



Rural EMS Committee

Committee
Co-chairs
Jim DeTienne
Montana

Dean Cole
Nebraska

NASEMSO Staff:
Kevin McGinnis

Members:

Alaska
Doreen Risley

Arkansas
Norajean Miles

Colorado
Randy Kuykendall
Christopher Montero

Idaho
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John Cramer

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Susan Perkins

Iowa
Kirk Schmitt

New Mexico
Samantha Griego

Nevada
Fergus Lauthridge

Oklahoma
Tim Cathey

Utah
Paul Patrick

Virginia
Gary Brown

Washington
Michael Lopez

NOSORH
Chris Tilden

NRHA
Gary Wingrove

REMSTTAC:
Nels Sanddal

ORHP – HRSA
Eileen Holloran

Rural EMS Committee Strategic Plan

The purpose of the Rural EMS Committee is to:

- Engage NASEMSO on topics relevant to rural and frontier EMS
- Provide rural input and expertise to the NASEMSO organization and executive committee
- Promote interaction and collaboration with other Rural EMS partners

*The following are short and long term projects of the committee. Members of the committee meet regularly to prioritize goals, objectives and tasks. Ongoing activities and discussions are conducted through the ****NASEMSORuralEMS Google group****.*

Committee Projects

Workforce Resources for State Offices

All states are struggling with workforce issues and the development and implementation of strategies to solve recruitment and retention is time consuming and expensive. Many states have already implemented excellent programs, funding strategies and legislation which and the committee feels that the collection of such efforts in a Workforce Resources for State Offices document or web presence would be helpful to Association members.

Project Goals:

- Partner with similar efforts being conducted by NOSORH
- Determine what types of information will be collected
- Develop a survey instrument and distribute to all states and territories
- Determine the best format(s) for distribution of this information and implement

Wildfire EMS Resource Utilization

Rural states, in particular, are affected annually with catastrophic wildfires that require the deployment of vast resources to battle and mitigate loss of lives and property from these events. While there are standardized processes for the typing and deployment of most resources utilized for such fires, guidelines for medical response are incomplete and inconsistent. As such, the health and safety of personnel at wildfire locations is at risk. As such, the committee will continue to engage federal agencies, rural states and others in dialogue and development of process to standardize medical response at future wildfires.

Project Goals:

- Engage the Association on this issue and initiate a resolution calling for all federal agencies and others engaged with wildfires to come together and resolve policy issues surrounding medical response such events. (done)
- Facilitate and participate in discussions as necessary.
- Facilitate the development of standardized wildfire medical response policy.
- Distribute and education Association members of all such discussions and policies.

Medical Director Education for Rural Medical Directors

As a foundation of all EMS system development, medical oversight of all aspects of a system is a key element. However, the education and support for medical direction in rural states is hampered by a lack of physicians with limited time. Additionally, there are a lack of education opportunities, mentorship programs and other strategies to help rural medical directors to become knowledgeable and effective with EMS system development. This committee will partner and engage the Medical Director Council and others in strategies to development more effective medical direction in rural states.



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Project Goals:

- Partner with the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation, Medical Director Council, pilot states and others with the development and implementation of a web-based medical director education course.

EMS 101 for State EMS Directors and Offices of Rural Health Policy

As part of the committee's partnership with NOSORH, several state directors participated in an EMS 101 workshop in Kansas City in 2007. The primary goal of this workshop was to bring members of both parties together to learn about each other's programs and missions and to find ways to partner with each other on common goals. While a very successful program, there currently is not a firm strategy for the continued implementation of this program.

Project Goals:

- Seek funding and logistical support for implementation of additional workshops in 2008.
- Seek Executive Committee support for 2009 funding in the Association's 2009 strategic plan.

EMS Performance Improvement Academy

In late 2007, the North Central EMS Institute conducted a week long EMS-PIA workshop which engaged paramedics from around the country about how to conduct EMS research. From the very inception of EMS system development, research has been a primary component. As many rural states have or are developing quality EMS data systems, the education of EMS providers on how to utilize such data to evaluate and build accountable EMS systems may be key to our future. Therefore, the committee will engage NCEMSI and others with strategies to educate and support EMS research in our rural systems.

Project Goals:

- Survey Association members and other organization for examples of EMS research education programs.
- Engage the Data Managers and EMS Training Coordinator's Councils on EMS Research education.
- Promote the continued implementation of such programs through organizations such as NCEMSI and in academic institutions which provide EMS education.

Rural Ambulance Service Budget Model

The Rural Ambulance Service Budget Model provides a management tool that enables a service to enter known financial information into a simple, preprogrammed spreadsheet. Once information is entered, a budget is automatically calculated which can be used to better manage limited funds and plan for improved financial management of the service. Additionally, the budget model is able to help calculate the 'value of a volunteer EMS system' which could be useful for local and state justification of workforce, funding and other strategies.

