

CENTRAL NEW YORK



REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL Serving, Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego & Tompkins Counties

Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2009

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Proxy</i>	<i>Excused</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Addario	Mike	Member	Onondaga	X			
Bitner	Chris	Associate Member	Onondaga	X			
Butler	David J.	Member	Onondaga	X			
Calley	Brian	Member	Onondaga	X			
Cousins	Paul	Member	Onondaga			X	
Darby	Warren R.	Member	Onondaga	X			
Derbyshire	Susan	Member	Onondaga				X
DiGregorio	Anthony	Member	Onondaga	X			
Duell	Robert	Member / County Coordinator	Cortland	X			
Eckstadt	Tamara	CNY REMSCo Staff		X			
Egan	Pat	Member / County Coordinator	Oswego	X			
Foster	Linda	Member	Onondaga	X			
Fricano	Lon A.	Member	Cayuga	X			
Gleeson	Tim	Associate Member	Onondaga			X	
Green	Jason	Associate Member	Cayuga				X
Hansen	Patricia	Member	Cortland	X			
Harrington	Beth	Member	Tompkins	X			
Hogue	Troy D.	Member	Onondaga	X			
Jones	Jeff	CNY REMSCo Staff					
Kehoe	Eric	Associate Member	Cayuga				X
Loomis	Robert	Member	Oswego				X
Lynn	Harry	Member	Cayuga	X			
Markham	Joseph	Asst Med Director					
Marko	John	Member	Onondaga	X			
Martin Reed	Laura	Member	Cayuga	X			
Menter	Zachary	Associate Member	Oswego	X			
Merrill	Peggy	Member	Tompkins			X	
Morrissey	John	NYS DOH		X			
Murray	Mark	Member	Oswego	X			
Olsson	Daniel	Medical Director		X			
Paolini	Roger	Member	Onondaga	X			
Pinsky	Brad	Associate Member	Onondaga				X
Potter	David	Associate Member	Oswego				X

Price	Colleen	CNY REMSCo Staff					
Price	S. Lee	Associate Member	Cortland	X			
Procopio	Greg	Member	Onondaga				X
Rotko	Roman	Member	Cayuga	X			
Shurtleff	Lee	Member	Tompkins			X	
Shutts	J. Penny	Member	Oswego	X			
Suriani	Sammy F.	Member	Onondaga				X
Surprenant	Susie	Associate Member/ CNY REMSCo Staff	Oswego	X			
VanEtten	Doug	Associate Member	Cortland	X			
Wallis	Norman	Associate Member	Oswego				X

Guest: Charles McChesney, Syracuse Post Standard

Darby: In the interest of starting on time let me welcome you to the November 17th, 2009 Central New York REMSCo meeting. I remind you that we are being web cast and so I would ask and when you want to speak on any issues that are being talked about that a microphone be in front of you and that you announce your name so that the person that is doing the captioning and what not will have it correct. Okay? Having said that, I will also ask that everybody here, including visitors, please sign the sign-in sheet with your affiliation so that we know that you've been with and welcome to Central New York REMSCo. Minutes of the September 15th, 2009 have been sent out by email that there are copies on the table as you came in. Is there any corrections? Any changes? Any comments? Seeing none I look for a motion. Roger moves to accept. Do I have a second to that motion? Mike Addario. Roger Paolini and Mike Addario. All in favor of accepting the minutes as written, signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

Darby: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Carried. Treasurer's report, we will deal with at the end of the new business. As the books go around, the treasurer's report is in the front of the notebooks that are going around with correspondence. Likewise the correspondence that we've seen over the last two months are in the book under the different dividers. If there is something that you want copied, please note that on the inside flap and we will see to it that a copy

of that will be at the office. Chairman's report, we're going to be going into executive session later in this meeting dealing with issues that the chairman has and I will hold my comments until then. Committee reports, EMS Program Agency. Mark Murray.

Murray: Mark Murray, EMS Program Agency. We're going to have a lot to talk about tonight and I'm just going to do the audit and my report and Warren will talk about the other things as we go along. Our audit was completed. We met with Kim Hunter, our auditor, and basically some of the key points on the audit was no double vouchers for the third year in a row. They reported no weaknesses. Everything was in compliance, and there were no questionable costs. Our 990s were filed on time for the second year in a row. We've asked for extensions in the past, they were a cash basis. Our DOH reimbursement done on a cash basis situation, financials done on an accrual basis because the audit was in on time and we got a good report from the auditor saying that we've been doing a good job financially. There is copies in the office if anybody would like to look at it, the 990s are on the web site so if you want the 990 you can download them. If you can't download them, call the office and they'll copy the 990s for you because anybody can have a copy of the 990. Questions on the audit? We got a very good report on it. We've got some other things that we're going to talk about again throughout the meeting, Warren, from the office.

Darby: Any questions for Mark or Program Agency?

(Ayes)

I want to thank the staff, that's a great audit report and that means that the staff has been due diligent with respect to our numbers and for two years in a row now they've had the 990 in our time, that wasn't our experience a few years back when we were ____ so thank you Sue and Tammy. Legal Affairs, anything to report? Lee is unable to be with us. He is at a budget meeting down in Tompkins County. Okay, we'll move onto Membership. Zach?

Darby: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Carried.

Menter: That's for Membership.

Menter: Membership, Zach Menter. So tonight I would like to start by welcoming our newest member, Charles Eaton. He's from Cortland County, an associate membership position. We still do have some open positions. Three associate positions in Tompkins County, one associate position in Cortland County, and another associate position in Cayuga County. If anyone knows of anyone interested, please let them know those are available. Also, tonight we looked at the attendance roster. We're just going to make some adjustments to it which we've talked to Tammy about, talked to the office about. The people, like for example, Dr. Olsson and John Morrissey, and Joe Markham. They're not actually voting members. We're going to put them at the bottom and keep track of their attendance just separate from the associate and the regular members. Also, after this meeting we're going to be reviewing the attendance for the year 2009 according to the by-laws, and we're going to be looking at people who have had more than 3 unexcused absences and we're looking to write letters to those people. I'd like to bring that to the floor tonight and have permission to write letters to those people that are not in compliance with the by-laws and having the required attendance. Then I would like to write a letter to request that we hear back in 30 days and followup and bring those results to the January meeting. I would like to bring that to the floor for a seconded motion to get permission to do that.

