

AWARD SUMMARY

Sharon Chiumento, RN, EMT-P

New York State Harriet C. Weber EMS Leadership Award 2006

Sharon, who is retiring this year after 13 distinguished years of service to the region as the Quality Improvement Coordinator and manager of the Office of Prehospital Care for the Monroe and Livingston Counties EMS Council (MLREMS), has distinguished herself as key player in the success of our region. Sharon has coordinated many efforts including all of the NYS DOH Program Agency deliverables. She is a member of numerous EMS committees, and has served as chair of the MLREMS Training Committee and QA/QI Committee, and as a member of REMAC, ALS Committee and the MLREMS Council itself. At the state level, Sharon is an active member of the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee and the NYS EMS Council's Evaluation & Medical Standards Committees, and serves on the NYS EMS for Children Sub-Committee. Sharon is also a paramedic and has a Bachelor's in Nursing. She has served Gates Volunteer Ambulance for 18 years, including leadership roles (Director of Operations and ALS Chief).

Sharon has been a major resource to EMS providers and others in the community, answering hundreds of emails & phone calls each month providing information and advising callers on the handling of QA concerns and other issues. She has been the primary developer and implementer of the PCRNet system, allowing the capture of EMS data through paper form scanning when that technology was in its early stages. This data has proven useful for QA activities, EMS system monitoring, EMS research and feedback to individual EMS providers and agencies. Sharon has been instrumental in the development of the Office of Prehospital Care and in its efforts to coordinate prehospital emergency medical care in the region. She continues to provide input into recent reorganization efforts for OPC, the MLREMS program agency, and the MLREMS Council.

Contributions to EMS:

Sharon works tirelessly in the pursuit of educational opportunities for prehospital care providers in EMS certification classes throughout the region and often in other areas of NYS, particularly on the topics of pediatrics and PCR documentation. She also teaches in the OPC's continuing medical education classes, and in both provider and instructor courses as Regional Faculty for ACLS & PALS, and a CIC and Regional Faculty for NYS DOH. In her work as Quality Improvement Coordinator, Sharon analyzes data to determine any potential patient care issues that might be addressed by training efforts, and determines what classes should be taught as CMEs in the region. She helps organize the annual STEP Conference as a Board Member, and also participates as a lecturer drawing large crowds to her sessions.

Sharon has served as a mentor, consultant, educator, leader and friend to EMS providers from over 60 agencies in the past 13 years. Her efforts in working with the physicians & staff at the OPC have provided many benefits to the region in consolidating and coordinating EMS care. Her efforts have also been beneficial at the state level, especially during cardiac arrest, 12 lead ECG and intubation SEMAC projects, as well as in the rollout of TRIPP, PPCC and PEPP programs across the state. She has also played a role in protocol development at both state and local levels, and is currently involved in reviewing 2005 AHA changes and their impact on state and regional protocols.

Although Sharon is retiring this year from the OPC, she plans to continue to provide leadership to the EMS community through continued participation on the committees noted above and in various EMS-related projects. She will continue to teach in various venues and to mentor EMS providers as a paramedic and ALS Chief at Gates. She has said that she doesn't see retirement as a vehicle for leaving the EMS scene – but rather as an opportunity to change hats and serve in other ways. We suspect she will continue to be an influential leader in our region, creating a positive influence on the the EMS family she has grown to love.

