

National Association of State EMS Officials

Annual Report

2010

www.nasemso.org

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About NASEMSO

The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials was established in 1980 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Members include 56 state and territorial EMS directors, medical directors, training coordinators, data managers, trauma managers, EMS for Children managers plus corporate and associate members.

Vision

A seamless nationwide network of coordinated and accountable state, regional and local EMS and emergency care systems. The systems use public health principles, data and evidence as a basis for safe and effective care in day-to-day operations as well as during catastrophic events.

Mission

NASEMSO supports its members in developing EMS policy and oversight, as well as in providing vision, leadership and resources in the development and improvement of state, regional and local EMS and emergency care systems.

Strategy

We achieve our mission by the participation of all the states and territories, by being a strong national voice for EMS, an acknowledged key resource for EMS information and policy, and a leader in developing and disseminating evidence-based decisions and policy.

Goals

- To promote the orderly development of coordinated EMS systems across the nation.
- To promote uniformly high quality care of acutely ill and injured patients.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information and the discussion of common concerns among state EMS officials.
- To facilitate interstate cooperation in such areas as patient transfer, communications and reciprocity of EMS personnel.
- To disseminate pertinent information to our membership and others.
- To maintain ongoing and effective liaison with state and national governments, professional organizations, and other appropriate public and private entities.
- To improve the quality and efficiency of state EMS program administration.
- To enhance the professional knowledge, skill and abilities of state EMS officials and staff.
- To encourage research and evaluation in all areas of EMS.
- To serve as a permanent national advocacy group for EMS.



Membership Benefits & Services

NASEMSO membership affords a variety of opportunities to participate in activities with state EMS directors, medical directors, training coordinators, data managers, trauma managers and EMSC coordinators. Benefits include: EMS issues updates; “mini-survey” short data collection projects on specific EMS issues; minutes of the NASEMSO Executive Committee; an Annual Business Meeting with committee and council meetings; and more.

Mentor Program

The NASEMSO Mentor Program is intended to support peer counseling between new and veteran EMS directors. The program establishes a link between a new director and a veteran director with expertise and experience of particular interest to the new director. Peer consultation can take the form of phone or other electronic communication, or during a site visit occurring either at the new director's site or the mentor's site.

EMS Leadership Skills Workshop

Designed for the state EMS official and designated personnel, the EMS Leadership Skills Workshop covers a detailed review of the functions of state EMS offices and advisory boards, media training, national resources and more.

NASEMSO Washington Update

NASEMSO prepares and electronically disseminates the Washington Update to NASEMSO membership, Federal partners, and other interested parties twice monthly. The updates include information on EMS-related legislation, regulations, grant announcements, and other matters of special interest.

NASEMSO Professional Journal

Members who are State EMS Directors and Medical Directors receive the official journal of NASEMSO, *Pre-hospital Emergency Care*, which provides quarterly peer-reviewed information relevant to the practice, educational advancement, and investigation of pre-hospital emergency care.

NASEMSO Web Site

The NASEMSO Web site is an effective tool to support the membership and the Councils operating within the NASEMSO structure. All NASEMSO members have access to the Members-Only section of the Web site. All minutes of meetings documenting discussion on national policies and trends are posted in the Members-Only section, as well as meeting handouts for some committees. Online resources include protocols in the areas of patient care, statewide statutes, scope of practice, interfacility and transport, trauma systems, quality improvement, medical direction and public health (currently 171 documents total), findings of mini-surveys gauging status of various aspects of state EMS, current news and links relevant to state EMS operations and national EMS policy.

Council Support

NASEMSO provides support for the five councils operating within the NASEMSO structure. Support includes staff assistance, Web site and discussion lists, and travel support to assure participation of each Council's leadership in national-level forums to address matters of importance to each council.

Government Affairs

The Government Affairs Committee actively tracks legislation introduced in Congress and provides periodic analysis and issue papers to the membership. EMS interests in legislative and regulatory issues also have been well represented through the Advocates for EMS effort.

NASEMSO Positions and Policies

NASEMSO regularly takes positions on various EMS issues and writes policies as well. All position and policy statements are housed on the NASEMSO website and are updated regularly. NASEMSO officials and staff use these position and policy statements to educate government officials.

Monographs

Periodic data collection from state EMS offices determines how each state's programs compare in terms of structure, services, and regulations. The documented results are very useful to anyone who is interested in national, state, and local EMS policy development. Current titles include “EMS Office Structure and Function,” “Training and Certification,” “Depletion of Experience in State EMS Leadership Positions” and “The Status of State EMS Office Involvement in Emergency Medical Services Communications.”

Committee Service

NASEMSO has a well-developed and active committee structure. Information exchange, detailed issues examination, and action recommendations occur at this level for policy implementation by the Executive Committee. Current standing committees include: Communications & Technology, Domestic Preparedness, Government Affairs, Highway Incident & Transportation Safety (HITS), Rural EMS, and more.