Project Goals:

- Education and inform states and services on the availability of the budget model
- Research methods and funding which may help utilization of the budget model by local services, especially in rural systems.
- Consider a project to collate and publish budget information in a region or state such that it can be utilized by other rural systems to demonstrate to policy makers and the public the 'value of EMS volunteerism'.



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Other Committee Strategies

IOM Report – Strategies for Rural EMS

In June 2006, the Institute of Medicine released *Emergency Medical Services At the Crossroads*. This report, as well as the two accompanying reports relative to emergency room and pediatrics, addresses numerous rural issues. Members of this committee will liaison and participate with other committees, councils and organizations to help assure that the voice of 'rural' is a part of any discussion and strategies relative to these reports.

Strategies:

- o Liaison with a NASEMSO IOM committee if it is formed.

Education for Rural EMS Providers

One of the most significant challenges to the recruitment and retention of rural EMS providers is overcoming barriers to their initial and ongoing education. Utilization of distance learning and other technological strategies to effectively meet the needs of rural EMS providers may be key to the workforce needs of rural states which will continue to rely on volunteers in their most rural and frontier communities. However, many communities which are implementing such programs and learning by trial and error how such programs can effectively provide quality education.

Strategies:

- o Engage and partner with the Training Coordinators Council and others on strategies for implementing technology EMS education 'best practices'.

Partnership with the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) - EMS Committee

One of the most active NOSORH committees, the EMS task force has developed active partnerships at a regional, national, and international level. The committee explores positions relative to emergency medical services and is active in several projects including EMT 101 (a learning session for State Offices of Rural Health and EMS to come together); NHTSA Workforce for the 21st Century; NHTSA/HRSA EMS Education Standards and an EMS electronic medical record project.

Strategies:

- o Participate in NOSORH EMS Committee conference calls and appropriate meetings
- o Facilitate combined NASEMSO/NOSORH/NRHA to coordinate common activities within each of these organizations (quarterly or semi-annually as appropriate)
- o Continue to invite and facilitate NOSORH participation in NASEMSO conference calls, meetings and projects

Partnership with the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) – EMS Issue Group

The rural/frontier EMS issue group explores relevant policy and regulatory positions for NRHA; seek to foster new membership and participation from the EMS community; and provides input to NRHA in the development of the Rural/Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future. This issue group actively tracks regulatory and legislative issues relative to rural EMS and has also been actively studying implementation of paramedicine strategies.

Strategies:

- o Educate and encourage membership of NASEMSO members to the NRHA EMS issues group such that it can become a constituency group within NRHA
- o Participate in discussions relative the potential for community paramedicine
- o Continue to invite and facilitate NRHA participation in NASEMSO conference calls, meetings and projects

National Association of *Rural EMS* State EMS Officials *Committee*



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Partnership with the Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) – HRSA

The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) promotes better health care service in rural America. Located in the Health Resources and Services Administration, Congress has charged ORHP with informing and advising the Department of Health and Human Services on matters affecting rural hospitals and health care, coordinating activities within the department that relate to rural health care, and maintaining a national information clearinghouse.

Strategies:

- Continue to invite and facilitate ORHP participation in NASEMSO conference calls, meetings and projects

Partnership with the Rural Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Technical Assistance Center (REMSTTAC)

REMSTTAC serves as a national focal point for the dissemination of information on rural and frontier emergency medical services (EMS) and trauma care. The website and other resources of the REMSTTAC can be accessed by a broad range of rural and frontier EMS providers including federal grant recipients, state EMS and rural health offices, and their constituencies including rural hospitals and communities.

Strategies:

- Support funding and support for the REMSTTAC center
- Continue to invite and facilitate REMSTTAC participation in NASEMSO conference calls, meetings and projects

Partnership with the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium

<http://www.ruraltraining.org/>

The nation's rural emergency responders face unique challenges when compared to their urban counterparts. In recognizing the need for consistent, quality training which addresses those challenges, Congress and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC or the Consortium) to develop and deliver relevant all-hazards training in support of rural homeland security requirements.

Strategies:

- Participate as a member of the consortium's advisory board
Represented by Norajean Miles, Arkansas

Research potential liaison and/or partnerships with other organizations with rural EMS interests, including:

- National Native American EMS Association (<http://www.heds.org/nnaemsa.htm>)
- National Volunteer Fire Council (<http://nvfc.org>)
- National Association of County and City Public Health Officers (<http://www.naccho.org/>)
- National Council of State Legislators (<http://www.ncsl.org/>)