lake Road Avon, NY
4PM

Welcome by Secretary James Cassin

- Pledge of Allegiance

Calling of the Roll; 13 Members Present

Vice Chair Sam Tinelli arrived at 16:15 hours from jury duty

Geordie Klueber arrived at 16:05 Hours

Welcome to Brandon Nugent, new Council Member for Healthcare Representative

Guests: Edward Magar, Branch Chief NYS BEMS
Benjamin Sensenbach, Program Agency Administrator

Officer / Committee Reports:

- Chairperson / Legislative Committee :
 - No Report
- Vice Chair / NEG Committee Sam Tinelli: Presented by James Cassin
 - Motion to elect Sam Tinelli as Council Chair expiring March 31, 2025.
Motion: J. Cassin Second: T. Czapanski
No other nominations from the floor.
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
 - Motion to elect Jon Smith as Council Vice Chairperson expiring March 31, 2025.
No other nominations from the floor.
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
Motion: J. Cassin Second: W. Arnold
 - Motion to elect Jessie Merdek to the Monroe County At Large Seat #4 expiring
March 31, 2028;
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
Motion: W. Arnold Second: A. Mustafa

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- Treasurer / Finance Committee Alex Cook (Excused) – Presented by James Cassin
 - Motion to approve January, 2024 financial reports;
Motion: A. Mustafa Second: J. Cassin
All Ayes, Motion Carried
 - Motion to approve February, 2024 financial reports;
Motion: A. Mustafa Second: J. Cassin
All Ayes, Motion Carried

Update on Reimbursement from NYS for Program Agency;

Alex Cook sent via email current update and thoughts:

We are currently owe the University of Rochester 10 quarters of payment for the Program Agency contract as we have discussed at almost every meeting. The issue that we currently have is around 2019 the State decided to start enforcing the fact that the Program Agency contracts are technically a reimbursement model so in order for the State to get us payment we have to be able to show that we have paid the University (which we do not have the funds to do). Subsequently they told us that we would just have to submit for advances for each contract year which we did for 20-21 and 21-22, we could not go back further than that for advances. No they are telling us that we cannot get advances for 22-23 and 23-24 because the State has not recouped the previous advances yet which they do when we submit a voucher. However the stat is also still working on figuring out how to get us paid for a voucher from the 18-19 year which has halted our ability to continue the payment process which is why we are currently in this situation.

The 4 options that we see to move forward are as follows:

1. Keep things the way they are with hopes we can figure out something with the State
2. Have the University of Rochester become the Program Agency directly
3. Merge our Program Agency with another one
4. Perform the Program Agency work directly as the Council

My thoughts on the above options are as follows:

1. If we can figure out the reimbursement issue I think that this is the best case scenario, however if we cannot figure it out I don't know how viable this option is.
2. I think that this may be a viable option if we can't get reimbursement within our current structure figured out. I do not think that this would be an RFP process however, I believe that URMC would have to apply to NYS BEMS to become the

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program agency, I do not think that we have any control in the process of creating a new program agency entity. If we were selecting another organization within the current structure I would agree on the RFP but I believe what we are talking about is actually the transfer of our Program Agency to another unestablished entity.

3. Not sure how this would look but I believe that this is the direction the state is trying to push without actually saying it.
4. I do not think this is a viable option without a lot of up front work and ongoing work, we would essentially have to take on running payroll/1099ing people for work and all of the headaches that that can potentially cause in addition to getting people to actually have the time to commit to the work.