Annual Meeting and Exhibit

The NASEMSO Annual Meeting occurs in October, and the site rotates throughout the country. Programs are conducted in a variety of formats to maximize information exchange and dialogue with state EMS officials on current EMS issues. Exhibits of equipment, technology, and services are part of the meeting.

NAEMSO Council Achievements

During the past year, NASEMSO's five councils, together with State Directors have been involved in many activities. They have met via conference call and at the NASEMSO Annual and Mid-Year Meetings. Each council is represented on the Executive Committee and exchanges information on matters of interest to each constituency. The councils provide value-added service to EMS professionals within the state EMS offices including expanded networking opportunities, representation on national policy issues, and more. The following are highlights of each council's mission and activities for 2009-10:

Education and Professional Standards Council

Chaired by Marilyn Bourn (CO), Chair-Elect William Seifarth (MD). The TCC holds monthly phone conference meetings to discuss best practices, provide updates on the Education Standards and review progress on current projects. During the last year, the Council conducted a survey to determine the depth and breadth of training coordinator responsibilities as well as the implementation status of the Education Agenda. The Council reviewed a summary of the results at the Mid Year meeting. Based on the survey (44/52 states/territories responded), the Council recommended a name change to "Education and Professional Standards Council (EPSC) as this name more accurately represents the various job responsibilities of the membership. In addition this name reflects the both the Mission Statement and Vision of the previously title "State Training Coordinators Council." At the NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting, the Council discussed the exam transition plan ("strawman") and voted to support dissemination and implementation. Collection and evaluation of transition materials continues to be a priority for this Council.

Medical Directors Council

The NASEMSO Medical Directors Council completed several significant documents during the year. The Council (via NASEMSO) co-authored *Role of the State EMS Medical Director*, a joint position statement of ACEP, NAEMSP, and NASMESO, which was published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine and Prehospital Emergency Care*. In addition, *The Role of State Medical Direction in the Comprehensive Emergency Medical System: A Resource Document* (to accompany the aforementioned position statement) and *Regionalization of Care: A Position Statement of NASEMSO* (approved by the NASEMSO Executive Committee) were authored by Council members and published in *Prehospital Emergency Care*.

The Medical Directors Council completed a survey of state EMS protocols, the results of which were integral to a presentation by Dr. Douglas Kupas (PA) at the Society for

Academic Emergency Medicine Consensus Conference on Regionalization of Care. Council members served on several national working groups, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Medical Director's Manual Project (Dr. George Lindbeck-VA), the Department of Homeland Security's FEMA EMS Resource Typing and Credentialing Working Group (Dr. Carol Cunningham-OH), the Emergency Medical Task Group of the National Wildfire Coordination Group (Dr. Jim Upchurch-MT), the National Fire Academy EMS Steering Committee (Dr. Carol Cunningham-OH), and the NASEMSO Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project Work Group (Dr. George Kennedy-NM). The Council's listserv was active throughout the year with members surveying their colleagues and sharing information on subjects ranging from peer review laws for EMS to the use of thrombolytics in the prehospital setting.

In addition to its bi-monthly conference calls, the Medical Directors Council met for two days at the NASEMSO Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 2009 and one full day in Phoenix, Arizona in January 2010, in conjunction with the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) Annual Meeting. The modification of NASEMSO's traditional schedule to the latter venue contributed to the highest recorded attendance rate for a mid-annual meeting of the Council. The Medical Directors Council was chaired by Dr. Douglas Kupas (PA), with Dr. Carol Cunningham (OH) serving as Chair-elect and Peter Taillac (UT) as Secretary.

Data Managers Council

Chaired by Robert Norlen (MN), Chair-Elect Stephanie Dougherty (FL). The Data Managers Council (DMC) has completed guidance for data collection issues around cross-border EMS operations that include more than one state. This guidance has been included in the Model Statutory Content document. The first phase of the patient tracking data communications project is being finalized and work is beginning on phase two of this important project. The DMC distributed a membership survey to gather information on specific EMS data related issues. The DMC received a very good return

rate (50 States and Territories Responding) to the survey, which has been very helpful in determining projects and direction that will benefit a large majority of the membership. The DMC reviewed the results of the membership survey at the mid-year meeting and established priorities for project work for the next year. The Council continued meeting monthly during the year by teleconference to review NEMSIS Version 3.0 and to provide input to that process. With leadership and direction to this project the NEMSIS version 3.0 Data Dictionary was finalized in July 2010. The Data Managers Council will be continuing to work with NEMSIS State EMS Offices and other Health Care stakeholders on implementation of NEMSIS Version 3.0 over the next few years.

