

1. SEMSCO met December 6th and 7th. Vids are at: <https://vimeo.com/event/2611429>. These notes will spare you from having to watch the 5 hour and 21-minute webcast compilation.
2. Updated SEMSCO bylaws were to have their first reading this month but stalled out in DLA (Division of Legal Affairs), a vortex you will see referenced again.
3. The Finance Committee recommended, and SEMSCO approved, a proposed 2023-24 budget of \$15,700,000 for NYS EMS. This includes a 51% increase in training and education, a 48% increase for Regional Program Agencies, and an 11% increase for Regional Councils. By statute, the Health Commissioner (once there is one), must submit this unchanged to the legislature. We'll see what happens. A lot of nothing is what's happened previously.
4. The Systems Committee heard four CON appeals, all involving the NYC REMSCO. An EOT (expansion of operating territory) granted to Glen Oaks VAC was appealed by Bay Community VAC. SEMSCO denied the appeal. REMSCO denied a Bay Community EOT which they appealed. SEMSCO denied the appeal. Forest Hills and Ridgewood VACs both appealed NYC issued EOTs. While SEMSCO denied their appeals, both parties came to an agreement on territories prior to the hearings. Curiously, Systems and SEMSCO adopted the decisions of the ALJ (Administrative Law Judge) on all appeals and, even more interestingly, there was little debate. Go figure; spectators came prepared with lawn chairs and snacks.
5. Systems is still awaiting DLA input on physician fly-car rules. Humorously, one member asked if proposing new regulations would be faster than waiting on the attorneys. Could be.
6. Legislative spent some time discussing open meetings laws and options to increase participation using virtual and hybrid meeting options. New York's [open meetings law](#) is quite archaic and deserves a review, particularly for sparsely populated areas of NY.
7. Training and Education discussed revisions to the EMT PSE. Following earlier tweaks, a test PSE ran at SUNY Cobleskill, providing important feedback. Additional trial PSEs will happen in Suffolk County. Once completed, time studies will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for reimbursement adjustments. While a new draft of the PSE manual is in progress, one critical discovery about the new practical skills exam was the switch from testing rote skills to scenario based critical thinking stations is HUGE. Change will require extensive preparation of staff, examiners, and students prior to launch. As such, an implementation date prior to 2024 is unreasonable. More to follow.
8. Policy Statement 22-02 on instructor certification will be updated shortly. So will 98-06 (oxygen cylinders). A policy statement on the i-gel® demonstration project will also pop out soon. You'll see them all at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/policy/policy.htm.
9. The Bureau reviewed the AEMT written exam and found no endotracheal intubation questions (ETI was removed from AEMT protocols and education effective 1/2023).
10. For data geeks out there, 12,000 people enrolled in NYS EMS classes during 2022. There were 60 CFR courses, graduating 1,000; 600 EMT classes, graduating 9,000; 30 AEMT courses, graduating 300; and 66 medic courses, graduating 800. While that's a horde, we need a jillion.
11. T&E is awaiting a finance committee survey of course sponsors (44 received thus far) prior to recommending course funding changes.
12. A proposal thrown out by Jean Taylor prior to her (hasty) retirement would have allowed any course sponsor to conduct Certified Instructor Updates (CIU's). Following a lively