Darby: There is one thing that came up that as we were discussing the Program Agency Committee that we have started, you may have noticed this the attendance in the committee meetings as well and those attendance sheets from the committee meetings will have a tally similar to the REMSCo meetings, and they will be given back to the chairman of the Membership Committee so he has a picture of not only their involvement with the REMSCo meetings, but also their activity and involvement with the committees that they are on so you have a complete picture. We really haven't done that before. Mr. Lon Fricano.

Fricano: What is the instruction for members that have more than one committee assignment and conflict with meetings?

Darby: Conflicting meetings?

Fricano: Yes.

Darby: There are three primary committees, that would be your Program Agency, your Review and Comment and your Training and Ed, and then are multiple other committees that one can be one. If it's conflicting with one of the primaries, that's the first responsibility. After that do what your heart tells you. As long as you're actively involved in committee meetings, and you have two meetings at the same time, as much as there is a lot of Lon Fricano, you're not going to be able to do that.

Fricano: I just want to make sure that it's not looked at on an individual committee basis.

Darby: No. The total picture, and that's the beauty of it, you will have the total picture.

Darby: Okay, as a seconded motion from the Membership Committee. That's in compliance with our existing by-laws as they are right now and that's your motion. If necessary, we can certainly go for a membership vote on this, I have no problem with that. Any discussion on that seconded motion from Membership? Call the question. All in favor signify by saying aye?

Fricano: Zach, is it -- I'm not on the by-laws committee, is there plans in the new by-laws to address a member -- a committee participation?

Darby: Yes, and we will – and we are still working toward having a by-law committee, the results of that here for our first meeting in 2010 and hopefully we will be under the new by-laws as a result of that. So that's in our future. Right now the by-laws as proposed are within a final review. Any other questions for the Membership Committee? Hearing none, we'll move on. Our Policy Committee did not meet. Review and Comment.

Addario: Yes.

Darby: Mike.

Addario: Mike Addario. Review and Comment, one main itemized agenda, Cicero Fire Department which is currently an ILS/FR would like to downgrade and become a BLS/FR. They have not provided ILS on a call for five years so they chose to become a BLS/FR. New York State Department of Health as you will recall does not regulate BLS/FRs, but if the BLS/FRs want an agency number they have to meet approved requirements _____ and their packet does meet those requirements so our recommendation is to approve them for BLS/FR.

Darby: Okay, that comes as a seconded motion from Review and Comment. Any discussion on the motion? Hearing none, I call the question. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

Darby: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Carried.

Addario: And just two pieces of correspondence, one from New York State Department of Health, Moyers Corner signed them an agency ID and one from TLC regarding the Air Medical Clearinghouse and its new procedures. That's it.

Darby: Questions for Review and Comment? Moving on to Training and Education? Lee?

Price: Lee Price, Training and Education Committee, this month just a few items. We have a series of applications for upcoming course applications that are in the folders, the blue folders for those of you that are interested in looking at them. Two items of action regarding instructor certifications, the first one is a CLI, a request for recommendation for a Charles

Eaton, Jr. of Cincinnatus and it comes from the committee with a seconded motion to recommend that he receive his CLI.

Darby: And the CLI and the CIC is a recommendation from the Council that the State EMS requests and so this is recommending that. Is there any discussion on a Charles Eaton? It is a seconded motion. I call the question. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

Darby: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Carried.

Price: And one more instructor certification, this is for a Certified Instructor Coordinator who has completed her training, it's Flo Allen from Groton, New York and a seconded motion from the committee that we recommend that she be certified as a CIC.

Darby: Discussion on Flo Allen from Groton?

Unk: I can comment that since she was an intern for one of my courses she worked very hard and was very interested and made an excellent instructor.

Darby: Any other comments? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

Darby: Is there any opposition? Any abstentions? Carried.

Price: And that's we have from Training and Ed.

Darby: Any questions for Training and Ed? Moving on. Ways and Means. We have a report on the numbers from the Glow Golf? Susie Surprenant.

Surprenant: Paul Cousins, the chair is not here, but I'll give an update. Since our last meeting, the Glow Golf event occurred, we're still waiting for one sponsor to pay as well as to get one receipt for the desserts to get the final numbers, but we should be clearing between \$2900 and \$3,000 as a profit, and I want to commend Tammy with the quilt. With

that, that brought \$840 in revenues so if it wasn't for the quilt raffle we would not have had as high of a profit and also I want to thank the sponsors, Rural Metro was a "A" sponsor this year, University Hospital, we had Bangs, Menter, and it wasn't for our sponsorships that's a key, and I think you'll hear in the meetings coming up when we go into executive session, the key to the fund raising is that bills are non-State funded and it keeps the office running especially in the summer at the end of our fiscal year so that allowed us to continue doing business because of that so I want to thank the teams as well as our sponsors for their continued support of the Program Agency.

Darby: And that was one night that it wasn't raining, which seemed to be the September issue. It was a great night out, and if you don't golf, no problem, it's dark, nobody can see you.

Surprenant: I would also like to thank the people that helped. Tony D, Paul Cousins, Linda, Pat Egan, Tammy, and –

Darby: Even Air One flew over, turned the light on and wanted to see who was playing. Any questions for Ways and Means? On to County Reports, number 6 on your agenda. Cayuga County? Roman?