Trauma Managers Council

Chaired by Jolene Whitney (UT), Chair-Elect, Tim Held (MN). NASEMSO was asked to assist several ways to help triage guidelines implementation – foster communication with and among state EMS officials, help develop and disseminate surveys to gather information on successes and challenges. NASEMSO conducted a survey of the medical directors and trauma managers' councils to determine the level of implementation at the state level. Work is ongoing related to the state spotlights and collection of best practices. The Trauma Monograph has been completed. The trauma managers are generally supportive of trauma references in the Health Care Reform Act but remain concerned that this money appears to be a "pass-through" from states earmarked for trauma centers and may not truly benefit system design and implementation. A meeting between the leadership of NASEMSO and ACS Committee on Trauma was convened at the MY Meeting. The session was extremely informative and both groups pledged to work together on 12 mutual goals. Efforts continue with regards to implementation of field triage guidelines and system benchmarking.

Pediatric Emergency Care Council

Chaired by Gloria Hale (NC), Chair Elect, Katrina Altenhofen (IA.) During the last year, the council changed its name from EMSC Coordinators to the Pediatric Emergency Care Council. They recently expanded their steering committee to include regional representatives. The Council received a request to help recruit

emergency care physicians and nurses to participate in a review of emergency department performance measures. The Council identified six topical workgroup areas and council members signed up: injury prevention, pediatric education, pediatric disaster preparedness, data, family-center care and trauma. The Council drafted a proposal for federal funding to

provide states with recommended education standards in pediatric pre-hospital care deemed essential for re-certification of EMTs at all levels. The Council participated in the review of the draft of "Recommendations for the Safe Transportation of Children in Ground Ambulances" and provided liaison representatives to several national organizations and work groups.



A seamless nationwide network of coordinated and accountable state, regional and local EMS and emergency care systems.



NAEMSO 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

October 3-7, 2011

Monona Terrace Convention Center
Madison, Wisconsin



Join Us Next Year!

www.nasemso.org/Meetings/annual

NAEMSO Deliverables

An “EMS System Planning and Development” cooperative agreement from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) makes possible a variety of tasks and services. Year 5 of this agreement is January 1–December 31, 2010.

Leadership Skills Workshop

NAEMSO delivers the Leadership Workshop for EMS Officials to enhance leadership skills of State EMS Officials and to nurture future leadership for NAEMSO. Components include an Overview of State EMS Agency Functions and Model State EMS Plan, Key State EMS Issues, Advisory and Regulatory Boards, Working with Elected Officials, Effective Communications with the Media, NAEMSO and Other National Resources.

The 2009 Leadership Skills Workshop was conducted in Little Rock, AR on September 21st and the Evaluation Report was filed with COTR Susan McHenry. The Leadership Skills faculty has convened by teleconference over the past year to review the evaluation and make recommendations for adjusting the workshop agenda. Work is under way to make the workshop web-based and accessible to members.

NAEMSO's Mid Year Meeting occurred May 17-19, 2010 in conjunction with the EMSC Grantee Meeting in Bethesda, MD. Initial indications are that the co-location and joint programming appealed to participants. NAEMSO Executive Committee calls took place April 8, May 13 and June 10. A Joint National EMS Leadership call occurred April 22.

Customer Meetings

NAEMSO coordinates and participates in customer meetings, monthly conference calls with NAEMSO Executive Committee and NHTSA/HRSA, and Mid-Year Meeting with NAEMSO membership and NHTSA/HRSA and other Federal partners. NHTSA representatives receive a copy of the meeting notice and agenda each month, and regularly participate to ensure desired interaction between NHTSA and its key stakeholders. Meeting records are posted at www.naemso.org.

NAEMSO also coordinates the National Joint EMS Leadership Council to help NAEMSO, NAEMSP, NAEMT, NAEMSE and federal EMS partners to communicate regularly on current national policy issues. The annual meeting, including participation of NHTSA and other federal partners is scheduled for October 10-15, 2010 in Norfolk, Virginia.

NAEMSO Website

During the past year, the NAEMSO Web Site Committee have met to discuss the content and functionality of the NAEMSO Web site in order to assure that it is an effective tool to support the membership and the Councils.

The NAEMSO Web site receives an average of 7,686 unique visitors a month. The top pages are the NAEMSO Home page (for news and events), the EMS Calendar page, the NAEMSO Annual Meeting page, and the EMS State Agency Listing page. The *Washington Update*, NAEMSO's e-newsletter, continues to be one of the most consistently popular download items on the site. Other popular items are the GAP Analysis Template and the Scope of Practice Model.

Enhancements to all Resource areas have continued on the NAEMSO Web Site, and several of the Project sections have grown considerably with information and documents produced by committee chairs. Particularly of note is the growing Web section for the Highway Incident and Transportation Systems (HITS) Committee. NAEMSO's Home page continues to feature news that is important toward keeping our members informed of current legislative and regulatory EMS issues, as well as advocacy activities supported by NAEMSO.

