



HITS Committee Meeting

June 8, 2011

3:00 P.M. EDT Teleconference

Meeting Record

Attending:

Dennis Blair, Chair (AL)
John Cramer (ID)
Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)

Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)
Susan McHenry (NHTSA)
Scott Winston (VA)

Cindy Wright-Johnson (MD)

- I. **Welcome** - Dennis Blair called the meeting to order and thanked participants for joining the call.
- II. **Comments from NASEMSO Executive Director** - Dia Gainor said she intends to continue attending the HITS meetings because she has been assigned a number of tasks related to highway safety in her new role as Executive Director. She will remain the NASEMSO liaison to several highway safety-related organizations (TSAG, SCOHTS, TZD). Also, she is staffing the Data Managers Council, and records linkage is a topic that crosses over with that council. She will inquire with the states as to who has a linkage with crash records.
- III. **Proposed Goals and Strategic Directions – Finalizing the NASEMSO HITS Work Plan** - Dennis pointed out that while the Committee reviewed the draft work plan at the May meeting in Annapolis, he would like to get any additional feedback and finalize it today. The goals listed below were discussed.
 - A. Goal #1. Increase NASEMSO representation at national highway safety-related meetings.
 - B. Goal #2. Recruit and engage HITS members to serve as active NASEMSO liaisons to various highway safety-related national committees and organizations.
 - C. Goal #3. Educate State EMS Offices on effective collaboration with their respective state highway safety counter parts. Dennis suggested adding a task of identifying some ideas for funding EMS. Susan McHenry added that people realize now that NEMSIS has given an opportunity for state EMS and highway safety offices to collaborate. MIECE and EIRRA, which may be of interest from FHWA, could be another opportunity for joint efforts. Susan also recommended that EMS officials participate in collaboration without regard to funding opportunities.
 - D. Goal #4. Complete a state by state assessment of the EMS system's capacity to respond to mass casualty incidents on the nation's roadways, using the newly developed EIRRA tool. (Completed) Develop a summary to promote EIRRA as a preparedness assessment tool for all types of MCIs. Dennis pointed out that 28 states have completed EIRRA and he questioned if the Committee should continue to push other states to complete the statewide assessment. Susan McHenry advised to wait because NHTSA presented EIRRA and MIECE to the FICEMS Preparedness Committee on June 3 and will be representing it to FICEMS at its July 12 meeting.

- E. Goal # 5. Promote the concept of a model inventory for EMS similar to the model inventories of highway partners (MIRE, MMUCC, etc).
- F. PARKED - Form an Ambulance Safety Subcommittee or Work group – Mary said this was discussed in the past and she added it here to see if the committee felt it should undertake this in the future.

IV. **Upcoming National Meetings of Interest** – Dennis reviewed some upcoming national meetings of interest and referred to the attachments that were included with today’s meeting materials.

- A. FHWA Stakeholders, June 23-24, Enhancing EMS Participation in SHSP – Dennis said that he, Steve Blessing, Scott Winston, Dia Gainor and Susan McHenry will be attending this meeting in Washington later this month. One of the goals is to determine how to better integrate EMS representation into strategic highway safety planning at the state level.
- B. Traffic Records Forum, July 31 – Aug. 3, Charlotte, NC – Dennis encouraged people to consider attending the Traffic Records Forum. He asked his highway safety office if they would pay for his travel to this meeting, and they agreed to include it in his grant contract. Susan said they have been holding a NEMESIS session at this meeting every year.
- C. TZD Webinar Series, June 2 – 20 – Dennis encouraged members to sign up for the Toward Zero Deaths webinars being held this month.

V. **Member Reports/Standing Meetings**

- A. Transportation Research Board, EMS Safety Subcommittee - Carol Cunningham was not able to join the teleconference today but intends to become involved in this TRB subcommittee. Mary indicated that she recently learned from the Chair, Nadine Levick, that the EMS Safety Subcommittee will hold its summit in December.
- B. NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition - Scott Winston said the Coalition has not met since mid-December but they have a teleconference next week. There have been limitations on contractor support which has and may continue to impact what the Coalition does.
- C. SCOHTS: AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety - Dia Gainor said SCHOTS meets next week in Austin, Texas, and she will attend. The major item on their agenda is adoption of their strategic plan. She was asked to lead a discussion about injury data.
- D. TSAG: Transportation Safety Advancement Group - Dia Gainor said TSAG will be meeting by teleconference on June 29. They expect to be ratifying the Next Generation 911. They will be meeting in person in August at the NRITS conference in Idaho.
- E. Highway Safety Partners Venture (HSPV) – Mary Hedges reported that Beth Armstrong will be attending the next meeting of the Highway Safety Partners Venture, as it is the same day as the FHWA Stakeholders meeting on June 23.
- F. Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) - Dia said there is a conference call on Monday on the EMS White Paper that was written last year as a part of this effort. A new contractor was recently hired for the next stage of this project and has taken a while to get up and running.

VI. **Federal/State Partner Interaction (Examples of State EMS partnering with Hwy/Transp)** – Dennis said that Alabama has an e-crash and e-ticket web-based program, where a report can be seen as it is submitted. The Alabama TRCC is developing an interface with his EMS system. They are going to build a linkage with the trauma database. Dia reported that Dean Cole used Dennis’s Traffic Records Forum memo to take to his highway safety office and they have since made him a member of their Strategic Highway Safety Planning Team in Nebraska.

- VII. **Other Business / Member Questions / Comments** – Dia reported that she learned yesterday on a conference call with the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (sister administration to NHTSA) that several initiatives underway in FMCSA's technology program developing, testing and deploying innovative commercial vehicle, driver, and roadside technologies may be of benefit to the EMS industry. (FMCSA deals only with commercial trucking and motor coaches under its legislative mandate.) Dia asked Mr. Jeff Loftus, FMCSA Technology Division Chief, how EMS might benefit from this research and deployment; he invited Dia to meet with him offline, which she will be following up on in the near future.

Meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.