Rotko: Roman Rotko, Cayuga County. Nothing major to report other than the one bizarre call that we had which was the hazmat fatality, what's now known as the detergent suicide. We're the third one in the country to have such misfortune or fortune, whatever way you want to choose the word. Remarkably it went extremely well. Everybody was up to date with the potential for this happening. We left it on our bulletin boards. Departments had it on their bulletin boards, and it couldn't have gone any better. We spent six hours at the scene, with the Hazmat team and the departments that were on scene first and we learned a lot. I think the ME's office learned a lot and if we have time later on after the meeting, I'd be happy to discuss the call with you –

Darby: I'd like you to take the time now. I think that it's important enough and you were one – as you said, one of the first participants in this and help all of us start to see what we might be running into as first responders. Take a minute and tell us about it.

Rotko: I brought chronology logs so we could kind of keep track. The call went out at 1051. It was in Cayuga, New York. It was on a street overlooking the lake, a gorgeous setting. There's a rural cemetery there. This 22-year-old male who was at one time a Cornell student who went to school, decided to go back home to California, he was from Berkley, got into some legal issues at home, came back to this area, was living in a tent, at a couple of friends' backyard, I believe that was in Tompkins County, and it was getting to be colder weather and the girls told him you've got to find something else to do, someplace else to go because it's going to get cold and we don't have the room for you to be there. So at some point before or after that discussion he decided that he was going to commit suicide. He took a whole lot of time to make sure that nobody else was going to be involved and get hurt. He parked his car right on the cemetery lawn, right next to the road. People had noticed his vehicle there the day before, like 6:30, 7:00 at night. No one thought it was anything out of the ordinary because people go fishing, they go duck hunting in that area so it wasn't really out of the ordinary to see people there parked. Well, his car remained there and around 10:50 in the morning, somebody called 911 and said there's some kind of a sign on a car that says hazardous condition or hazardous material. Right around the time the first call was coming in one of Cayuga Fire Department's firefighters was driving by and he found that car to be just odd for whatever reason and he stopped, went closer to the car and he saw a note in the vehicle. There was a skull and cross bone on the inside of the driver's door window. Every window had some kind of sign on it. Another sign said danger, do not open. Another sign said hydrogen sulfide gas inside, do not open door. One of the rear windows had the information of his parents' contact numbers and mom's name is this and this, my dad's name is this and this, their cell phone numbers, their home numbers. He wrote his name on there. On the inside of the window he had taped his driver's license which wasn't readily available to us initially. He took the time to make sure nobody else was going to get hurt. When the firefighter from Cayuga saw all of these things, he kind of remembered that there was a note a couple of months before that about the potential for this. He called 911, backed away from the area, ran to the fire house that was a block up the road and the fire

chief responded and when they got there they cordoned off the area. A Cayuga County Sheriff's Deputy also arrived around the same time, saw the signs, and she backed away, and then the process started of calling the hazmat team, City of Auburn Fire Department in correlation with Cayuga County as the hazmat team. We usually send out a recon team to go and at least advise the incident commander, whether information wise or, just, you know, let the commander know that he's doing a good job and there probably could be a full hazmat response for this. They decided let's do the whole thing so we sent out the hazmat team and as fortune would have it, as luck would have it, about eight members of the hazmat team were in Onondaga County doing the pure fitness program here so we were a little bit short staffed, but we decided to use Cayuga Fire Department personnel also to help us out. So everybody backed away, we cordoned off the area. We didn't know exactly how much of a hazard it was with the temperature and the humidity level. It was suppose to start raining, it was muggy. We had a rain shower coming in soon so we decided that we needed a command post so we could stay dry. We called for Canandaigua. Canandaigua has an unbelievable command vehicle, and they requested that to the scene so we could all stay dry. We parked at a safe location. We talked with the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office and we waited for them to come. Once the hazmat team arrived in full force we sent a couple of recon guys down to see exactly what was visible and what could be done. They took a reading with a five gas meter outside the car, it came back 0 parts per million. They came back and said that the person was 99.9% deceased and there were several, several chemicals in the car. What he had done is he took a bucket, like a five gallon pail, put it in the passenger seat, brought in a couple of chemicals, and I think at that point he brought in, hang on, muriatic acid and a lawn fertilizer with lyme. He mixed those two together and they combined to have the hydrogen sulfide gas. A pretty quick death we're pretty sure, within a minute or two and he was gone. We didn't know exactly how much he had mixed. There was about 4 gallons of material in the car. He had broken off his driver's door lock so even if he decided last minute do unveil he was stuck. He would have had to climb over the chemicals which were already in a mixing process and they remained actively bubbling and expelling gas and vapors for the six hours that we were there. So you want to keep

away from that kind of a chemical mixture. When the game plan was decided on, we sent State Police sergeant who is a member of the State Police hazmat team with the fire department personnel to the vehicle. The sergeant took pictures of the vehicle at every angle, everything that was inside. When he was content, we back away, grabbed the 5 gas meter, cracked the door to see what the readings were inside. We used a special device like a blood pressure cuff that just moves the door just enough to get the hose from the 5 gas meter in. It read 50 parts per 1,000,000. We know at 100 it is not good, at 200 it's definitely lethal, but not being sure how long he had been there we didn't know what the potential was early on in the game so we were looking at 50 parts per 1,000,000 and we knew it wasn't good. So at that point when the police were content with what they had for evidence from the outside, they decided that removing him with – the entry team used fire fighting turn-out gear because we were worried about the possibility of explosion or flammability and the hydrogen sulfide is heavier than air so we didn't know what we were going to get. So we were worried about not shrink wrapping our entry team so we chose the turn-out gear. When they pulled him out, we brought him into decon and we used soap and water which was what it called for. We decon'd him real well. Then the body went into a body bag from the ME's Office. They put the body in a hearse. We thought we should tape the zipper to keep everything inside the bag. They said it wasn't necessary. We told the driver of the hearse, crack your window and leave it down all the way because we weren't comfortable letting him go. As it turned out, when the body arrived here, it was still emitting hydrogen sulfide gas. The Syracuse hazmat team came twice to decontaminate the body.

Darby: At the Medical Examiner's Office?