- discussion, T&E came to two conclusions: (1) CIUs should continue to be run by Specialty Course Sponsors and (2) a review of instructor recertification requirements is in order.
13. The prior referral from T&E to SEMAC asking them to develop an advisory on approval of medical devices used by EMS providers was presented at SEMAC. As no good deed goes unpunished, T&E Chair Mike McEvoy was asked to draft said advisory.
 14. A lengthy discussion was held on concerns with PSI (the State written testing contractor). The Bureau has trialed group scheduling, allowing a CIC to mass register an entire class for their computerized exams; this will soon roll out statewide. The Bureau will also begin to share reports from their Zen Desk ticketing system (used to track testing issues). Finally, the Bureau email ems.testing@health.ny.gov is a much better source for assistance with testing problems than any PSI resources. Responses tend to be same day using the State email address. Kudos to DOH on this one!
 15. The EMSC program is seeking instructor help with training program development for the new pediatric behavioral emergencies protocol. Interestingly, this was a topic in [last month's ACEP Now](#) newsletter.
 16. Work continues developing the on-line CLI class for [Vital Signs Academy](#). The CIU offered at this year's Vital Signs Conference will likely post there in March.
 17. Speaking of Vital Signs Conference, 750 people attended this year, 500 of whom registered within the 4 weeks prior to the conference (which made the organizers quite diaphoretic). 2023 will be in Syracuse, October 17-22.
 18. So I don't bury this too far in these notes, [MATTERS Network](#) (Medication for Addiction Treatment and Electronic ReferralS) has an addiction referral app available for any provider in NY to download. It gives you the ability to refer patients to care directly from the scene of an EMS call. To refer a patient, you'll need an access code which is m@tt3rs (for now). The link to the mobile app is at the bottom of the home page. Definitely worth taking a look at no matter where you work in NY!
 19. North Country is currently running a version of their proposed combination EMT/AEMT program. If it helps get AEMTs on the street more quickly, it might be good elsewhere.
 20. In the ongoing saga of course sponsor coordination, the Bureau requested T&E resurrect Regional Training Plans to provide a basis for the Bureau to approve courses. T&E reviewed the Training Plan template formerly a part of the annual budget template submitted by each REMSCO. This document requested retrospective and prospective numbers of certs and recerts anticipated by training level. It was, however, an exercise in futility; some regions grossly over or underestimated their numbers, ultimately needing correction by the finance committee using historical (or maybe hysterical) data. T&E is open to any thoughts, ideas, or brainstorm. To be continued...
 21. Med Standards, SEMAC, and SEMSCO approved adding tetracaine to the NYC eye injury protocol. There was a long (30") discussion at Med Standards on aligning the State BLS with Collaborative BLS protocols. No surprise – a working group was created to look at this. There are concerns about the legality of shelving the Statewide BLS protocol should a decision be made to adopt the Collaborative. My crystal ball sees another item for the DLA vortex.

22. EMSC will examine discrepancies between length-based pedi tapes and Collaborative Protocols. For example, tapes typically dose midazolam at 0.2 mg/kg whereas NYS protocols use 0.1 mg/kg. EMSC will also examine pedi CPAP/BiPAP and High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC), a concern raised from frequent IFTs of pedi patients during COVID and the recent RSV surge.
23. Publication last month of the DOSE VF trial (see www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/clinical-trials/2022/11/05/02/59/dose-vf) raised the question of adding double sequential defibrillation back into the protocols as an option for refractory Vf. No action taken.
24. The 2023 EMS Memorial Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23rd. Supply chain issues may delay arrival of the memorial additions.
25. MOLST form revisions have been blocked by OPWDD (Office for Persons With Developmental Disabilities). Maybe they're in cahoots with DLA?
26. After what seemed like forever, members of Rural Ambulance Services Task Force have been seated. None other than SEMSCO's own North Country Regional EMS Program Agency Director Anne Smith will chair the group. Congratulations! We think.
27. ED wall times (and diversions) were once again hotly debated. A proposal to ask the Health Commissioner to use an established ED metric that, when exceeded, would require cancellation of elective surgery cases, was tabled. Interesting idea. More favored was meeting with Hospital Associations and DOH hospital folks to seek solutions.
28. SEMSCO created a new, standing Program Agency TAG. This will facilitate bidirectional communication. Robert McCartin will chair the TAG.
29. Jenny Salomon continues providing mental health/wellness/resiliency trainings around the state. Contact Jennifer.Salomon@health.ny.gov to learn more or request a training.
30. Quality Metrics unrolled the final draft of their QI manual and assigned every member of SEMSCO and SEMAC homework using their quick-start guide, assessing blood glucose measurement in stroke patients at their home agency. The Bureau will provide BioSpatial logins so everyone can learn how easy the QI process can be. Hmmm.
31. The question previously raised on air medical service staffing configurations when they fly into NY is still being considered by (you guessed it), DLA.
32. A concern was raised about EMS specific education and protocols related to Ebola. One amazing resource is NETEC. They have a wealth of EMS specific infectious disease educational materials: <https://netec.org/> - consider signing up on their email list.
33. SEMSCO conducted elections for the 2023. The slate included Mike McEvoy for Chair, Jason Haag for 1st Vice Chair, and Theresa Hamilton and David Violante for 2nd Vice Chair. It took two rounds of voting for 2nd Vice, after which David Violante was elected.
34. Alas, we have a schedule of SEMSCO/SEMAC meetings for the entirety of the upcoming year! 2023 meetings will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy on February 7-8, May 9-10, September 12-13, and December 5-6. Yippee!

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who serves on SEMSCO representing the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs. Contact Mike McEvoy at mmcevoy@saratoga-county.ny.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.

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