

**REMSC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting**  
June 15, 2011

**Attendees:** Chief Jim Hill, Stafford County; Dr. Joe Saitta, Committee Chair

**Old Business:**

Since this was the first meeting of this committee in 2011 there were no prior meeting minutes to review or approve, nor was there any old business.

**New Business:**

Dr. Saitta distributed a copy of an environmental scanning document. After discussion the plan was to use this environmental scanning document as a tool to review the Council's Strategic Plan.

All committee members will receive the environmental scanning document and the Council's Strategic Plan in an email two weeks prior the Committee's next meeting. Members will be asked to cross-correlate the two documents with a view to improving the Council's Strategic Plan.

**Next Meeting:**

The Committee's next meeting will be held on **August 17<sup>th</sup>** at the REMSC offices at 6:00 p.m. (one hour prior to the start of the Council's next Board of Director's meeting).

Submitted by  
Dr. Joseph V. Saitta

## ADAPTING EMS TO INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CHANGES

### A. Definition of Environmental Scanning:

Environmental scanning is a process of gathering, analyzing, and dispensing information for tactical or strategic purposes. The environmental scanning process entails obtaining both factual and subjective information on the environments in which an organization is operating or considering entering into.

#### Three ways to scan:

1. Ad-hoc scanning: Short term, infrequent examinations usually initiated by a crisis.
2. Scheduled scanning: Studies done on a regular schedule (e.g. once a year).
3. Continuous scanning: continuous structured data collection and processing on a broad range of environmental factors.

### B. Some examples of what to scan:

1. *The economy.* Items such as:
  - a. Economic growth
  - b. Unemployment rate
  - c. Inflation rate
  - d. Financial and political health of business and government
  - e. Taxing trends

**Hot Topic:** Reduced or flat budgets due to stagnant economy.

2. *The government* at all levels. Items such as:
  - a. Political stability and risk
  - b. Government debt
  - c. Budget deficit or surplus
  - d. Corporate and personal tax rates
  - e. Leadership changes
  - f. Infrastructure, including: roads, ports, airports, hospitals, healthcare, military bases, communication, etc.

**Hot Topic:** Consolidation/merging of governmental jurisdictions or agencies.

3. *Legal issues*, such as:
  - a. Medical practice acts
  - b. Environmental protection laws
  - c. Worker safety laws
  - d. Labor/management laws

- e. Regulation/deregulation of industries
- f. Tort laws

**Hot Topic:** EMS Standards of Care.

4. *Technology trends*, such as:

- a. New EMS products and services
- b. New healthcare products and services
- c. Any new technology that could impact on EMS

**Hot Topic:** New EMS technologies and increases in initial and continuing education requirements.

5. *Socio-cultural issues*, such as:

- a. Demographic factors:
  - Population size and distribution
  - Age distribution
  - Education levels
  - Income levels
  - Ethnic origins
  - Religious affiliations

**Hot Topic:** Aging American population and increasing need for ALS.

- b. Attitudes towards
  - Materialism
  - Capitalism
  - Free enterprise
  - Individualism
  - Role of family
  - Role of government
  - Consumerism
  - Environmentalism
  - Importance of work

**Hot Topic:** Privatized EMS versus municipal EMS systems.

- c. Cultural structures including
  - Diet and nutrition
  - Housing conditions
  - Changes in the nuclear family

**Hot Topic:** EMS personnel as care providers to elderly parents.

6. All of the above would be rated on two dimensions:

- a. Potential impact on the organization,
- b. Likelihood of occurrence.