

## ARTICLE 30 REVISION CONFERENCE CALL 12/5/13

Revisions to NYS Public Health Law Article 30 have been proposed in the Governor's budget the last two years. If adopted as proposed, there would be major changes in the dynamics of power over EMS in the state and how and where decisions are made. There are other issues involved in addition to regional changes. Stakeholders have been successful in working through their state assembly and senate members in having the proposals removed from the final state budget. The following report on the latest conference call of stakeholders was included in the December minutes of the Adirondack-Appalachian REMSCO meeting:

"The conference call about Article 30 revisions was held December 05, from 10 AM to 12 noon. All REMSCOs were represented. DOH was represented by Lee Burns, Stu Sherman and Erin Hammond. Representatives from State Senator Hannon and Assemblyman Gottfried were also in place, as well as a representative from Governor Cuomo's office of Counsel.

The overall tone of the session was very positive. A few thoughts on the agenda:

There was agreement across the board that community paramedicine should be enabled legislatively;

Widespread support was voiced for the work of the EMS Program agencies, both by the REMSCOs and DOH;

There was no opposition voiced against the continuation of the three year CME refresher program, and there was discussion on licensure vs. certification, with the mode of refresher training as currently applies to RNs;

There was widespread agreement that the process for municipal determination of need needs to be re-worked;

DOH and the Governor's office both expressed the desire to legislatively assure timely reimbursement of EMS agencies that respond in mutual aid disaster assistance situations;

As to consolidation of the Regional Councils, the expression voiced repeatedly was in effect, "if it ain't broke don't try to fix it". The Governor's office representative agreed that consolidation should only be considered where necessary. The point was made that considerable inter-regional cooperation is already taking place, while each REMSCO maintains its own identity (e.g., our collaborative protocols). The Governor's office representative was very grateful for the facts presented and seemed impressed by the cooperative work to date;

No time frame was given for actual Article 30 revisions to be proposed. Input was encouraged (to Lee Burns who will keep the Governor's office informed);

Once again, the overall tone of the two hour call was very positive."