

1. SEMSCO meetings resumed in-person schedules July 19 and 20, 2022. RSVPs failed to raise a physician quorum which canceled the Med Standards and SEMAC meetings. The July 20 SEMSCO meeting is archived at: www.health.ny.gov/events/webcasts/archive/.
2. This year's EMS Memorial service moved from EMS week to 11 am on September 20th, 2022, at the Empire State Plaza. Ten fallen EMS providers will be honored this year. To register groups or emergency vehicles to participate, contact Valerie Ozga at 518-265-6092. Details here: www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/emsmemorial.htm.
3. Given the lack of the usually lively Medical Standard and SEMAC meetings (that typically provide lighthearted fodder to spice up these notes), I'll give a whirl at adding some extra flavor.
4. Finance reports their EMS Training Cost Survey Tool has been distributed. Please encourage your training programs to complete the (online) survey. Also, a revised workforce survey will be released later this year in an effort to update the very informative 2019 report (see: <https://ubmdems.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Download-2019-NYS-EMS-Workforce-Report.pdf>).
5. Training and Education packed a very lengthy agenda into a little over an hour. Staff reported the CME portal (<https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/cmeportal>) is open and working well; all submissions should go there. Questions should be emailed to Gene Meyers (gene.meyers@health.ny.gov), NOT put in the portal. Cards have been processed through June 2022. The most common issue with the portal is getting an application returned for failing to follow directions (whoda thunk it?). 34 of the last 165 submissions met this ugly fate.
6. While horror stories abound regarding NYS exam issues with PSI (the testing contractor), only 1% of students actually have issues registering and taking their PSI exams. Should this be you or a friend, don't bother calling PSI – email ems.testingissues@health.ny.gov. Lastly, from the staff report, Training Chief Jean Taylor plans to retire at the end of September this year, leaving some big shoes (or sneakers, as it often is) to fill.
7. Circling back to the previously discussed concern about Course Sponsors running classes outside their home Regions, the Bureau has programmed the Course Application portal to automatically notify the REMSCO where a course is being taught immediately on receipt of any course application. These emails go to the EMSCO Chair of record for each Region.
8. The Education Standards Workgroup assembled in April did a yeoman's job creating a succinct worksheet of 2021 updates to the EMS Educational Standards. Broken down by level, the final spreadsheet will be tidied up, sent to the Bureau, and distributed to Course Sponsors. The brief, bulleted nature of the document will allow instructors to readily add the new material to their courses. The goal (accomplished) was to make it short enough that people will actually read it. Yay!
9. T&E relooked at AEMT endotracheal intubation; passing a motion to request SEMAC bring NYS AEMT protocols in line with the National EMS Educational Standards by January 1, 2023. SEMAC will hear this (provided they have a quorum) in September.
10. North Country proposed, and T&E endorsed, a pilot combined EMT/AEMT program designed to get AEMTs into the system more quickly. The proposal will need Commissioner

approval (as a pilot) in order to proceed. North Country will work with the Bureau to facilitate.