Rotko: Yes. It took a long time to get him to stop off-gassing, and I believe that when they removed the lungs and put them under ultraviolet light or whatever they needed to do that finally stopped the process. When we removed the chemicals from the car, we brought in an environmental clean-up agency out of East Syracuse. Once he was gone, we took the chemicals and put them into separate containers, overpacked drums and in fact at one point the guy from the agency, clean-up agency put both chemicals together in the same barrel and then

he thought, well, that's not a good idea, it's going to keep on doing its thing so we had to go back, remove that and put it all in separate canisters. Six hours after we had been there, they decided, well, let's just see if it still registers so they cracked the lid to the overpacked drum and a cloud came out of it even though it was well after the fact and it registered extremely high acid so. We brought in OFP&C because they never saw anything like this before. We brought in whoever we could think of that might give us a hand and idea on how to make this function down the right path, and we took our time. It worked, nobody got hurt, the body got taken care of. We learned a lesson. The one thing that we thought of after the fact at the critique was that we sent the hearse to the ME's Office unaccompanied. Had something happened and that hearse got into an accident, nobody knew what was in the back, so had they unzipped that back it would have been met with a cloud and it could have taken them right out. So we thought that if that ever happened again we would have a police escort to the ME's office.

Makes sense. This is a learning experience for the nation if you will. The first event that we heard about was in Ada County, Idaho, outside of Boise, on 05/13 and it was very similar in that the car was locked up. There were signs all over the car. They even had a hazmat symbol on one of the windows of that one and it had a person slumped over the wheel. We've all gone to calls with people slumped over the wheel and we go right for that victim and get them out and then start working on them. In this particular case, we need to get the message across to our first responders, look at the totality before you go opening doors. In three cases, it was the third case, yours was the 28th of October, the 3rd of November, Ontario County in New York, had the third case, very similar.

We were assisting the State Police, doubled bussed for a clandestine lab and just as it became nightfall the same hazmat sergeant was the clandestine lab take-down and he told us, he says you're not going to believe this, Victor just had the same situation.

Exactly.

And they didn't know what to do so they were getting information from us. The one thing they did differently and that took a long time, also, was that

they moved the body in the body bag in the back of a pick-up truck so they had plenty of ventilation.

So what we're saying is if you've got a person slumped over the wheel, look into the vehicle without opening it and in all three of these cases I have photographs, you're welcome to see after Council meeting, you can see the pail that Roman talked about. You can see the containers of materials that they mixed all together on the floor and that's a clue right there, should there not be any signage that you've got a hazmat and you don't want to contaminate yourself or your partner with this. It's a brand new threat to first responders if you will. In each of these first three cases though, the signage has been up, they've been doing their best not to hurt anybody else, but I have been experienced with many suicide attempts over my career and usually they don't care about their life and they don't care about yours so there's going to be one of these that isn't signed, and we've got to be at least aware, slumped over the wheel isn't an automatic get the patient out, let's take a look at the whole scene.

There's one addition to that, when we got done with all this and a little bit more research came to light, we found that there was a 14-year-old girl, going back to Japan, where this kind of stuff originated from apparently, because she couldn't get into a car, she didn't have the license, she wasn't old enough, she did the same thing in her bedroom so she mixed the chemicals in her bedroom and she killed herself, but there were also 90 people in the apartment that ended up sick for an unknown reason so just don't look at cars, look for any possibility in a closed environment.

Darby: If we don't take care of ourselves, we can't take care of others. Thank you, Roman. A question, Penny?

Shutts: Who had to pay the expense of this major clean-up?

Rotko: Well, we managed to pawn off a lot on DEC. Believe it or not they had no clue what to do with it so we kind of said well, will you accept this for now and they said, yes, okay, we'll take it. We'll accept the responsibility for the car, the clean-up and the vehicle and the contractor of the vehicle

went to the clean-up company's Optec. They impounded the car, they had all the stuff. They were going to leave it there until they figured out where it was going to be buried. DEC just to get it off our backs, but they didn't know what to do with it either.

Darby: Thank you, Roman. Any other questions for Cayuga? Cortland County, Bob?

Duell: Bob Duell with Cortland County. We're just finishing up an EMT original and refresher course in early December, and we're already planning for another one in January hopefully and today we had a first series of H1N1 vaccinations for our EMS personnel. We're hoping to have another evening session scheduled as soon as they can get some more vaccine. That's all we've got.

Darby: Questions for Cortland? Moving onto Onondaga County. Tony DiGregorio.

DiGregorio: Tony DiGregorio, Onondaga County. Just two things, our radio system is still in progress and process and hopefully we'll have something moving by January 1st. We and Onondaga County have a meeting set up next Tuesday with a couple of people who are willing to assist with doing the H1N1 for our EMS providers and unfortunately, and I know it's been said many times before, but sometimes we look outside our realm and think we have enemies outside, and when we finally look inside we realize "we is the enemy." I sent our letters to every fire department and every EMS agency which totals 70 in Onondaga County asking them to please provide me with the numbers of personnel that they had that were certified any level of EMS out of New York State who provide patient care and I needed to know two things, how many there were and how many were over age 49. The reason for the age of 49 they would not be able to receive the nasal spray and we needed to know the distinction. Of those potential 70, 18 responded. The numbers were quite high. The total number was 975 personnel of which 209 were over 49 years of age. So right now that's the number we're trying to work with, with getting the vaccine, and we've just been informed that we have received the vaccine not only for the schools, but the EMS providers. Logistically we're going to plan for 975 because that's the number we have to work with, and I've got to tell you that we're going to be way off. However, we will start planning next Tuesday.

Hopefully we can come up and maybe some people will shake loose those numbers that I need so that I can present that to our Commissioner of Health and we can move forward with getting those that are looking to protect others from the H1N1 by transporting them and not giving it to their own people as well. So if anybody is sitting in here from Onondaga County, if you haven't submitted your numbers, you have my email address. Go back to your desk which you may not have seen in a few weeks, pick up the memo that you got and respond to it and it would be greatly appreciated by those that you employ or have voluntarily working for you. And if there are any questions, feel free to ask them.

