



NASEMSO Data Managers Council

Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2008

Chair: Bob Norlen, Minnesota
Chair-Elect: Stephanie Daugherty, Florida
Secretary: Kevin Putman, Michigan

Meeting called to order on June 25, 2008 at: 8:00 AM

In Attendance:

Bob Norlen, Minnesota – Chair; Stephanie Daugherty, Florida – Chair-Elect/South Central Reg. Rep.; Kevin Putman, Michigan – Secretary/North Central Reg. Rep.; Angela Hicks, North Carolina – East Reg. Rep.; Dennis Blair, Alabama; Jay Bradshaw, Maine; John Cramer, Idaho; Chris Handley, Maryland; Holly Hedegaard, Colorado; Chad Lohmeier, EMS PIC; Clay Mann, NEMSIS TAC; Kevin McGinnis, NASEMSO; Susan McHenry, NHTSA; Greg Mears, EMS PIC; David Owens, NEMSIS TAC; Aaron Reinert, Lakes Region EMS; Gary Wiemokly, Connecticut; and Lynda Williams, Oklahoma.

Visitors:

John M., EMSsystems

Recap of Previous Meeting:

Update was given on what transpired at yesterday's meeting, including the filling of the officer vacancies. There were still no volunteers to fill the North Central and South Central Regional Representatives.

Data Definitions Document:

The changes made at the previous meeting were presented. There was a motion by David Owens with support from Stephanie Daugherty to accept document and present it to the directors. Bob Norlen emphasized that this was a living document and that it is just done for now. Chris Handley questioned whether this was a part of NEMSIS, and if so does it make the document concrete. Clay Mann advised that it will become part of the data dictionary. John Cramer had questions over the name of the document, NEMSIS versus NHTSA. The name of the document was changed to mirror the data dictionary. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Roundtable:

Chris Handley asked if any other states were receiving any pushback over collecting ICD-9 codes. It was suggested that if he was having difficulty over collecting the actual ICD-9 codes, that he just collect the CMS Condition Codes as there is a direct tie between those and the ICD-9 codes. Collecting the ICD-9 Codes in addition to the CMS Condition Codes is basically collecting the same information twice.



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There was a question raised about the “Free” NEMSIS software. Clay Mann stated that the grant for “NEMSIS for the Little Guy” was still pending.

Guidelines for Border State Data Submission:

Bob Norlen distributed a draft proposal on when data should be submitted to a state by an out-of-state service. The issue revolves around data sharing versus duplicate submission. It was proposed that states should only submit data where the incident occurred within their boundaries. Several solutions were discussed. Clay Mann said that a filter could be setup on NEMSIS’ side to exclude data where the submitting state and the incident state did not match. That would stop multiple submissions of a single incident that may have been submitted by more than one state.

It was felt that this could be the basis for MOUs and model legislation. Kevin McGinnis will work on model legislation.

Questioned was raised about conference calls to further discuss this issue. Bob Norlen stated it was his intention to try and setup bi-monthly conference calls. The following bullet points were mentioned as discussion points:

- Vendor Roles
- Dual Licensure
- MOUs
- Mutual Aid
- Regulation
- Model Legislation
- State Submission

It was mentioned that a priority should be for unique national identifiers to be mandated in regulation.

This item was tabled until the Annual Meeting in September.

Kevin McGinnis – Information/Communication Technology:

Kevin discussed several initiatives related to pre-hospital and hospital data systems. He confirmed that the HL-7 Standard would be used for the NHTSA 3.0 dataset to be consistent with the rest of healthcare. He mentioned that information would be forthcoming on data best practices as well.



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Kevin stated that he has a listserv related to EMS data and communications. Anyone wishing to be added to the listserv should send an email to Kevin at k.mcginis@adelphia.net.

Kevin then began to discuss the National Information Exchange Model. A question was raised about the role and stability of ComCare. Kevin stated that they started in an advocacy role, transitioned into project development, and have now returned to advocacy. He further stated that there are several groups with EMS communications roles that can pick up ComCare's role if necessary.

Susan McHenry – NHTSA Update:

Susan reiterated the FICEMS position that NEMSIS participation should be a requirement for any Federal EMS grant. She also mentioned that she sits on the board for the approval of the Section 408 Funding, and that in order for approval, states had to show measurable progress in funded projects. Many of the states only qualified for funding because they could show progress towards NEMSIS. She also stated that there needs to be a partnership between state highway safety and EMS.

Susan then briefly discussed the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC). There are 25 members representing all disciplines of EMS. They held their first meeting and Dia Gainor, State EMS Director from Idaho, was elected as the first council chair.

Susan closed with news of \$43.5 Million that has been allocated to improve PSAPs. These monies would be distributed through a grant process.

State Minimum Recommended Dataset:

There was a lot of discussion regarding this topic. One member referred to a state dataset as "What can you get versus what do you want to know." It was mentioned that the dataset should be performance based.

It was mentioned that this was an individual state issue rather than one that should be decided by consensus nationally. Bob Norlen stated that the Directors asked the DMC to take this on as a project. The purpose is not to force a minimum on a state, but rather be a tool for those states that are just beginning the NEMSIS process.



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There was also some discussion on whether it would be better to expand the National dataset rather than create a state minimum.

The discussion then transitioned into a need to have a stable funding source for NEMSIS. Susan McHenry stated that she met with American Heart Association lobbyists who were interested in NEMSIS data, and that they were working with Advocates for EMS to get funding and authorization legislation. It was also mentioned that the AHA was interested in having registries for out-of-hospital/EMS cardiac arrests, STEMIs, and strokes and their need for data.

The discussion returned to the item at hand. It was suggested that this issue goes beyond the DMC, and we should involve the other councils to see what their data needs are. It was proposed that we have the other councils evaluate the template or that we survey them to determine their needs.

It was also suggested that we survey the states to see which elements are actually used for information purposes versus what elements are actually collected.

NEMSIS TAC Update:

Clay Mann and Greg Mears gave an update on what is going on with NEMSIS TAC and EMSPIC. Clay stated that they have 11 States now submitting data and should have one additional by the end of the quarter. They are hoping to have 20-22 states by the end of the year.

There have been some internal organizational changes at NEMSIS TAC, but should for the most part be transparent to everyone.

The question was raised if there is a minimum number of agencies or percentage submitting data within a state before states could begin sending data to the National repository. The answer was that there was not. As soon as a state begins receiving data, they can submit that data to NEMSIS.

Some asked about access to the National reports. At the time of the meeting, access was restricted. David Owens said that there should be access to the system by the end of the year. As of August 8, 2008, the National reports are now accessible on the NEMSIS TAC website



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www.nemsis.org. The question was raised about state-specific reports. Greg stated that he would have to get back with the group on this.

Greg spoke about the NHTSA 3.0 process and the Wiki. He mentioned that the Wiki will be kept available for comments likely through the end of the year. He also stated that the standards process will slow down version 3.0 but that it is necessary.

Greg also gave some examples of some of the results from the Wiki:

- Removal of the NHTSA Injury Matrix
- Removal of the Prior Aid section
- Reduce the number of NULL values
- Improvements are needed for:
 - Airway management documentation
 - International locations
 - Training
 - Supplies tracking
 - Performance based initiatives
 - STEMIs

Greg stated that it is necessary to add additional elements, but there would also be some removed. They are trying their best to keep the total number of elements under 500.

At this point, Bob Norlen had to leave to make the council report at the NASEMSO business meeting and several others had to leave to catch flights. The meeting was unofficially adjourned.

Adjourned at: 11:30 AM

Minutes submitted by Secretary for approval on August 13, 2008.