11. A complaint received by the Bureau regarding BLS use of an obstructed airway clearance device raised the age-old question of whether education, SEMAC, or SEMSCO endorses, approves, or otherwise specifies equipment items in protocol. The general consensus, previously opined, is that EMS equipment is authorized by agency medical directors. As this is clearly Deja vu all over again, this question will be forwarded to SEMAC for consideration in September. T&E recommends SEMAC develop a policy statement on authorization of medical equipment and devices.
12. A draft revision to the BLS Practical Skills Exam (PSE) manual was batted around prior to the T&E meeting. It will utilize 3 out of hospital scenarios, testing critical thinking and applied learning rather than rote memorization of psychomotor skills. The draft received so many comments and had such lengthy discussion that a workgroup will be established to develop a final draft with Chief John MacMillan, hopefully for review at the September meetings. Ideally, this would roll out in the Spring of 2023 but time will tell...
13. A National Registry of EMTs [proposed motion](#) to expand eligibility criteria for the NREMT Paramedic exam to include state approved programs (in addition to accredited programs) resulted in a letter of objection from several of New York's 24 paramedic programs. While DOH no longer requires paramedic programs be accredited, 23 of 24 NY programs have voluntarily done so. Two action items resulted: T&E voted to upload the statement opposing the National Registry motion and a workgroup will be assembled to meet with State EMS Director Ryan Greenberg to discuss obstacles to accreditation, potential paramedic program changes (like the upcoming National Registry elimination of the paramedic practical skills exam), and best practices for NYS paramedic programs.
14. The Bureau [posted several new policy statements](#). I won't name them all here – take a peek to pick up what they're putting down. It's great down time reading.
15. Vital Signs is in Albany this year, October 27-30 at the Empire State Plaza. Scope out the details at www.vitalsignsconference.com. Two exciting new things to check out: a 3-day NAEMSE Instructor Course live on site **AND** on Oct 28, a physician-led full day program, "The Future of EMS: Looking at Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" will debut. Hotels and registration are open. Hope to see you there!
16. FOMOC (Foundations of Medical Oversight), a course for medical directors and EMS leaders interested in quality medical oversight, will be held virtually from noon-4pm September 15-16, sponsored by NY NAEMSP. Cost is \$200 for docs, \$100 for EMS leaders; 6.75 AMA PRA Category 1 or CAPCE credits will be awarded. Registration/info is at: <https://portal.naemsp.org/integratedEvents/home/FOMOC-REGIONAL-NY-SEPT-15-16TH-2022>.
17. Systems took up the physician fly-car question. Pursuant to PHL 3005.A(d), SEMSCO can create rules regarding staffing ALSFRs. Henceforth, hospitals, health facilities or EMS agencies wishing to put a physician fly-car on the road should:
 - Notify their REMSCO of the intent, capabilities, and dispatch procedure
 - Ensure compliance with Part 800.26
 - If CS will be carried, assure BNE requirements (Part 80) are met

- The Bureau will develop a reporting procedure for physician fly-cars; programs are encouraged to share resources. Additional info forthcoming from DLA and the Bureau.
18. The EMS Sustainability TAG is chugging along and plans to finalize their white paper this fall. Realistically, Santa will drop a copy in each of your stockings.
 19. EMS Innovations shared information about ET3 programs, MIH, and Community Paramedicine. More to come...
 20. EMSC (EMS for Children) received a \$160k grant for their PECC program. This will bring a full-time data person on board.
 21. Jennie Salomon joined the Bureau as a trainer to bring an 8-hour interactive program across the State on Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder (SUD), EMS Mental Health and SUD Awareness. Look for info or if you want a class in your area, reach out to Valerie Ozga (Valerie.Ozga@health.ny.gov) to hook yourself up. You have two months.
 22. On the topic of EMS Mental Health, did you know the Bureau set up a web page precisely on this topic? Word on the streets, and commentary from ordinarily highly critical EMSer's is that the page rocks: www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/mental_health.htm.
 23. Deputy Commissioner John Morley introduced himself. Having served with DOH from 2005-2011, he spent some time in prison (as a medical director), and has returned to DOH. John is a very positive addition, and a strong EMS advocate. One item of note from Dr. Morley was a requirement for new CON submissions to address equity and access impacts. Dr. Rabrich will be chairing a SEMSCO Equity and Access Committee with Jason Haag and Steve Kroll. They are accepting volunteers to serve with them.
 24. Part F – the draft included as an attachment to the April 2022 SEMSCO Notes was a hot topic of discussion. Committees were asked to submit edits to the Chair with plans to forward to Director Greenberg by August 17th. Likelihood that there will be agreement on this is pretty slim but stranger things have happened.
 25. Quality is putting finishing touches on a new QA Manual. Not sure when this project will clear the DOH Bureaucracy, but maybe you will see it in your Easter basket next spring.
 26. SEMSCO meetings for the rest of the year will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, September 21/22 and December 6/7. There is a plan to announce all the dates for next year, hopefully before next year. This will hopefully help get quorums for meetings. Maybe.

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who serves on SEMSCO representing the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs. Contact Mike McEvoy at mmcevoy@saratogacountyny.gov. If you want a personal copy of these "unofficial" SEMSCO minutes delivered directly to your email account, go to <http://eepurl.com/iaXHY> to put yourself on the list (or adjust your delivery settings). Also, past copies of NYS EMS News are parked at the bottom of the EMS News page at www.saratogaems.org. Feel free to download any notes you missed. Tell your friends. The more, the merrier.