Darby: Questions for Onondaga County? Thank you, Tony. Onto Oswego County.

Yes.

Darby: Get the microphone over there.

Egan: Pat Egan, Oswego County. Just a couple of items. Oswego County along with cooperation with the two nuclear power licensees have been evaluated by FEMA for two successful hospital EMS evolution potentially contaminated patient. Additionally, I am happy to say that I held a State Coders meeting for the most recent round of State Homeland Security Program Grants, County EMS was well represented and they have submitted a potential project for rehab capacity. In addition to the same woos that Tony was talking about. Oswego County is in the same boat with that, but we do have the good news in that in conversations with the Oswego County Health Department they have also agreed that all EMS providers in the county, fire and/or agency will also receive free of any charge a seasonal flu shot, also, so we are beginning to administer them.

Darby: Good. Questions for Oswego? Tompkins County. Lee Shurtleff contacted me by phone about an hour before the Council meeting and he was paged into a budget meeting in Tompkins County so he is still at work down there. Beth Harrington.

Harrington: Beth Harrington, Tompkins County. About two weeks ago our local health department got the first set of H1N1 and the first group that was

offered was fire, EMS and law enforcement. We have had discussions with Tom about whether law enforcement constituted the emergency responders and we all agreed that they should be done, and we gave out about 500 vaccinations at that time, and they have since now opened it to other risks groups. We also just briefly initiated conversations about the use of EMS personnel, critical cares and paramedics under the new executive law 26 where they can work with the local health department and give vaccinations. It is just in time training or get training and I just learned today that that is approximately 2 to 3 hour training which may end up discouraging a lot of people that would volunteer because I don't have a heart to ask a paramedic who has been doing it for many years to take 3 hours of training to give a vaccination. So we have just started that discussion today. The only other thing we did an exercise with the Ithaca City School District on emergency planning and coming out of that was a recommendation that EMS as well as fire and law enforcement be invited to participate in the safe schools committee in each of the local schools and that was so well received that those agencies were having trouble scheduling people to get in because they were being asked to come so we've gotten EMS especially involved in emergency school planning, and I think that's it.

Darby: Questions for Tompkins County? Moving onto #7 on your agenda, the CNY EMS Program Agency, and we're going to Central Office. At this point I am going to go into executive session because we are going to be dealing with some issues with regards to our employees and I would ask anybody who is not a member or an associate member of Council to please step out of the room until called back in. We will be turning off the web casting until we are through with the executive session.

(Executive session held)

Darby: Central New York Office. Susie?

Surprenant: I just want to remind everybody that we have a CIC class scheduled for December 5th, 6th, and 8th and there are three CME original evaluator courses going on the 22nd, 23, and the 28th of this month. The registration forms are on the web site so there's room for those classes. That's it.

Darby: Any questions for Susie?

I have one question.

Darby: Go ahead. Microphone.

Harrington: The new classes where you have an evaluator and we have lost probably 10 in our county because they didn't make the refresher classes, and I realize that that was out there for them to do, but obviously they just didn't make it, whether it was time constraints, work or whatever, but now they have to start the process all over where they have been playing the role or not the playing role, but using the role 10, 12, 13, 20 years, we _____ go away.

Surprenant: Actually I did talk to Dr. Olsson about that. There were 13 original/refreshers so we did have 13 so these next 3 classes if you have anybody because we haven't finished 2009 yet that would like to get in to that class I will get them in.

Harrington: Is it an original?

Surprenant: They don't need – right now in 2009 because the refresher and evaluator are all going through the same new process they only thing that they won't have to do is ____ experience, but if you need somebody to get in that class we will put them in. So call me tomorrow and give me the names and we'll get them taken care of.

Harrington: Thank you very much.

Darby: Any other questions for Susie? Medical Director, Dr. Olsson.

Olsson: Dan Olsson. A couple of things real quick. Dr. Markham will fill the REMAC position on the EMS Advisory Board. Equipment at the hospitals, they are overflowing. So if you are in need of equipment or you've left equipment or you've got plenty of equipment that you don't need any more then just leave it there and it will go away. So if you want it I suggest you get it. Controlled substance wastage and other reminder. RNs will not or may not be signing for wastage, so therefore another crew member will need to sign for it or be, I was going to say be creative, but I can't say that. If you have a unit dose, use it all, that way there is no

wastage. The word on the EASB that we've been working on for fever, it's in its final equipment changes. We are revamping call signs if you will at least for Onondaga County. The physicians that are going to be doing field response will be numbered. There won't be any more Manlius MD1, Fayetteville MD1, Mottville MD1, everyone will be assigned numbers and we have the somewheres between the final and the prototype of what the physicians will be carrying, make sure I get these back, please. So you can at least see what the physicians will have and on the back is the disclaimer and as we've said in prior meetings and in the policy statement if a provider is not comfortable with this, then go through the normal physician on scene protocol and we're all aware of that and we will follow through. That's it.

Darby: Questions? Microphone.

Harrington: Beth Harrington. The RN not signing for narcotic wastage, is that just an Onondaga issue, is that a State rule or –

Olsson: That would be a hospital by hospital. If your hospitals, if they're comfortable doing it, which personally I don't see a problem, but there are one or more hospitals where the nursing staff is not signing for controlled substance. They didn't see it drawn up, they didn't see it used. They don't know what's in the vial. Therefore, they're refusing to sign for it and we can't force them so.

Harrington: Is this referring to all licensed health care providers, because our narc policy reads that we're supposed to have a licensed health care provider sign for the waste. So basically you're saying, okay, it has to be approved now.

Olsson: It should be signed _____, yes, it should be signed by someone who is at least certified. It's going to be an issue when the hospital refuses. Now – Hey, John, do you want to chime in on the signature for controlled substance wastages.

Morrissey: All right.

Darby: Microphone.