Communications Interoperability

The general mission of the communications interoperability is to (1) maximize NAEMSO and national EMS community input in national and federal initiatives and forums which impact public safety communications systems development, resource availability and use, governance, and policy-making; (2) provide technical assistance to state EMS officials to better enable them to enhance their EMS communications systems as part of statewide interoperable systems and to take advantage of contemporary technology and system development opportunities; and (3) enhance NAEMSO's ability to further carry out this mission.

Representation of NAEMSO and the national EMS community in national and federal initiatives and policy-making efforts on public safety and homeland security communications (as it impacts public safety, health and medical providers), including:

- Technology development;
- Interoperability development;
- Technical assistance development for state and local communications systems planners; and
- The development and deployment of intelligent transportation and next generation 9-1-1 capabilities as they constitute components of public safety communications and access systems.

These activities continued strongly throughout the year.

Mentor Program

NAEMSO headquarters is now maintaining a database of freshman members and is routinely advising regional and council chairs when a new member joins the organization, and providing contact information. A new member services evaluation was conducted in December.

Monographs

The Status of State Emergency Medical Services Office Funding and Utilization of Section 402 and 408 Highway Safety Funding” was produced by NAEMSO with support from the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, with thanks to the members of the NAEMSO Highway Incident & Transportation Systems (HITS) Committee for their expertise. This monograph represents the third comprehensive examination of state EMS funding. To the extent that funding equals resources, the level and trends associated with state EMS funding represent an important area of interest related to a component of the healthcare system charged with a critical safety-net function. In this study, NAEMSO examined the levels and sources of all funding to support state EMS offices for Fiscal Year 2009 and compared those data with comparable information from previous studies. NAEMSO also specifically examined the access and use of Section 402 and Section 408 Highway Safety Funding currently experienced by state EMS offices. This monograph represents extensive work over the past year in instrument design, information gathering and data analysis.

The final draft of the trauma systems monograph is still under final review by NHTSA. Data collection is nearing completion on the Domestic Preparedness survey and data collection for the monograph on Pan Flu is under way.

Committee for Accreditation of Education Programs for EMS Professions (CoAEMSP)

NAEMSO membership in the CoAEMSP remains in place. The CoAEMSP maintains an on-going dialogue with NAEMSO and continues to focus efforts on providing technical support to state EMS offices where paramedic programs are seeking national accreditation. As part of the effort to support implementation of the *EMS Agenda for the Future, A Systems Approach*, the CoAEMSP leadership participates closely with NAEMSO leadership in developing and implementing strategies to support the states in their efforts to implement this important initiative. During the

past year, CoAEMSP staff and leadership have traveled to many states as well as providing ongoing technical assistance to state and programs as requested. The CoAEMSP sponsored a site visitor training workshop in Louisville, KY on April 15 – 17, 2010 with over 20 new site visitors completing the workshop. This strategy has been implemented to improve the inter-rater reliability of CoAEMSP site visits and improve turn-around times for programs to achieve accreditation. The outcome of this workshop has already had a positive impact on the availability and reliability of site visitors. These efforts will continue to ensure that every opportunity is taken to support the goal of nationwide accreditation for Paramedic training programs and ensure the highest levels of reliability and customer service to states and paramedic education programs. The CoAEMSP continues to support the implementation of a “marketing program” targeted for state EMS offices and paramedic training programs. This program continues to move forward as anticipated. Additionally, this strategy will also have a component to ensure the continuation of technical assistance aimed at individual colleges and training programs. Finally, the CoAEMSP reports that 26 new applications for accreditation were processed during fiscal year 2009-10, exceeding historical experience by more than 50%. There are presently 254 accredited paramedic training programs in the United States.

Terrorism Preparedness

NASEMSO provides technical assistance for and representation of State EMS Directors regarding terrorism preparedness and homeland security. NASEMSO will continue efforts to assure EMS has a “seat at the table” in these important efforts.

During the last year, NASEMSO hosted Domestic Preparedness Committee conference calls as well as participated on FEMA’s regular conference calls and twice-annual gatherings of the National Homeland Security Consortium. Staff continues to participate on the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council and also reviews proposed new homeland security policies and revisions working with the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Washington Update

NASEMSO will prepare and electronically disseminate to NASEMSO membership, Federal partners, and other interested parties a monthly Washington Update, including EMS related legislation, regulations, grant announcements, and other matters of special interest.

NASEMSO produces the Washington Update twice monthly. The Washington Update is sent electronically to all members, liaison organizations, and federal partners, and is posted at www.nasemso.org. The Washington Update is consistently in the top 5 documents downloaded from the NASEMSO web site and continues to be a popular resource for NASEMSO mem-

bers and non-members alike. The circulation is currently at 614 direct subscribers. Many state directors have indicated that they circulate each issue to their stakeholders.

