

1. SEMSCO met September 21 and 22, 2022 and, unlike the last meetings in July, both SEMAC and SEMSCO achieved quorums. Yay! Vids are at: <https://vimeo.com/749661212>. Thanks to notes from David Violante and Jason Haag, coupled with (painfully) watching hours of video, I'm writing these notes as though I was actually there.
2. Bylaw updates for SEMSCO are complete; they will have their first reading in December. Four meetings are planned for next year; despite the efforts to get these out well ahead of time, no dice - obviously reducing chances for quorums and participation. Tentatively, the four meetings will be: late Feb/early March, late May/early June, late Sept/early Oct, and December. A nominating committee for next year's officers was established; nominations from the floor were: Mike McEvoy for Chair, Jason Haag for Vice Chair, and Teri Hamilton for Second Vice Chair. Contact Jason Haag, Steve Kroll, or Al Lewis if you wish to nominate anyone else.
3. The EMS Memorial ceremony went off smoothly and honorably, despite moving indoors at the 11th hour due to rain. The EMS Memorial has run out of space, so it will now grow wings. The wings (delayed by stone supply chain issues) will allow more Stars of Life but ultimately, some will be cycled off the Memorial. All the names are to be featured on an engraved section of stone (that will allow etchings) and every hero permanently remembered in a touch screen kiosk. The kiosk will, for the first time, allow detailed descriptions of each fallen member. Kudos to the workgroup that put this genius together!
4. As threatened, Training Chief Jean Taylor actually did retire. Congratulations to her and muchas gracias for her many years of service to State EMS! A standing ovation recognized her 50 years of EMS service, 30 years as an instructor, and 20 years at DOH. Impressive! Her roles will be shared between John MacMillan and Drew Chesney (consult the Bureau web site) until someone fills Jean's sneakers.
5. The July T&E (Training & Education Committee) request that SEMAC bring NYS AEMT protocols in line with the National EMS Educational Standards by January 1, 2023 was approved but not without a kerfuffle. Long story short, endotracheal intubation was removed from the AEMT protocols effective 1/1/2023 but testing (written and skills) will be pulled from AEMT courses 12/1/2022. An accompanying transmission from T&E to SEMAC on use of medical devices by EMS providers vanished into space. I'll resurrect it in December.
6. While on the subject of T&E, the BLS PSE workgroup met, crafting revisions to a draft PSE manual. Bureau staff are consolidating these into a "sort of" final re-draft that might be ready for the December meetings. Prior to sending the proposed changes to Finance for budget considerations, the workgroup plans a series of "test" PSEs to better assess actual time, personnel, and \$ impacts.
7. The T&E paramedic program workgroup on accreditation and redesign issues has yet to be assembled, given other priorities. Following the July meeting, the National Registry proposed motion 22-13 that added state approved paramedic programs to CoA accredited programs as entry criteria to sit for the National Registry medic exam was rescinded.
8. Regional Faculty update training and the didactic portion of the CLI class will shortly be up on Vital Signs Academy (VSA). CLI candidates will complete skills validations with their Course Sponsors.

9. T&E noted that 500 new EMTs graduated from the Academy style courses the Bureau conducted at the start of this year; half were military and half civilian. The Bureau was encouraged to sponsor additional academy classes. That will happen.
10. No word from the Commissioner yet on the North Country proposal for a pilot combined EMT/AEMT program designed to get AEMTs into the system more quickly.
11. T&E also discussed funding and reimbursement concerns, length of training programs, and the need to evolve EMS education to better serve today's students. Jean Taylor announced that all Course Sponsors (not just specialty course sponsors) may soon be able to run CIUs (Certified Instructor Updates) and do CLI skills checkoffs using Regional Faculty. More on this is coming...
12. Digital cards are now available through the Health Commerce System. The process to get yours is challenging (who would have guessed that?) at best, nightmarish at least. If you really want to know all the details, see Policy Statement #22-11 at [DOH policy statements](#).
13. After cleanup by Systems and Legislative Committees, a revised "Part F" proposed EMS Reg changes was approved by SEMSCO and will go to the Comish. Since these are reg changes, they will follow the public comment process so fear not about opportunity to weigh in.
14. The Systems Committee is awaiting Bureau input on the physician fly-car rules. The apparent stumbling block is CON requirements. Stay tuned...
15. The EMS Sustainability TAG announced that they are officially behind schedule. No wonder, given nearly 45 folks who have been involved with the TAG. They continue to compile data for a draft white paper. Likewise, the Rural Health Taskforce is still seating members and will set to work shortly. That group was created by the Legislature, so you'd expect the speed to be set at, well, "molasses."
16. Controlled Substance (CS) renewals are due 30 days prior to expiration. "The dog at my renewal paperwork," and, "I had to track down my medical director for a signature," are not good excuses for missing the deadline. Just sayin...
17. 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 by the NY Chapter of [NAEMSP](#), "The Future of EMS: Looking at Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" will debut. Hotels and registration are open. Hope to see you there!
18. Med Standards, SEMAC, and SEMSCO passed a slew of protocol changes/updates including NYC General Pain Management, NYC Procedural Sedation, NYPD ESU Protocols, NYS Dysrhythmia Protocol, removal of GCS < 8 from the Collaborative RSI Protocol, adoption of the ACS 2022 Trauma Triage Guidelines (effective 1/1/2023), some miscellaneous Collaborative Protocol updates, and addition of TXA and oxymetazoline (Afrin® nasal spray) to the NYS Formulary. Previously mentioned; ET intubation (ETI) was removed from AEMT protocols, effective 1/1/23.
19. Interested in getting a jump on the revised Trauma Triage Guidelines? Well, the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) has put together everything you need, including PowerPoints for newbies and seasoned folk: www.facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/systems/field-triage-guidelines/training-materials/. Talk about spoon feeding!