Morrissey: Here's the deal, the signatures for wastage, everybody has a policy, they should follow their agency's policy for who is authorized to sign for

wastage. Each system is a little different. As an example, down in Binghamton, you do not waste it, you bring it all back to the pharmacy and the pharmacy _____. However, it is okay as your partner EMT as long as they have got New York State credentials they can sign off on the waste. I would prefer they do that at the facility where they gave the drug before they drive back to another hospital to get resupplied. So please do that and they must have to sign, the word must _____ to do narcotic administration. You cannot do it off a single PCR. It has to be thoroughly printed, it's got to be there, and by the way, throwing it in the garbage can is not acceptable. It is shooting it like into a sink, it's not, you know – I can't say that strongly enough.

Does that help?

That's helps.

(_____)

If the nurse won't, you can have the EMT do it. I don't care if the EMT—

Olsson: Go to the physician.

Morrissey: Yes, go to the physician.

Olsson: There's nothing that says you can't go to the physician.

Morrissey: Absolutely.

(_____)

Olsson: That's the simplest way. I think that you're going to find this is going to be limited to one hospital.

Which one?

Olsson: Upstate.

What a surprise.

And if it's the only hospital that it's limited to, so be it. So but be aware because we've had as recently as yesterday, more than two agencies show up because I worked last night and were awestruck or

angered or whatever that the nursing staff wouldn't sign for waste. So again let the providers know that the physician can sign for it. Another provider within your own agency, if the nurse won't.

Even be on neighboring crews, another paramedic on another truck, I don't care, as long as they've got an EMT card or better, I don't care.

You don't care, BLS or ALS?

I don't care.

Accountability.

Accountability.

The name and number _____.

I don't know, it could have been saline for all I know, I just watched him squirt it in the garbage can. That's all I want. That is what he is accounting for. I would prefer an EMT. If a CFR did it, okay. _____ prefer EMTs because they under med administration a little bit better than a CFR.

I don't know – this may only be an issue to individuals who do a lot of transports to Upstate so if 90% of your transports are to some place else it's going to be relatively minor. A lot of them come to Upstate, it may be a change of your agency, you know, that a licensed provider should in every instance possible sign for, however, in those situations when it would be acceptable that, you might want to think about something like that. It should not happen very often, but it does.

Darby: Any other questions for Charlie Berger? Moving down to the Coordinators' report. Susie?

Surprenant: Our two coordinators, Jeff and Colleen, both are teaching tonight. Jeff is downstairs doing the refresher class so I will give their report. So far there are call evaluations going on in Cayuga, Oswego and Onondaga County. Cortland and Tompkins have been very quiet, and hope it keeps that way.

Darby: Any questions for Susie on the coordinators' report? PAD/epi report, Tammy. Microphone, please.

Eckstadt: Tammy Eckstadt with PAD/epi report. We have three new agencies – sites coming in to give original notification, that Northeast Rescue Vehicles and Comptroller of the Currency, both from Onondaga County, Cincinnatus Fire Department is from Cincinnatus in Cortland County. Two updates, Unity Mutual Life Insurance Company in Onondaga County and Packaging Corp of America also from Onondaga County. No agency is being removed. So the total count is 43 in Cayuga County, 28 in Cortland County, and 254 in Onondaga County, 51 in Oswego County and Tompkins County has 33 for a total of 409 agencies – sites, and on the back sheet is the report of use, and you can check those over. For the epi report, we have a total of 76 epis. For Onondaga County, Navarino Ambulance submitted a new application, they're in Onondaga County. Cayuga County has 9, Cortland County has 5, Onondaga County 28, Oswego County has 20 and Tompkins County has 14 for a total of 76. That's it.

Darby: Questions for Tammy on PAD and epi? Linda.

Foster: Did you say there were 9 uses?

Eckstadt: Yes.

Foster: Did any result in conversion?

Eckstadt: Let me look.

Foster: One.

Eckstadt: Yes, one.

Foster: Who?

Eckstadt: Cicero.

That the patient got up and left the hospital after awhile, walking.

Eckstadt: We don't have that information.

Foster: We should. There are so few conversions we could follow them up.

DiGregorio: There should be one from _____ Onondaga.

(_____)

Foster: Cicero is in Onondaga.

DiGregorio: I know there is one because we just had the regional at the –

Darby: Microphone to – Cicero is the one that she is referring, that's Onondaga.

DiGregorio: Yes, but I'm saying there was another one from Onondaga County because at the County CQI we had a request from GBAC for a 33-year-old male found in cardiac arrest, who had a civilian co-worker CPR initiated. Lakeside Fire Department on the scene, AED with one shock, brought the patient back with pulses and a blood pressure and was worked on by GBAC ____ and transported to University Hospital and was successfully discharged from the hospital.

Foster: We may not have had a report on that.

Eckstadt: We didn't get the reported use on that.

DiGregorio: So that tells me I've got to go back to Lakeside and see why they haven't reported that.

Eckstadt: Yes.

That's awesome.

(_____)

Darby: Thank you, Tony DiGregorio. We should get that report back. That was a great save. With regards to the Program Agency, our EMS office there, I'm asking the committee chairs and this came out of our committee meeting tonight, and any Council member, if they have something that they want the staff to do for them, to go through the Executive Director, Susie, and preferably with a followup email so that there is a tracking, and we have said that we are going to be very responsive between our office staff and we want to be, but there is no way to do a quality control check if I don't have that kind of capability to track it and so I'm asking you to go through the Executive Director and do it in writing, and I will promise you that we will track and see that there is a quick turnaround for this Council. Moving onto number 8. The next and

last of the year State Council meeting, the committee is on the 1st of December at the Crowne Plaza, in downtown Albany and the Council meeting will be the 2nd. It ought to be very interesting in light of the State fiscal crisis that we are in and the issues that we've talked about with regards to funding. The next year, 2010 schedule right now is only three State Council meetings throughout that area so we've gone from six to three over the last four years, and it is going to be indicative of the same kind of financial crisis that we're seeing across the State and across our counties. We have had our local regional EMS rep here, Mr. Morrissey, so we've State Department of Health representation. Is there any question since we have John here, and we thank you, John, for being here, that you would like to ask while we have him here?