Sam Tinelli brought forth some additional information:

- Both the Program Agency and myself emailed the Director Greenberg and Deputy Director Dzuria 4-5 times without success;
 - Reached out to Mike McEvoy, Chair of SEMSCO to see if he had any advice, Chairperson McEvoy is not sure what the outcome will be for this issue, unsure if new program agencies will be allowed, that a question for the BEMS;
 - Deputy Director Dzuria replied last week and provided some open dates to have a ZOOM meeting;
 - A reply was sent back to Deputy Director last week choosing Wednesday March 20, 2024 in the afternoon;
 - As of this meeting, I have not received any further communication if that meeting will occur;
 - Edward Mager, Deputy Chief BEMS is in attendance at today's meeting and offered to reach out to Deputy Director Dzuria;
 - Prior to the end of today's meeting, we have a confirmation for the meeting for Wednesday at 1PM.
 - A summary of this meeting will be sent to all Council Members, we may have to have a special meeting;
- Secretary / Membership Committee James Cassin:
 - Motion to Approve Council Minutes from January 22, 2024;
Motion: W. Arnold Second: J. Smith
All Ayes, Motion Carried
 - Motion to change the May 20, 2024 Council meeting from Livingston County to PSTF to coincide with the EMS Award Ceremony;
Motion: J. Cassin Second: T. Hutchings
All Ayes, Motion Carried

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- Welcome packet was sent to new council member Brandon Nugent;
- Congratulations email sent to Council and REMAC members reelected and also end dates of their new term;
- Regional Medical Director / SEMAC Representative Jeremy Cushman(Excused): Presented by Dr. Aaron Farney
 - Protocols - At their February Meeting the SEMAC approved a large number of updates to the Statewide BLS and Collaborative ALS protocols. We await the Bureau's distribution of those but understand they will be released shortly and agencies are expected to be using those protocols no later than July 1, 2024. Although there are no regional protocol update requirements, there is previously distributed MOLST training already available and strongly encouraged for all levels of provider. A training on intravenous acetaminophen has been created for ALS agencies and will be released once the protocols are for optional agency use. There are a number of other changes that will be communicated via Advisory.
 - Handtevy - The Handtevy pilot project was presented by Dr Dorsett to REMAC at their last meeting. Significant reductions in dosing error have been observed, and there is clear evidence of a reduction in provider practice variability in using the tool. This ultimately results in reduced drug errors, reduced provider and agency liability exposure, and overall improved patient care. The office continues to explore funding mechanisms with the goal of Handtevy being continued beyond the end of the BEMS support in June, and become the application for protocol access and drug calculations for all agencies in MLREMS.
 - Deaf Communication - Dr Jason Rotoli of the University of Rochester, with input and participation by the office has updated materials associated with Deaf communication. These "DC3's" (Deaf Community Communication Catalog's) are being distributed by the respective County Medical Directors to agencies in the Monroe-Livingston region as quantities allow. Training is available through Collaboration and Prodigy and provides an outstanding opportunity to obtain CME, utilize a tool that can dramatically improve communication with the Deaf, and can also be used with non-english speaking persons. Please contact the office if you have any questions or want additional information.
 - SCT Program - Significant effort amongst the Medical Directors, Agencies, and the Office has focused on updating the Specialty Care Transport program, to include credentialing processes, education and competency assessments, and clinical guidelines, to help support agencies, and ultimately the region, in

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improving the ability to provide safe, trained and credentialed personnel for complex inter-facility transports. These efforts are ongoing, with documents under public comment for review and approval at the April REMAC. This will remain a large area of focus for the office for a good portion of the year, and reflects more than six months of work to date.

- SEMSCO Representative – Vacant:
 - Mark Philippy sent out to all Council members' notes of the last SEMSCO/SEMAC meetings taken by NYSVARA.
- REMAC Aaron Farney:
 - As of February 26, 2024 the RSI credential list has been updated, new RSI Technicians and their agencies have been notified;
 - Pulsara – a follow up meeting was held on March 12, 2024 and the next meeting is scheduled for April 22 at 2PM via ZOOM, if you like to attend, please reach out to the Program Agency for the link;
 - Handtevy should be the primary tool for providers to utilized based on data collected, a discussion on is there any data on other processes, not that anyone is aware of;
 - Lauren Pierson inquired if the data could be available for a presentation to EMSC;
 - Next REMAC meeting is April 15, 2024 at 5PM at the PSTF;
- Training & Ed Chair Ed Erbland:
 - No report submitted;
- Systems Operations Chair Jon Smith:
 - The Monroe County Mutual Aid Plan is still at Monroe County Legal Department for review;
 - Will begin working on the Multi Patient (MCI) plan at next meeting;
- PIER Chair Ahmed Mustafa:
 - Award ceremony is scheduled for May 20, 2024 at 4PM in Room 117 at the PSTF, thanks to Tim Hutchings for securing this location;
 - The award pins have been ordered and through the anonymous donor, we have been able to order enough pins for the next several years of award ceremonies;
 - Council members are asked to wear their agency uniforms to the ceremony Long sleeve shirt if available, or business casual.
- Livingston County EMS Coordinator Karen Dewar :
 - Received a \$2.5 million grant for Inter-operational communications;