20. The Health Commissioner has signed off on the iGel demonstration project for EMTs. Agencies wishing to participate should contact the Hudson Valley REMAC. Drew Chesney will be the BEMS contact.
21. Quality Metrics reported that their QI manual is nearly complete and should be TOT the Bureau by November. There is interest in what quality measures people would like to prioritize – please reach out to David Violante if you have thoughts. The committee noted three obstacles to collating quality data:
 - Getting every service in NYS on an ePCR
 - Data quality variations between the 17 ePCR vendors in NYS
 - Reporting/data visualization issues to assist with providing feedback
22. The DEI TAG gave a report. If you are not familiar with the abbreviation, “diversity, equity, and inclusion,” well – you have a huge problem. The TAG is working on a survey to collect information on harassment, bullying, and microaggression - potentially involving all NYS EMS providers. DEI also identified lack of REMSCO representation on their TAG; they’re seeking a rep from each REMSCO.
23. STAT Medivac (Pennsylvania) requested a staffing configuration waiver which failed to move. Info is needed on the many other out of state air med programs that fly into NY.
24. Some notes from Ryan Greenberg (State EMS Director, like you didn’t know that): the State Medical Director job description developed by SEMAC is at Civil Service for matching with other NYS positions. This will progress to posting, applications, and vetting and is expected to take 12-18 months. It will be a part-time position. Agency renewal packets are going out, full-service inspections being conducted, and course sponsor renewals have been emailed. A collation of e-forms listing will soon appear on the Bureau web site, courtesy of one of the many new staffers named ‘Alex’ (recently hired by the Bureau).
25. There can’t seem to be a State Council meeting without a topic or two going into the weeds (and staying there for what seems like forever). This time there were three:
 - Ambulance wall times
 - Blood transfusion and
 - The winner: a Suffolk County Spat
 - I’ll give the removal of ETI skills testing from AEMT an honorable mention for a SEMAC time suck award
26. Who has not seen wall times in excess of the CMS defined 20 minutes (> 20 minutes being an EMTALA violation)? PWW, a large EMS law firm, did a 3-part series on the subject: www.ems1.com/ambulance/articles/ambulances-held-hostage-can-the-hospital-make-you-stay-jQESFoe1BQTrtUYc/. Their ideas were, well let’s say, “interesting,” at the very least. Steve Kroll mentioned a California Hospital Association toolkit: <https://emsa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/71/2017/07/Toolkit-Reduce-Amb-Patient.pdf> which, while applicable, is very dated (2014). California continues to work collaboratively on the problem: <https://calhospital.org/a-path-forward-on-ambulance-patient-offload-times/>. While not an EMS problem but more an *EMS consequence* of a hospital problem, the end result of the really, really long discussion was that we’ve failed to collaborate with the DOH hospital people, the Hospital Association of NYS (HANYS) and the hospitals themselves (in many cases). That will hopefully happen.

27. Blood transfusion reared its ugly head, yet again. Legislation authorized air medical blood transfusion last year, pending SEMAC rules. SEMAC is awaiting DOH draft. This will then follow the regulatory public comment process. “When” is ill defined and this one, I would not plan on being a stocking stuffer. It’s complicated (which is exactly how they list their relationship status on Facebook). On the ambulance side (and this is more humorous), any agency can file to be an ambulance transfusion service by going to the Wadsworth Labs site: www.wadsworth.org/regulatory/blood-program/ambulance-transfusion-services which links to the DOH site that links back to the Wadsworth Labs site. Seriously, based on the grilling the Wadsworth Labs folks got over their ridiculous and utterly insane rules presented at SEMAC a couple years back, they are likely hiding inside a blood cooler somewhere.
28. And then, the Suffolk County issue, OMG. Really, really long story shortened: Suffolk County REMAC restricted Northwell Health from providing ALS in their County. Northwell Health appealed to SEMAC. In a lengthy he said/she said/they said diatribe, it was eventually determined that the matter first needs to go to DLA (DOH Division of Legal Affairs) and, once the legal merits are established, come to SEMSCO/SEMAC. If you’ve run out of soap operas to watch, hop on the SEMAC meeting archive. You won’t be disappointed.
29. The last SEMSCO meeting for 2022 will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, December 6 and 7. There is a plan to announce all the dates for next year, hopefully before next year but really not in time for people to block their calendars. Maybe we’ll get more quorums. Just 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.