



## HITS Committee Meeting

December 8, 2010

3:00 pm EDT Teleconference

### Meeting Record

#### Attending:

Dia Gainor, Chair  
Mary Hedges, NASEMSO  
Robert Cooney (PA)

John Cramer (ID)  
Jim DeTienne (MT)  
Kathy B Moore (MN)

Greg Natch (MO)  
Jolene Whitney (UT)  
Scott Winston (VA)

#### Letter to NHTSA Chief Counsel

Mary Hedges reviewed the draft letter to NHTSA's Chief Counsel requesting clarification on what appears to be an exemption to crashworthiness regulations for ambulances, particularly the patient compartment. Also available was an attachment quoting from various Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards where ambulance exemptions were found. She explained the concern has been discussed in EMS circles during the past couple of years with no response from NHTSA. The letter is an attempt to obtain written confirmation or clarification from NHTSA, especially because many ambulance manufacturers dispute that exemptions exist. Kathy Burke Moore expressed disappointment that NHTSA has not taken this matter more seriously. Jim DeTienne moved and John Cramer seconded that the draft letter and attachment be forwarded to the Executive Committee requesting it be signed and sent. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Ambulance Safety Subcommittee/Work Group

The idea of forming an ambulance safety subcommittee or workgroup was discussed. Mary pointed out that the concept was mentioned at the HITS Forum at the Mid-Year Meeting when then NASEMSO President Steve Blessing suggested it. Committee members thought this should be a priority in the HITS Committee Work Plan.

#### National Highway Safety Meetings

Mary is compiling a list of national highway safety meetings that would be beneficial for NASEMSO members, particularly HITS Committee members, to attend. The list will be posted on the HITS webpage. Members who are interested in representing NASEMSO at these meetings should contact Dia or Mary to inquire about NASEMSO funding to attend. An important one that is quickly approaching is the TRB (Transportation Research Board) Annual Meeting in Washington, January 23-27. There will be a meeting of the Ambulance Transport Subcommittee on January 24. Dia is hoping to attend.

#### Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project Update

Dia reported that the MIECE Blue Ribbon Panel will convene next Monday, December 13, in Washington. This will be an important opportunity for representatives from a multi-disciplinary group to review the project and provide feedback. The other project, the EMS Incident Response and Readiness Assessment (EIRRA) was renamed (previously known as ERRA) based on recommendations from the NASEMSO Annual Meeting. The EIRRA Pilot will begin later this month and conclude in mid-January. Both projects are on schedule.

## **Member Reports**

### Toward Zero Deaths: A National Strategy

Mary indicated that the TZD Steering Committee continues to meet by conference call on this national project to plan the next steps following the August Stakeholder meeting.

### National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC)

Scott Winston reported there has been some reorganization of the TIM Coalition and the by-laws have been revised. EMS is now part of the leadership team, represented by Scott. Members congratulated Scott.

### Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety (SCHOTS)

SCHOTS has not met recently and there was nothing new to report.

### Traffic Safety Advancement Group (TSAG)

Dia informed members that TSAG will be conducting a review of real time intelligence and resource management on incident response prepared by MIT.

### I-95 Corridor Coalition

Dia commented that the Operations Director, Tom Martin, from the I-95 Corridor Coalition has participated as a member of NASEMSO's Highway Mass Casualty Work Group.

## **Federal/State Partner Interaction**

### FHWA Safety Town Hall Meeting

Randy Kuykendall participated in this "town hall" type format by teleconference where NHTSA was soliciting input regarding safety project ideas for future funding. There was significant discussion around improving safety in the over-the-road trucking industry, increasing passenger car safety features and similar ideas from a general transportation perspective. Due to the large number of call-ins and what sounded like a fairly large number of folks in the room, Randy was unable to provide any input.

### The TIM Network Responder

Dia stated that our transportation friends are asking for help in promoting this electronic newsletter in the EMS community. The *TIM Network Responder* focuses on highway incidents with an emphasis on responder safety and interoperable incident communications. One goal is to create bridges and get different disciplines to talk to each other. Jolene suggested putting the information on the listserv. Scott said he would put a link on his office's website. Information will be included in the *Washington Update*. The link to sign up for the newsletter is <http://sites.google.com/site/timnetworksite/>

### State Requirements for Licensing of Ambulance Drivers (Wisconsin)

Dia referred members to an interesting report from Wisconsin on state requirements for licensing of ambulance drivers. It was done by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and can be found at [https://www.nasemso.org/Members/Download\\_Documents/Surveys/documents/tsrambulancedrivers\\_revised.pdf](https://www.nasemso.org/Members/Download_Documents/Surveys/documents/tsrambulancedrivers_revised.pdf)

### Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS) (Florida)

Dia reported on a noteworthy project by the Florida Traffic Records Coordinating Committee. They are building an integrated highway safety information system for the analysis of traffic records events within the state, known as TREDS (Traffic Records Electronic Data System). TREDS will deliver an online query and reporting tool

connected to a data warehouse linking several existing data sets. Inter agency partnerships are in place with Florida's DOT, Highway Patrol, Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Office of Motor Carrier Compliance, the Department of Health Bureau of EMS & Trauma, and the Agency for Healthcare Administration.

**New Business / Member Questions / Comments**

Kathy Burke Moore informed the group that she has resigned her position as the Executive Director of the Minnesota EMS Regulatory Board and her last day will be January 4. She said she has enjoyed serving on the HITS Committee and the Highway Mass Casualty Project. Members wished her well and commented they will miss her involvement and her expertise in highway safety issues.

The meeting concluded at 3:42 PM EST.

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