Harrington: I just have one.

Darby: Beth.

Harrington: I'm trying to understand –

Darby: Microphone somewhere?

Harrington: John, the funding issue which the Program Agency – does that have any direct impact on the State, SEMAC and the State Council, I mean how are they funded for functioning?

Morrissey: The State Council and SEMAC are funded out of the similar funding stream that regional councils and REMSCos are funded out. Again, that money has flowed and I believe it's good until April 1st.

Harrington: April 1st.

Morrissey: The State fiscal year and with the new budget for next year, they'll approve a new budget, they'll create a ____ plan, and we have had no indication that that money will not continue to flow ____.

Harrington: However, the actual downsizing of the number of meetings is indicative of some of the funding which is coming through I believe the State EMS Office for the meetings, it certainly indicates

that there is a crunch at least to some of that funding.

Morrissey: Correct, and we are under continual oversight related to funding on everything from postage to, you know, we're trying to provide _____, there has been restrictions on travel. They want us telecommuting more and more, conference calls instead of going to meetings, you know, it's really tight.

Harrington: I have one more and you can repeat it into the microphone. Who is going to take Ed Wronski's place?

Morrissey: The question is from Beth Harrington, who will be taking Ed Wronski's place? Currently Lee Burns will be the acting director for another seven days. As some of you may remember, Ed was an acting director for the bureau for I believe five to seven years _____ and that was very typical in the Health Department hierarchy of things. We have had no indication of anything that has been shared with the staff that Lee will not continue in that role for _____

Darby: And this is in one sense unusual, because it is from within the rank and file, we have all experienced working with Lee and have had good experiences with her response to this region so we thank her for that. We congratulate her on her acting role. Any other questions for our State EMS rep while he's here? Moving onto old business? It was asked at the last meeting about insurance coverage, and we've reached out to our insurance agency and asked some questions with respect to the Council members and also the associate members of the Council, and we got a call back and a letter followup coming today where he has confirmed that members and the associate members of REMSCo are covered under a liability policy as long as the associate members are nonvoting at the committee meetings, that is one of the changes in the new by-laws that are in the process and hopefully voted on the first part of next year. And he said if they are voting members at the committee level they would have to revisit the associate membership coverage. He also stated that he has another company that he is a broker in that will cover members and associate members with Worker's Compensation going to and from and attending meetings and he said that the company will classify them as clerical. He stated that it would be a small amount for the policy.

He will get the exact figure shortly, but he needed from us a list of the names of the members and the associate members of Council along with how many meetings and how long are our meetings so he can get an idea of what these cover, and so we will hand that information back. We brought that to our committee tonight and we were asked to ask one more question and that is what about disability coverage and so we have another meeting or discussion anyway with our insurance rep. Any other old business? New business? We have a treasurer's report that came out in the blue books. Penny?

Shutts: As your appointed parliamentarian –

Darby: Yes.

Shutts: You cannot vote on the treasurer's report. You cannot make a motion on it. You can only place it on file awaiting audit.

Darby: Thank you for that parliamentarian correction.

_____ typo in there.

Darby: Let the record show that we will not have to vote on the treasurer's report. At this point it will be on record. Okay, can we vote on the parliamentarian? We did. We will move onto the EMS Program Agency membership vote. Every other year for two years we voted in the Program Agency Committee vote it was called initially and it was where, if you remember, a person from each one of our counties was selected by the county caucus to be on that committee and then there was a person at large, that doesn't mean they're big, that means they represent the whole Council, and then it was made up of the officers of the Council which you vote on every other year and so every year we're changing part of that committee maybe. The issue this year is that we have a new by-laws that we've spoken about several times tonight that are at the lawyer's office and hope to be in front of us at our January meeting and they will be enforce for both, which will change the relationship of the associate membership with respect to voting, etc., and therefore, it would be prudent we believe if we get a motion to table this vote until we have the new by-laws in place extending the current by-laws.

Price: So moved.

Darby: Lee, moved. Linda Foster seconded. Any discussion on the motion? Penny?

Shutts: Can we be assured that there will be copies at our next meeting or are we postponing the inevitable?

Darby: Let me ask the chairman of that ad hoc committee for his comments to that. Mr. Hogue. Microphone, please.

Hogue: I will try and respond to that question. I can assure you that I will contact the attorney and try and do everything in my power to get those by-laws to us. I don't think that I'm in a position to assure you on the attorney's actions.

Shutts: Good political answer.

Darby: And I was present with Troy at the last meeting with the attorney on these by-laws in her office and she assured us that she was moving on it, and I will also make a phone call to move that along telling her that we need it for our January meeting. Any other questions?

If it's not there by the January meeting, would we then do the vote? I mean we need to put a deadline.

Darby: Well, we have a committee that's in place.

Okay.

Darby: And what the motion was to keep that committee in place until we have the by-laws, then act on the vote, under the new by-laws and fulfill the remainder of that two year period. It might only be a month or two in or as Penny was alluding it might be more. Any other questions on that motion? I'll call the question. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

Darby: Any opposed? There's one. Any abstention? Carried. Is there any other new business? Yes, Lee.

Price: Upon further review, it was brought to my attention that one item in the Training and Ed Committee, the CLI certifications or

recommendations that we put forth Council was further review of our letter from our good friends at the State Department of Health, there was a typo on the form that Charles Eaton Jr.'s application for CLI is actually to be a certified instructor coordinator, request for recommendation from the committee and so at this time and this is on a consultation with our representative from the Department of Health and he confirms that so I would like to put before the Council without objection from any of the committee members I would like to put it before the Council as a seconded recommendation for CIC to the Council.

Darby: So we welcome Mr. Eaton as a member tonight and we've put him through the CLI and now CIC in one evening. That's got to be a record.

(_____)

Darby: As a seconded motion from the committee. Is there any discussion on it? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

Darby: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Carried. Congratulation. Lon Fricano.