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- County EOC will be activated for April 8 Eclipse event, all Fire/EMS agencies will be staffed during the event;
- Monroe County EMS Coordinator Tim Czapranski:
 - County EOC will be activated for April 8 Eclipse event, additional law enforcement and tow vehicles will be staffed to address traffic issues;
 - There are two Part 18 permits so far for the Eclipse event SUNY / Brockport and Rochester Museum and Science Center;
 - Pulse Point – hope to have up and running sometime around middle of 2024;
- E-PCR Committee – Ben Sensenbach & Jim Cassin
 - Have met via Zoom on February 12th, February 26th, March 11th;
 - Have completed working on the Impressions list;
 - Started work on Symptoms list;
 - Has been a very active group;
- Program Agency Ben Sensenbach:
 - State Actions;
 - Stanford Fire Co. No. 1, Inc.
 - Certification has been surrendered effective 1/9/2024.
 - For violations of Article 30 3012 (1)(f)
 - “...had discontinued operations for a period in excess of one month...”
 - Stephanie Lugo
 - Certification has been revoked effective 8/17/22
 - For violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16(a)
 - “...Any certification issued pursuant to this Part or Article 30 of the Public Health Law may be suspended for a fixed period, revoked or annulled, and the certificate holder may be censured, reprimanded, or fined in accordance with section 12 of the Public Health Law, after a hearing conducted pursuant to section 12-a of the Public Health Law, if the department finds that the certificate holder...”
 - Leah Cousino
 - Certification has been suspended for (1) year effective 1/11/2024. The suspension is stayed.
 - Placed on probation for three (3) years effective 1/11/2024.
 - Assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000 (\$1,000 stayed)
 - For violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.15(b)
 - “...maintain, at all times, the confidentiality of any and all patient information to which the certificate holder has access concerning patients alive or deceased,

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including, but not limited to, patient names, conditions, treatments, descriptions, communications, images or other identifying features, irrespective of whether the patient's name is included, which may be transmitted by electronic or other media..”

- Mackenzie Nicol
 - Certification has been suspended for three years effective 3/4/24. The suspension is stayed pending successful completion of three years probation.
 - Assessed a civil penalty of \$12,000. \$10,000 is stayed pending successful completion of probation.
 - For violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16(a)(1), 800.16(a)(2), 800.16(a)(3), 800.16(a)(9), 800.16(a)(11) and 800.15(b)(1).
 - “...has failed to comply with the requirements of Section 800.15 of this Part...”
 - “...has been negligent in the performance of his/her EMS duties and practice, as negligence is defined in Section 800.3 of this Part...”
 - “...has been incompetent in the performance of his/her EMS duties and practice, as incompetence is defined in Section 800.3 of this Part...”
 - “...has falsified a patient record and/or misrepresented and/or concealed pertinent information during a patient care investigation, including, but not limited to making deliberate omissions of material fact...”
 - “...has abandoned a patient, as patient abandonment is defined in Section 800.3 of this Part ...”
 - “...maintain, at all times, the confidentiality of any and all patient information to which the certificate holder has access concerning patients alive or deceased, including, but not limited to, patient names, conditions, treatments, descriptions, communications, images or other identifying features, irrespective of whether the patient's name is included, which may be transmitted by electronic or other media, except: when a certificate holder is acting as part of an organized pre-hospital emergency medical service, the certificate holder responsible for patient care shall accurately complete a pre-hospital care report in a department-approved format for each patient with whom the certificate holder makes patient contact, and shall provide a copy to the hospital receiving the patient and/or to the department's authorized agent for use in the State's quality assurance program...”

