



**HITS Committee Meeting**  
August 10, 2011  
3:00 P.M. EDT Teleconference

**Meeting Record**

**Attending:**

Dennis Blair, Chair (AL)  
Dean Cole (NE)  
Chip Cooper (NH)

John Cramer (ID)  
Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)  
Scott Winston (VA)

Cindy Wright-Johnson (MD)

- I. **Welcome** - Dennis Blair called the meeting to order and thanked participants for joining the call. He asked if anyone had corrections to the June 8 meeting record. Scott Winston noted that on page 1, numeral 3, item D, *representing* should be changed to *presenting*.
- II. **FICEMS Response to EIRRA/ MIECE** - Mary Hedges reported that the Federal Inter-Agency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) was pleased with EIRRA and MIECE when Dia Gainor presented the project in June. The next step is to deliver EIRRA and MIECE to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), as these tools were created in response to the NTSB's recommendations following the Mexican Hat motor coach crash. Dia will be presenting EIRRA and MIECE to the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) in September.
- III. **NCHRP Synthesis Project, *Models for Effective Emergency Response within Golden Hour*** – Mary Hedges reported that the Transportation Research Board, through its National Cooperative Highway Research Program, has announced a \$40,000 project to synthesize information on effective models of EMS response in rural crashes. Pending approval from the Executive Committee, Dia will be submitting a letter of interest this month on behalf of NASEMSO. Mary noted it is encouraging to see the recognition that EMS is an important component in highway safety.
- IV. **Recent Meetings of Interest**
  - A. **FHWA Stakeholders, June 23-24, Enhancing EMS Participation in SHSP (Strategic Highway Safety Plan)** – Scott Winston, who was one of several state EMS officials attending, said the purpose of the meeting was to determine how to build bridges between state EMS and highway officials. They discussed how to convey the importance of EMS to highway safety planners. Dennis Blair reported the meeting was worthwhile, adding that EMS currently is the smallest E of the 4 E's, but hopefully that will change.
  - B. **TZD Webinar on EMS, July 29** – Dean Cole participated in the TZD webinar, which was a mixture of highway, public health, engineer-types. He said it was a good mix of people. There was some concern from a participating firefighter that fire was not included in the TZD leadership effort.

- C. TRB Rural Roadway Safety Joint Subcommittee, July 25, Orlando – Mary Hedges gave a brief presentation on EIRRA and MIECE at this TRB subcommittee, which met in conjunction with the Low Volume Roads Conference. She was urged by the subcommittee chair to explore presenting at the TRB Annual Meeting in January.

#### V. **Member Reports/Standing Meetings**

- A. Transportation Research Board, EMS Safety Subcommittee - Carol Cunningham, who serves on this committee, was not able to join the call. Mary Hedges said that the subcommittee will be holding its EMS Safety Summit on December 12. Dr. Cunningham plans to attend if travel support can be arranged.
- B. NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition - Scott Winston, who is a member of the NTIMC leadership team, reported they will meet next week. They plan to develop and host a webinar for the purpose of gathering and identifying priorities and current traffic incident management activities. They will then develop a needs assessment survey. There has been a reduction in activity by the Coalition due to a delay in renewing a contract but he is hopeful that the Coalition will soon return to its previous level of involvement.
- C. SCOHTS: AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety - Dean Cole reported that he and Dia attended a SCOHTS meeting in Austin, TX, in June. Several highway attendees approached them asking how to get their state EMS officials involved. In Nebraska, Dean enjoys a strong working relationship with his state highway safety counterparts and they have provided funding assistance for his EMS and trauma data systems.
- D. TSAG: Transportation Safety Advancement Group – Mary reported on behalf of Dia Gainor, who chairs TSAG. They will be rolling out the white paper on “Next Generation 911: What’s Next?” later this month at the National Rural Intelligence Transportation Systems Conference.
- E. MMUCC: Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria Expert Panel – Mary reported for Dia Gainor, who serves on the MMUCC Panel. Dia was unable to convince the panel to include an ambulance diagram on the crash report, which currently contains 7 diagrams of various vehicles. Dia will continue to advocate for the ambulance vehicle data at the next meeting of the panel. Cindy Wright-Johnson reported there has been a struggle trying to obtain ambulance crash information in Maryland and such data would be extremely helpful.
- F. Highway Safety Partners Venture (HSPV) – The next meeting of the HSPV is September 15.
- G. Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) – Mary said that Dolly Fernandes (WA) serves on the TZD Panel and she and Dia are on the Steering Committee. The TZD effort is underway and there are plans to conduct another national meeting.

- VI. **HITS Meeting, October 4, 3-5 PM, NASEMSO Annual Meeting, Madison, WI** – Dennis Blair said that Jim Green from CDC/NIOSH will be attending the HITS Committee at the Annual Meeting. Jim has done a great deal of work on ambulance crash safety. He will be speaking at the NASEMSO conference on the work of the NFPA 1917, Ambulance Standards Technical Committee. Dennis asked for other ideas for the HITS agenda in October. Dean and Scott

suggested identifying specific, achievable steps that the Committee can undertake. Dennis reminded the group that he agreed to chair the Committee until the Annual Meeting and he is looking for a state director who would be willing to chair the committee. Several members urged Dennis to continue in the role.

VII. **Federal/State Partner Interaction (Examples of State EMS partnering with Hwy/Transp)** – Dennis recommended including a discussion on this topic on the October meeting agenda.

VIII. **Other Business / Member Questions / Comments** – Mary pointed out that state EMS officials can be sponsored by their state highway safety offices to participate in the SCOHTS-Safety Management meeting to be held in Cincinnati, in conjunction with the Governor’s Highway Safety Administrators (GHSA) Annual Meeting, September 28-30. Each state highway office may bring 3 state officials; one of those can be from the state EMS office.

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