EMS Cost Analysis Project (EMSCAP)

NASEMSO supported the EMS Cost Analysis Project (EMSCAP) through subcontract, to include conducting the tests of the EMS system costing methodology in the three identified pilot communities, and revising the costing methodology based on input from the pilot projects. The Pilot communities selected were Livingston County EMS (NY), Richmond Ambulance Authority (VA), and Oshkosh Fire Department (WI).

The pilot site data collection was completed in September 2007. Based on the pilot site experience the directions for conducting a cost analysis were completed at the December 2007 meeting of investigators. The excel workbook was finalized based on the changes made during that meeting and completed mid-February 2008. The deliverables of this contract are complete.

Model EMS Planning

NASEMSO completed the final draft of the Model EMS Planning and Evaluation document for use by State EMS Offices and has made it available to NASEMSO members on the website. In addition, the Model and self-assessment were presented in detail at the NASEMSO Leadership Skills Workshop. This project is complete.

Model EMS Legislation

Following extensive comments from NHTSA staff and others, NASEMSO has completed the final steering committee drafts of the Model Statutory and Regulatory Content for State EMS System and Model State EMS System Lead Agency Documents. NASEMSO disseminated these drafts for comment to federal and state stakeholders and partner organizations for comment. The document is being finalized now.

EMS Data

NASEMSO continues to educate State EMS officials on what NEMSIS compliance means and data definitions associated with NEMSIS. In coordination with the Data Managers’ Council, develop an agreed upon set of minimum State EMS data elements, including coordination with the Governors’ Highway Safety Association (GHSA), and other organizations, as appropriate.

The Data Managers Council met regularly during the last year and have continued reviewing the NEMSIS 3.0 revised data set for input to that process as the document evolves. They have completed their data definitions work until NEMSIS 3.0 is finalized. NEMSIS has completed the first part of the HL-7 data messaging standards approval process.

EMS Education

NASEMSO provides technical assistance to State EMS offices to facilitate implementation of the EMS Education Agenda by developing a toolkit to promote the Implementation Guide and by developing a roll-out plan. This will require significant leadership and input from the Training Coordinators Council.

During the past year, the Implementation Work Group has accomplished several milestones:

- The Implementation Working Group met in conjunction with the NASEMSO Annual Meeting in Little Rock, AR on September 21. Other organizations represented included NAEMSE, NAEMT, NAEMSP, CECBEMS, CoAEMSP, and NREMT. There were also two EMS publishers present.
- The 2009 NASEMSO “dot” survey is completed with 100% participation by the states. Work is progressing on the report requested by NEMSAC.
- Finalized the Timeline document and it has been disseminated to stakeholder organizations and interested individuals.
- Initiated Facebook Group titled “Implementing the EMS Education Agenda.” There are currently 272 members subscribed to the Facebook Group.
- Established a task force to identify strategies for “educators” at the new levels.
- Disseminated information about the CoAEMSP interpretation of its accreditation standards related to sponsorship.
- Worked with EMS publisher to disseminate educational tool for developing curriculum/ lessons plans from the *Education Standards*.
- A new “listserv” was launched in December 2009 to provide informational updates related to Implementation of the Education Agenda. There are currently 212 subscribers.

Highway Mass Casualty Readiness & Response Project

The Kick-off meeting of the project work group was held April 27-28, 2010, in Salt Lake City. Initial work was completed at the meeting on both the Event Response and Readiness Assessment (ERRA) and the Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE) parts of the project. NASEMSO Program Advisor Mary Hedges drafted several ERRA tables and began work on MIECE definitions in preparation for five teleconference meetings of the work group scheduled for July. Planning for the second in-person work group meeting, scheduled for August 5-6, was completed. Work Group Chair Dia Gainor gave two presentations on the project: 1) at AASHTO’s Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety Annual Meeting on April 28; and 2) at the NASEMSO Mid-Year meeting on May 25. The HITS page of the NASEMSO website was updated to reflect ongoing work of the Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project.

Sign-Ons and Outreach

September 2009

NASEMSO Provides Comments to State Traffic Record Systems Performance Measures

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), with the assistance of the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is developing a model set of minimum data quality performance measures for State traffic records systems. As specified in the Statement of Work, the minimum set will include “a minimum of six quality performance measures addressing timeliness, accuracy, completeness, uniformity, integration, and accessibility for each of the six State traffic safety core data systems (crash, vehicle, driver, roadway, citation/adjudication and injury surveillance).” NASEMSO has participated in a recent public review and comment opportunity as described on the NASEMSO web site.

October 2009

NASEMSO Resolution 2009-001 Addresses Project 25 Compliance

During its annual meeting, in Little Rock, AR, NASEMSO members voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2009-001 that calls upon the Project 25 (P25) Compliance Assessment Program (CAP) to implement and enforce conformance standards tests as part of the CAP process and to only allow testing in approved labs. The P25 CAP has been created to assure interoperability among the equipment, software, and systems of voice communications vendors supplying EMS and other public safety users. The same position was recently approved by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) and the Department of Homeland Security’s SAFECOM Executive Committee.

