



## HITS Committee Meeting

April 14, 2010

3:00 PM EDT Teleconference

### Meeting Record

#### Attending:

Dia Gainor, Chair  
Mary Hedges, NASEMSO  
John Bixler (FL)  
Lee Burns (NY)

Bob Cooney (PA)  
Chip Cooper (NH)  
John Cramer (ID)  
Jim DeTienne (MT)

Rene Fechter (MD)  
Shirley Gastler (MO)  
Kathy Burke Moore (MN)  
Lindsey Narloch (ND)

#### **I. Member Reports**

- A. **SHRP 2 – L12: Training/Cert. for Traffic Incident Responders** - Kevin McGinnis was unavailable to report.
- B. **Traffic Incident Management Program for Worker Safety** – Kevin McGinnis was unavailable to report.
- C. **Toward Zero Deaths**- John Bixler referred to the “white paper” included with the meeting materials. The national strategy for this effort will entail a series of white papers to be written by national experts on various topics. Dr Nadine Levick will be producing the white paper on EMS. She will be seeking input as this is written.
- D. **NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition** – Scott Winston was unavailable to report; Dia Gainor reported that the next meeting is June 14.
- E. **SCOHTS: Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety** (Bixler/Gainor)
  - **Highway Safety Manual**- John Bixler said SCOHTS will vote on the final draft Highway Safety Manual at its April 28-30 meeting. Dia expressed concern there may be little on EMS because no one from NASEMSO was involved in the preparation of the HSM. Kathy Burke Moore said she used to be involved in this arena in her prior position with traffic safety and may be able to help.
- F. **TSAG: Transportation Safety Advancement Group** – Dia Gainor reported that TSAG will join NTIMC for a national briefing with US DOT administrators from NHTSA, RITA and FHWA. The next TSAG webinar in June will be on the emergency response at the Fort Hood shooting.
- G. **I-95 Corridor Coalition** – Gary Brown and Beth Armstrong were not available to report.

- H. **HSPV: Highway Safety Partners Venture** – Beth Armstrong had been attending the bi-monthly meetings but recently asked Mary Hedges to participate in her place. The group is comprised of national associations (highway safety-related) whose headquarters are located in the Washington, DC area. Meetings are being convened by US DOT staff. Mary was unable to participate in the March meeting because the conference line failed.
- I. **NCHRP Projects approved for FY 2011** – Dia Gainor referred to the lists of research projects (see meeting materials) and pointed out the funding available through this program. NASEMSO and HITS could benefit from learning more about this opportunity for future research opportunities related to EMS and highway safety.

## II. **Highway Mass Casualty Project Update**

<http://www.nasemsd.org/Projects/HITS/HighwayMassCasualtyReadinessProject.asp>

Dia Gainor is leading this new NASEMSO project which is being funded by NHTSA. Several members of the HITS committee are serving on the work group, along with highway safety and other EMS subject matter experts. Two deliverables will be produced: ERRA (Event Responses and Readiness Assessment) and a proof of concept for MIECE (Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements). The kick-off meeting of the Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project is April 27-28 in Salt Lake City. The draft deliverables will be presented for NASEMSO approval at the Annual Meeting, with four states to pilot ERRA in December. The project is being driven by the 2008 Mexican Hat, Utah, motor coach crash and the resultant NTSB recommendations to NASEMSO, AASHTO and FICEMS.

## III. **Federal /State Partner Interaction**

- A. **Federal** – No New Activity
- B. **State**- Member reports on partnering with state transportation/safety agencies were deferred due to lack of time.

## IV. **Legislation of Interest**

- A. NASEMSO Supports Safety Coalition Position Urging Congress to Help Cut Highway Deaths  
<http://www.nasemsd.org/Advocacy/PositionsResolutions/Supported.asp>
- B. NASEMSO Supports Passage of H.R. 2024, Commercial Motor Vehicle Advanced Safety Technology Tax Act of 2009 – Dia noted the importance of this bill is to encourage the use of safety technology. <http://www.nasemsd.org/NewsAndPublications/News/index.asp>  
[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.2024:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.2024)

- C. HR 4104 Emergency Responders Highway Safety Act of 2009 – ***No action since introduced 11/2009 (6 cosponsors added)*** <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.4104>:
- D. NHTSA's Sample State Law Banning Texting while Driving bill (Exempts ambulances) [http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/Rulemaking/Texting\\_Law\\_021910.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/Rulemaking/Texting_Law_021910.pdf) Dia noted that ambulances are exempt in the model bill, which is a concern. She expressed concerns to Drew Dawson why this sample bill was written without NASEMSO involvement, as only law enforcement was involved.

#### IV. Other Activities/Projects

- A. **Ambulance Crash Data: One State's Experience** - Lee Burns, Acting Dir, NY Bureau of EMS, introduced herself and referred participants to her power point presentation. Lee explained how she first became involved with ambulance crash data. She had historically written the EMS portion of the New York Highway Safety Plan and became aware of the need for ambulance crash data. She has also spent time with Nadine Levick on examining role of ambulance construction, and helped Nadine obtain ambulances for her original crash study. She has also been involved with ambulance crash prevention education. She has worked closely with the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain the ambulance crash data. There are just fewer than 5000 ambulance vehicles in the State of New York. In 2008 there were no fatal crashes. The data does not report accidents per vehicle miles travelled. The data shows that young male drivers are heavily represented in ambulance crashes. Chip Cooper expressed concern about the weight of items required to carry on the ambulance and how this impacts safety.
- B. **NFPA 1917 (Ambulance Standards) Update** – Mary Hedges reported that the National Fire Protection Agency formed a technical committee about a year ago to create a set of ambulance standards to be known as NFPA 1917. Sue Prentiss represents NASEMSO on the committee and was unable to attend the first three meetings. Mary attended the third meeting for Sue last month. The committee is heavily comprised of ambulance manufacturers, with a few fire and non fire EMS personnel, as well as a handful of federal officials. The NFPA 1917 standard will likely replace the KKK specifications originally created by the General Services Administration for the purchase of ambulances. Mary reported that Nadine Levick has been attending the meetings as an observer and expressed great concern that no independent automotive safety engineers are on the committee. This is likely due to the fact that committee members have to pay their own expenses to participate. The first draft of the standard will be voted upon at the next meeting of the committee in May and will then be distributed for public comment. Dia noted that a significant concern is that the patient compartment of ambulances is exempt from the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. This exemption is a result of lobbying by the National Truck Equipment Association, Ambulance Manufacturers Division. This organization represents most of the ambulance manufacturers in the United States. Mary

noted that a significant portion of the membership on the NFPA ambulance standards committee were members or staff of this organization.

## VI. **New Business/ Member Questions/Comments**

- A. **Request for member to serve on TIM Network Advisory Board** – Dia has been asked to recommend a member to serve on the TIM Network Advisory Board (see meeting materials). She indicated this is not a large demand on time, and to please send her an email if interested.
  
- B. **Proposed TRB Joint Subcommittee on Rural Roadway Safety-** Dia referred to the request (see meeting materials) and asked that anyone interested in serving on this proposed subcommittee to email her.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 ET. **Next meeting:** June 9, 3:00 pm ET.

*The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Advisor Mary Hedges.*