



Highway Incident and Transportation Systems (HITS) Committee Meeting

August 12, 2020

3:00 PM EDT

Meeting Record

Attending – David Newton (Chair), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Hannah Degn (NASEMSO), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), David Harden (AZ), Dale Adkerson (OK), Sue Morris (OH), Dr. Carol Cunningham (OH), Dr. Douglas Kupas (PA), Billie Collier (MS), Frank Cheatham (VA), Erica Kane (OR), Tim Seplaki (NJ), Josh Walters (Biospatial), Dave Zaiman (Biospatial), Cory Hohs (HAAS alert), John (HAAS Alert), Gamunu Wijetunge (NHTSA), Dave Bryson (NHTSA), Dr. Jeffrey Jarvis (presenter)

Welcome and Roll Call – David Newton called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM EDT.

Review & Approval of April 8th Meeting Record (attached) – A motion was made by Dr. Carol Cunningham and seconded by David Harden to approve the April 8th minutes. The motion passed.

NHTSA Update - Gam Wijetunge reported NHTSA is very involved in COVID-19 activities. They are also currently engaged in two projects with NASEMSO—the Prehospital Pain Management Evidence Based Guideline and the EMS Workforce Project.

Red Lights and Sirens for Emergency Ambulance Response: How Often are Potentially Life-Saving Interventions Performed? – Dr. Jeffrey Jarvis presented findings from his recently published paper. See <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10903127.2020.1797963>

Because EMS response with Red Lights & Sirens (RLS) is associated with increased collisions, injuries, and only marginal time savings, their goal was to describe the proportion of RLS responses with potentially lifesaving (PLSI) interventions, by call nature. Using the ESO dataset, 1/1/18 – 12/31/18, they did a retrospective descriptive analysis of all 911 responses to the scene (excluding those with missing call nature or no patient contact). They defined potentially lifesaving intervention (PLSI) as “any intervention which might, according to standard clinical guidelines, be considered necessary to reverse a critical condition or rapidly improve hemodynamic stability”. They found that RLS response to scene is common (86%) but the percent of those involving potentially lifesaving interventions was rare (7%). They also found that RLS response can likely be safely targeted to call nature.

David Harden asked Dr. Jarvis if he and his colleagues have discussed developing a national standard for RLS? Dr. Jarvis noted the challenge in establishing a standard when the determination is often by those making the 911 call and what type of EMD is used by dispatch. He believes it is a QA issue. They plan to set a threshold for RLS. David Newton asked if they do a sub-analysis based on whether there were EMTs or paramedics on the response. Dr. Jarvis said they did not, but they included BLS interventions in their PLSIs. Dr. Kupas commented that in the NHTSA monograph, it suggested that RLS could safely be used in 50% of calls, although his own service is at 20%. Dr. Jarvis reminded people to consider the NEMSQA RLS performance measure. David Newton thanked Dr. Jarvis for sharing his study with the HITS Committee.

Project and Committee Updates

- USDOT First Responder V2X Pilot Program – Dia Gainor reported the USDOT Secretary Chow announced this pilot program in January but she has not heard anything further. Dave Bryson shared he had no further information on this project, but the topic is a priority at USDOT. Cory Hohs shared that the vendors have been waiting to submit their applications but have heard nothing from USDOT. For more information on the pilot project, see https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/first_responder_safety_technology_pilot_program011620.pdf
- Transportation Safety Advancement Group – Dia is currently the chair of this group which is focused on providing technical advice in the area of the intelligent transportation systems. They are currently looking at the interaction of transportation centers which are integrated with PSAPs.
- Road to Zero Coalition – Dia advised this coalition is in its final year of funding. She is a member of one of three working groups.
- TIM Executive Leaders Group – Dia said they she partners with David Harden in representing NASEMSO in this group. The upcoming meeting will likely be virtual.
- Safe Transport of Children Crash Test Project – Jim Green, Project Manager, was not available to report. Mary Hedges said the project is still alive but has been largely inactive due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- AVL Committee / Ambulance Standards Update – Dale Adkerson reported the committee has been working to create an ambulance inspection form that could be used by state agencies. They learned at the last meeting that NFPA intends to combine the ambulance standard 1917 with other standards. There will be a public comment period for the proposed change.
- Traffic Records Forum – David Newton reported that he was able to attend a couple of the sessions this week due to the meeting being held virtually.

Collaboration between State Highway Safety Officials and State EMS Officials

David Harden shared that they are developing a virtual training program for TIM in Arizona. Their TIM Coalition has added a standard for fatalities and non-fatality struck-by events.

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Seplaki and seconded by Dr. Cunningham. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 PM EDT.

Next Meeting – October 14

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