NASEMSO Signs Coalition Letter to Support Funding for Health Programs

NASEMSO has joined 230 health care organizations in supporting the FY 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3293), to provide the highest possible funding level for health programs. In a letter to the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee(s) on Appropriations, the Coalition for Health Funding points out the benefit of discretionary health programs and activities for all Americans and reiterates support for the Bill as “the nation’s primary investment in biomedical, behavioral and health services research as well as other activities directed at preventing and mitigating disease and disability.” The Coalition for Health Funding is a nonprofit alliance of 50 national health organizations that

works in a nonpartisan fashion to ensure that health discretionary spending remains highly visible as Congress and the Administration set federal budget priorities. The final letter is available on the NASEMSO web site at www.nasemso.org under the Advocacy section.

November 2009

NASEMSO Publishes Monograph Representing Comprehensive Examination of State EMS Funding

This monograph represents the third comprehensive examination of state EMS funding. To the extent that funding equals resources, the level and trends associated with state EMS funding represent an important area of interest relating to a component of the healthcare system charged with a critical safety-net function. In this study, NASEMSO examined the levels and sources of all funding to support state EMS offices for Fiscal Year 2009 and compared those data with comparable information from previous studies. NASEMSO also specifically examined the access and use of Section 402 and Section 408 Highway Safety Funding currently experienced by state EMS offices. This monograph represents extensive work over the past year in instrument design, information gathering and data analysis.

NASEMSO Provides Comments on Wildland Fire Standards Document

Draft recommended standards have been developed by the Incident Emergency Medical Task Group (IEMTG) for the delivery of medical services on incidents managed by National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) member agencies. Following the 2009 NASEMSO Annual Meeting, a task force was appointed to review the document and provide further input. NASEMSO’s final recommendations to the IEMTG are now available on the NASEMSO web site.

December 2009

NASEMSO Launches New Education Agenda Implementation List Serve

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) announces the availability of a new list serve open to all EMS stakeholders to learn more about national implementation efforts related to the Education Agenda. Although anyone will be able to subscribe to the list serve to receive information, NASEMSO will facilitate all postings and requests to minimize the ability for “phishers” and spammers to access the list. The goal is to help connect individuals and

organizations with resources and to provide access to information related to the Education Agenda such as new documents, survey results, best practices, and other materials as they become available. Individuals and organizational representatives, including those who are not members of NASEMSO, are invited to subscribe to NASEMSO’s EMS Education Agenda Implementation List Serve.

NASEMSO Launches Education Agenda Needs Assessment Surveys

NASEMSO is conducting needs assessment surveys of EMS educators, EMS programs, and state EMS training coordinators to determine how the EMS community is progressing with implementation of the EMS Education Agenda. An instructional cover letter and the survey SAMPLE is now available on our web site. Links to the surveys are imbedded within these documents. NASEMSO encourages participants to review the pdf files to read the survey and think about their answers in advance of logging in to the web site because once an individual starts the survey, they will not be able to exit and return to view or edit their answers. The results will be used to determine the need for resources to support implementation of the Education Agenda.

NASEMSO Joins ITS America in Transportation Letter to President Obama

NASEMSO has signed onto a letter proposed by Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) America to President Barack Obama, applauding his proposal to accelerate job creation and economic recovery through the modernization of our nation’s transportation and communications infrastructure. “As you work with Congress to draft a jobs bill,” states the letter, “we urge you to invest in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and operational improvements that will expand green jobs, small businesses and the smart-tech industry while also saving lives, time and money by preventing traffic accidents, improving emergency response, reducing congestion, fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, improving transportation system performance, and creating more livable, sustainable communities.” The letter is posted on our web site at www.nasemso.org.

NASEMSO Comments to FCC on Healthcare Broadband Deployment

NASEMSO has provided written comment to the Federal Communications Commission on issues related to Public Safety Broadband, Rural Public Safety, and Health Care Broadband Deployment. These comments are now available for review on the NASEMSO web site.

January 2010

NASEMSO Provides New Issue Brief on N-95 Respirators and Fit Testing Requirements for EMS Personnel

Conflicting information promulgated by national organizations, the scientific community, and the news media about the use of masks, respirators, and the utility of fit-testing diminishes the ability of the health care community, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to promote consistent practice among its practitioners. The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) believes that the health and welfare of emergency responders is critical to the Nation's emergency care infrastructure and supports the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to educate medical first responders and others about the potential risks associated with illnesses that are transmitted from person to person through close contact or droplet exposure. A new NASEMSO Issue Brief on N-95 Respirators and Fit-Testing Requirements for EMS Personnel is now available at <http://www.nasemso.org/Advocacy/PositionsResolutions/IssueBriefs.asp>.