- Old Business –
 - None

- New Business –

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- Ed Magar BEMS – BEMS working very diligently on the budget for 23/24, BEMS has received requests from Erie, Monroe, Niagara and Orleans Counties for state resources from the State EMS Mobilization group for the eclipse, should have an answer in the next week;
- Need to approve new Chairpersons for Training and Education and PIER Committees;
- Motion to nominate Geordie Klueber as Chair for PIER:
Motion: A. Mustafa Second: J. Cassin
All Ayes, Motion Carried
- Motion to nominate Tim Hutching as Chair for Training/Education:
Motion: J. Cassin Second: E. Rathfelder
All Ayes, Motion Carried
- NYS DOH and Other Important Dates –
 - SEMAC and SEMSCO May 7 & 8, 2024 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY.
 - EMS Vital Signs Conference October 16-20, 2024 Rochester Riverside Convention Center Rochester, NY
- Next Council Meeting – Monday May 20, 2024 4PM at Public Safety Training Center 1190 Scottsville Road Rochester, NY 14624 Room 117

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 4:51PM

Motion: J. Smith Second: T. Hutchings

Link to meeting video: <https://youtu.be/iLrqSo8PRKE>

Submitted by

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Secretary

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2024 MLREMS Meeting Attendance Record

Category	Name	Term Expires	2024-01	2024-03	2024-05	2024-07	2024-09	2024-11
Monroe County At Large - Seat 1	Arnold, William	3/31/25	P	P				
At Large EMS Agency - Seat 4	Cassin, James	3/31/25	P	P				
Livingston County At Large - Seat 2	Cook, Alex	3/31/26	P	E				
Monroe County CON - Seat 1	Coyle Thomas	3/31/25	P	E				
Regional Medical Director	Cushman, Jeremy	Ex-Offico	P	E				
Monroe County EMS Coordinator	Czapranski, Timothy	Ex-Offico	P	P				
Livingston County EMS Coordinator	Dewar, Karen	Ex-Offico	P	P				
REMAC Representative	Farney, Aaron	3/31/25	P	P				
At Large EMS Agency - Seat 3	Frost, Timothy	3/31/26	E	E				
Monroe County At Large - Seat 2	Hutchings, Timothy	3/31/25	P	P				
Monroe County At Large - Seat 3	Kirchoff, Thomas	3/31/25	P	A				
Livingston County - BLSFR	Klueber, Geordie	3/31/26	P	P				
Livingston County At Large - Seat 1	Lindskoog, Jonathan	3/31/25	P	P				
Monroe County At Large - Seat 4	Merdak, Jessee	3/34/28	E	P				
Healthcare Representative - Seat 3	Nugent, Brandon	3/31/25	Vacant	P				
Monroe County CON - Seat 2	Perez, Andrew	3/31/28	P	P				
Healthcare Representative - Seat 1	Pierson, Lauren	3/31/26	P	P				
Law Enforcement	Rathfelder, Eric	3/31/26	E	P				
At Large EMS Agency - Seat 2`	Smith, Jonathan	3/31/26	P	P				
Livingston County CON -	Tinelli, Samuel	3/31/26	P	P				
EMS Training / Education	Vacant	3/31/28	P	A				
Livingston County At Large - Seat 3	Vacant	3/31/25	E	Vacant				
At Large EMS Agency - Seat 1	Vacant	3/31/25	Vacant	Vacant				
Healthcare Representative - Seat 2	Vacant	3/31/28	Vacant	Vacant				
Community Representative	Vacant	3/31/28	Vacant	Vacant				
Monroe County - BLSFR	Vacant	3/31/28	Vacant	Vacant				

Attendance Legend :

Present = P

Absent = A

Excused = E

Attendance for Quorum:

Quorum = 13 Members

Super Majority = 17 Members

