



HITS Committee Meeting

April 6, 2011

1:00 pm EST Teleconference

Meeting Record

Attending:

Dia Gainor, (ID) Chair
Mary Hedges, NASEMSO
Dennis Blair (AL)

Bob Cooney (PA)
Chip Cooper (NH)
Richard Rucker (OH)

Scott Winston (VA)
C. Wright Johnson (MD)
Michael Lopez (WA)

I. Highway Mass Casualty Project Update

- A. **Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE)** – The MIECE Proof of Concept was completed and submitted to NHTSA, Office of EMS in March.
- B. **EMS Incident Response & Readiness Assessment (EIRRA)** – The EIRRA pilot took place in January with 3 states and 4 regions completing the assessment and providing feedback on the tool. EIRRA was then “rolled out” to the state EMS offices at the end of January. The statewide EIRRA assessment has now been completed by 22 states with a few more expected. The results of the state assessments and the EIRRA tool will be submitted to NHTSA this month for feedback and eventual presentation to FICEMS.

II. Activities/ Projects

- A. **HITS Committee Workplan 2011**- The Executive Committee developed a standard format for Councils and Committees to use in developing *Goals and Strategic Directions*. The draft plan that accompanied today’s meeting material will be on the agenda at the May 5 HITS meeting in Annapolis for consideration and further development.
- B. **National Highway Safety Meetings** - Dia referred to the list of standing national highway safety-related meetings that accompanied today’s meeting material. The goal is to have NASEMSO representation at many of these meetings. She asked members to consider attending with expenses potentially covered by NASEMSO.
- C. **FHWA Project - EMS Role in Strategic Highway Safety Plans (SHSP)** – The FHWA recently contracted with the Red Flash Group to examine the role of EMS in strategic highway safety

planning. This is the type of project that NASEMSO could be undertaking and hopefully will be considered for in the future. A sampling of state EMS directors – those who have received significant highway funding and those who have received little to no funding -- are being interviewed for the project.

- D. Toward Zero Deaths** – Dia reported the TZD project will enter its next phase once a contractor has been selected. The EMS White Paper that NASEMSO co-authored in the earlier phase of the project is available by link on the HITS webpage. The next stage is to develop a National Strategic Plan for TZD. NASEMSO will continue to be involved.
- E. Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) Expert Panel** - Dia will be representing NASEMSO at next week's meeting to revise MMUCC, which is the guide used by law enforcement officers for standardized crash reporting. Bob Cooney suggested a modification to the definition of emergency vehicle (definition #V-11). He recommended it not be limited to emergency vehicles responding to an emergency, because Pennsylvania's data indicates there are crashes involving non-emergency ambulance calls, which should also be included. Much discussion followed as to the best way to define that element.

III. Member Reports/Standing Meetings

- A. Transportation Research Board, EMS Safety Subcommittee** – Dia attended the TRB Conference in January, which some 3000 people attended in Washington, DC. The TRB Conference hosts a multitude of transportation research meetings throughout the week. Dia attended the EMS Safety Subcommittee meeting while there. The subcommittee was supposed to develop a research statement, but unfortunately failed to deliver. The parent committee expressed a significant amount of disappointment. There should be a mid-year meeting of this subcommittee, but she has not heard of anything being scheduled.
- B. Traffic Incident Management Program for Worker Safety** – Dia reported on behalf of Kevin McGinnis who was not on the conference call. This project will yield a curriculum for first responder safety while responding to traffic incidents. The curriculum is being finalized and should be available in the next couple of months. There are other similar courses, but they tend to be geared more to law enforcement.
- C. NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition** - Scott Winston said they have not met recently as the contract for the meeting organizer ended and they are in the midst of selecting a new contractor. They are reorganizing a bit. John Corbin has been the leader of the group for several years. There are four working groups of the coalition. Dia commented the funding for the TIM Coalition may be in jeopardy, but the activities will likely continue through another entity.

- D. **SCOHTS: AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety** – Dia noted one of SCHOTS’ issues is performance measurement and a priority is to adopt a definition of “serious injury.” This is where EMS could assist.
- E. **TSAG: Transportation Safety Advancement Group** - Dia, who serves as Chair of TSAG, reported they regularly hold case study webinars. The next one will be in August and will feature a multi-vehicle crash in Florida.
- F. **Highway Safety Partners Venture (HSPV)** – Mary Hedges reported that HSPV, a coalition of public and private highway safety organizations, meets bimonthly in the Washington, DC area. Mary was able to attend the December meeting as she was in Washington for the MIECE Blue Ribbon Panel that week. It was an excellent opportunity to talk about EMS when there were high level USDOT/ FHWA administrators present. Beth Armstrong attended the February 24 meeting and reported that EMS was mentioned several times by the members.

IV. Federal/State Partner Interaction

- A. Federal – There was no further discussion on federal partner interaction.
- B. State (Examples of State EMS partnering with State Highway/Transportation)

Cyndy Wright-Johnson reported that Maryland (MIEMSS) has 402 funding for the 2nd year to implement their transition to a new EMS data collection program. Their EMSC program also has a very small highway safety grant for child transportation safety training.

Mary added that Jolene Whitney, who could not be on the call today, was pleased to report that Utah EMS office will be represented on the Utah Safety Leadership Executive Committee and the Utah Strategic Highway Safety Planning. They have also invited Jolene to their Zero Fatalities Conference, providing a stipend to cover expenses.

V. Other Business / Member Questions / Comments

The next meeting of the Committee will be in-person at the Mid-year meeting in Annapolis, Thursday, May 5, 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. EDT. It is anticipated there will be good attendance from NASEMSO members as there are no other meetings occurring during this time slot.