NASEMSO Comments on NHTSA Strategic Plan

NASEMSO has provided formal comment to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Strategic Plan-- Docket No. NHTSA-2009-0171. All public comments can be viewed at www.regulations.gov. NASEMSO's comments are now available on our web site at www.nasemso.org. Go to "Projects" then "Highway Incident & Transportation Systems (HITS)."

NASEMSO Supports Senate Bill to Eliminate CAH "Isolation Test"

The Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) program was designed to improve rural health care access and reduce hospital closures. Critical Access Hospitals provide essential services to a community and are reimbursed by Medicare on a "reasonable cost basis" for services provided to Medicare patients while current legislation requires them to be at least 35 miles from one another (commonly referred to as the 35 mile rule or "isolation test."). For those areas served by a CAH ambulance, the CAH would receive cost-based ambulance reimbursement. For those areas served by a community ambulance where ambulance transport is to or from the CAH, the community ambulance would receive cost based payment by billing Medicare under arrangement through the CAH. Introduced by Senator Kent (ND) in 2009, S. 1157, the Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act of 2009, would eliminate the existing ownership requirement, "isolation test"

(35 mile rule) for CAH-based ambulance services, and would also allow Critical Access Hospitals to do "under arrangement" cost based billing for all the services that deliver patients to them. The language in S.1157 addresses all of these issues and is supported by NASEMSO, the National Rural Health Association, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, the National EMS Management Association, and the American Ambulance Association.

February 2010

NASEMSO Supports Passage of H.R. 2024

NASEMSO joins the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in support of H.R. 2024, "Commercial Motor Vehicle Advanced Safety Technology Tax Act of 2009," which would provide tax incentives for installation of available technology to prevent or mitigate what a 2006 NHTSA/Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration study found were the leading causes of crashes involving large trucks. The device types that would qualify the trucking firms for tax breaks align with the study findings and prevent crashes related to brake failures, lane departure, rollovers, and colliding with cars in front of them. NASEMSO's interest is in safer trucks, fewer crashes, and more widespread market availability and affordability of such devices so that they become mainstream considerations for ambulances and heavy emergency response vehicles.

NASEMSO Endorses Highway Safety Reauthorization

NASEMSO has joined several national organizations in signing onto a letter from the State Highway Safety Alliance to U.S. Senator James Inhofe in support of the following recommendations for the highway safety portions of the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation:

- A national highway safety goal of halving fatalities by 2030 with state targets that support the national goal.
- Increased safety funding to enable states to reach that goal.
- Streamlined program administration and enhanced flexibility to focus federal resources where they are most needed.
- A strengthened strategic highway safety planning process to ensure that states reach their targets.
- Enhanced data collection and analysis so that problems can be identified and progress tracked.
- Increased investment in safety research and development so that states can implement evidence-based programs.

- Better preparation of the highway safety workforce in order to develop a cadre of safety professionals.
- Incentives which will encourage states to improve as opposed to more sanctions.

March 2010

NASEMSO Supports Funding for CDC Core Programs

In a recent letter to the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate, NASEMSO joined several members of the CDC Coalition in supporting at least \$8.8 billion for CDC's FY 2011 core programs. The advocacy letter is available on our web site at www.nasemso.org.

April 2010

NASEMSO Supports Increasing EMSC funding to \$26.250 million for FY2011

NASEMSO has signed onto a letter from the American Academy of Pediatricians requesting increased funding for EMSC. Last year, more than 40 organizations signed on to a letter to House and Senate Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs in support of increasing funding for the Emergency Medical Services for Children program to \$25 million. For FY11, we increased our request to \$26.250 million, as authorized under the Wakefield Act, which was recently enacted as part of health care reform legislation.

NASEMSO Joins SCCA and NAEMT in New Resource That Addresses School Sports

Saving Lives in Schools and Sports is a new publication that encourages school and athletic league administrators to install AEDs and develop SCA emergency plans.

June 2010

NASEMSO Releases Education Agenda Implementation Report to NEMSAC

At its 2010 Mid-Year meeting, NASEMSO provided a rollout of its latest report on implementation of the EMS Education Agenda. The Report to the National EMS Advisory Committee (NEMSAC) on Statewide Implementation of the Education Agenda is based on results of the 2009 NASEMSO annual implementation survey. This document is intended to provide an overview of statewide implementation of the Education Agenda. Data was collected in 2009, and state EMS directors were given an opportunity to revise their information in April 2010.

The report is merely a “snapshot in time” and should not be received or interpreted as a strict policy decision by any state. States retain the authority to implement the Education Agenda in a way that best meets their needs. NASEMSO expresses its deep appreciation to all 50 states and the territories of the District of Columbia (DC), the US Virgin Islands (VI), and the Northern Mariana Islands (MP) for their contributions to this survey.