Fricano: I feel that after the information that we have come to terms with tonight that we have an obligations to inform our County EMS Advisory Boards and our EMS providers in the region of what the potential impact of the current not foreseeable funding for the Program Agency deliverables could be. So I would like to make a motion that we construct letters both for the standpoint of informing all those who need to know what could be coming down the road and from preventing misinformation from going down the road that we construct a letter that clearly articulates what the threat is, what the problems are and get that out to them so they can make their own decisions and be prepared for that potential eventuality.

Darby: Okay, I will look for a second to that motion before we discuss it. Linda Foster. Now, let me ask you this, I would like to ask for the ability to wait to write that letter until after the 30th of November so we know what the Susquehanna

experience is and from that experience write the letter.

Fricano: I'm okay with that, it's just I'm nervous about the time frame because if we're seeing a potential deadline for ourselves of January 30th, due to the amount of the time it takes organization, I know Cayuga County, if it's in a letter, it could be a month before it's received and brought to the organization so it's an awfully tight timeframe. But I'm okay with doing that after we find out what the SREMS situation is, but I think right after that we should get a letter out to inform our region of what's going on.

Darby: We should have a whole lot more information at that point because the 1st and 2nd we'll all be at the State in Albany with what they're doing and that's about the time we should be writing a letter because we will have as much up to date information as possible as well as if Susquehanna did close the doors that's the big flag that will be waving at this point.

Fricano: How about the 3rd?

Darby: The 3rd we're coming back together as a Program Agency Committee here to discuss that and that's probably the day that we should write the letter with that friendly amendment. Yes, Bob.

Duell: Bob Duell, Cortland County. Our advisory board meeting is next Tuesday night and we only meet every other month so we wouldn't be meeting again until –

Darby: You certainly are welcome to discuss what we've discussed here and I will give you the Susquehanna letter so to show what they have told their providers. Any other questions? Tony DiGregorio.

DiGregorio: Our advisory board meeting is tomorrow. Can you give me a copy of that letter?

Darby: I'll give you the letter tonight.

DiGregorio: Okay.

Darby: Can you just do it for all the county coordinators? We will send it out electronically, but just in case you have an issue I'll give you the letter

tonight. Any other discussion on the motion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

Darby: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Carried. I want to point out that we did get from the ALS Association of Onondaga County a check for \$5,270 given to the Regional Council to assist us in publishing the new ALS protocol books, and I want to thank the ALS Association for that. Linda did an awful lot of work through a number of bank managers to get that check and in fact if you really want to spend an hour ask her how she did it. It would be all of an hour because of the troubles she went through, but we appreciate that because that was a big help for ALS and the current protocol books and thank you, Linda, for that.

Fricano: I make a motion we send her to Albany to get the rest of our money.

Darby: She does know how to –

Foster: You know, I would make the newspapers.

Fricano: No question in my mind.

Darby: The other thing is you've received in the email from the office from Tammy the calendar for next year. It's also going on our web site, CNYEMS.org, and at any time you want to know where our meeting and you do not have this paper you can go onto the web site and be able to see the calendar as to where and what the committee meetings are and/or the regular meetings for the year 2010 so keep that in the back of your mind. Any other questions, besides the issue of you're all going to go from here to your emergency rooms equipment rooms and pick up your stuff for your counties and take them home. John Morrissey.

Morrissey: A quick thing, this week I fielded a couple of phone calls, as you are aware of the CDC has changed its recommendations, if you're not aware, on respiratory protection for giving bronchodilators. They have said that now you do not need an N95 mask for doing that procedure. Okay, that has been out, it's been out for a week or so. The question has come up which I got that was that many folks already had airborne pathogen

standards written that said you did wear an N95 during that and now, oh, God, if we don't do that will it be enforceable. The OSHA folks say they are going to follow and enforce whatever the CDC guidelines are currently at the time and whatever issue they will come encounter with. We've gotten that. I've not talked to PESH, but I would imagine they would follow a similar direction because the one agency would evolve with the other. I just want to alert people, this is obviously going to be involving and as new respiratory fit standards come out that's what the agencies want, you'll need to update and change your agency policy or procedures to deal with that.

Darby: Bob Duell.

Duell: Bob Duell, Cortland County. Speaking of N95s, with the CDC recommendations out, about using N95s on H1N1 what do you have to say about that, is it still voluntary whether they want to use them, right?

Morrissey: I think, Bob, I want to be careful here and speak extraneously without having the written guidelines out, the CDC and ___ have propagated out very specific guidelines about when to use N95s and not, and I would encourage everybody to follow that. It's important in this time of confusion that we're all singing from that same sheet of paper so I'm going to refer back to that guideline, but that was one of those things, that, you know, for years we've assumed bronchodilators produce sputum production procedures so that's why in '95 we did the new recommendation, that's no longer the case. We can discuss that clinically off the record, but that is the _____.

Darby: Okay. The PCR's for the County Coordinators, look within your own county for how many PCR's your agencies have knowing that the notice had been given by the State to us that there are no more available. The printing has not happened

and we have approximately 7,000 in our EMS office at this point. We have the fortunate ability of Rural Metro our biggest user of PCR's going to EPCR's 1 January is it, Mike?

Addario: In January.

Darby: Or sooner? I know the training is going on now and that's good, and that will assist us, the sooner the better. Welcome to the EPCR arena. Any other new business for the good of the order? Yes.

Just a note if you should be unfortunate enough to come across any detergent suicides that police departments are asking that we don't release the name of the compounds that were used –

They're on the internet already.

It shouldn't be from us.

Right.

It's not on our web cast.

(_____)

Darby: Our member from Tompkins County, Peggy Merrill, is in the hospital from a fall. She is excused let the record show and our prayers for her. We have some holidays coming up, Thanksgiving and Christmas, have great holiday times. Watch what you eat, you are what you eat, they tell me and turkey might be on the table. With that I look for a motion.

Motion to adjourn.

(____)

And Roger Paolini.