NASEMSO Coordinating Comment on Proposed Exam Integration

Attendees to the 2010 NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting and associated NASEMSO webinar had the opportunity to hear Implementation Team Chairman, Dan Manz and NREMT Associate Director, Rob Wagoner explain a proposed matrix (“strawman”) that addresses the outcome of a stakeholder meeting on exam integration held in April 2010. The draft has been developed to facilitate discussion among state EMS officials related to NREMT exams and the new Scope of Practice Model and the Education Standards. The matrix is based on results from the 2009 NASEMSO Annual Survey on statewide implementation of the Education Agenda with consideration to national re-registration cycles. The document has been posted in the “Toolkit” under Transition Materials on NASEMSO Education Agenda web site.

NASEMSO Responds to Request for Endorsement on MUCC for Mass Casualty Triage

NASEMSO President Steve Blessing conveyed the Association’s support for the concept of the Modified Uniform Core Criteria (MUCC) for mass casualty field triage. Expressing concern for the lack of evidence, NASEMSO’s endorsement is based on consensus with the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP), the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). The intent of the project is to ensure that providers at a mass casualty incident utilize triage methodologies that incorporate these minimum core criteria in an effort to promote standardization among EMS jurisdictions and agencies. Mass casualty triage systems currently in use can be modified using the MUCC to ensure interoperability. NASEMSO encourages project leaders and the CDC to work to prove the effectiveness of MUCC and encourages additional research to study all major prehospital mass casualty triage systems. State EMS directors have been instructed how access the draft document in a recent email.

August 2010

NASEMSO Joins EMS Organizations in Support of Allocating 700 MHz D Block to Public Safety

In recent letters to members of Congress, NASEMSO joined several national EMS organizations in calling for legislation that would allocate the 700MHz D Block to public safety for use in conjunction with the 700 MHz broadband spectrum licensed to the national public safety broadband license holder and to coordinate both sets of spectrum through that license holder and its public safety representative board. A bi-partisan bill to allocate the 700 MHz D Block to public safety was introduced into the House of Representatives in late April. The bill “Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010 (H.R. 5081)” has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. A companion bill has not yet been introduced in the Senate. A copy of the Senate letter from national organizations is available here. In the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) recent National Broadband Plan, the agency proposed to hold another commercial auction for the D block. In 2008, FCC efforts to sell the D Block to a single bidder who would run both a commercial service and share the spectrum with public safety agencies via a leasing system collapsed when the auction failed to attract the minimum bid.

NASEMSO Provides Comments on Draft Recommendations for Transporting Children in Ambulances

NASEMSO members provided comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation on its *Draft Recommendations for Safely Transporting Children in Specific Situations in Emergency Ground Ambulances*. In his letter to NHTSA, NASEMSO President Steve Blessing echoed several member comments, “Overall, the document represents available science and best practice recommendations from an interdisciplinary team of experienced professionals. NASEMSO deeply appreciates the tremendous effort by NHTSA’s working group and believe the recommendations will move the industry towards greater scientific testing and the development of additional devices that will be cost-effective and safe for those who are faced with transporting children in ambulances.” Download NASEMSO comments here.

NASEMSO Partners with CLIR on Voluntary Reporting System for EMS

The Center for Leadership, Innovation and Research in EMS (CLIR), along with its sponsoring organizations – the EMS Chiefs of Canada, the National EMS Management Association and the North Central EMS Institute – announces a new patient safety initiative. The EMS Voluntary Event Notification Tool (EVENT) provides an anonymous tool for EMS providers and others to report adverse events that occur in the EMS setting. CLIR is a non-regulatory, not-for-profit group that is promoting and advancing the practice and profession of EMS internationally. NASEMSO is a partner organization for EVENT and CLIR has begun seeking additional partner organizations. The EVENT system can be used to anonymously report any patient-safety related issue such as:

- “Sentinel Events” where unexpected or unintended occurrences result in serious physical injury, psychological trauma or death
- Unexpected or unintended occurrences that result in any physical injury or psychological injury of a patient, including adverse drug reactions
- “Near Misses” which are close calls that could have resulted in accident, injury or illness but did not either by chance or through timely intervention
- Equipment or device failures, malfunctions or provider errors of omission (not using when called for) or misuse (using it in the incorrect way); that cause or could cause harm to a patient.
- Lessons learned, safety ideas and/or concerns or any topic that has been vetted through local authority either without resolution or the reporting person feels that it cannot be brought up with local authority without the risk of repercussion

The EVENT system is only applicable to patient safety events that are related to care given by components of the pre-hospital or out-of-hospital EMS system including but not limited to: ambulance attendants, first responders, all levels of EMTs and paramedics, Critical Care Transport service personnel, quick response services, ambulance services, air ambulance services, dispatch centers and medical command facilities. EMS agencies that operate their own internal event reporting system are encouraged to also report their events anonymously through EVENT.

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