



## HITS Committee Meeting

October 4, 2011

Hilton Monona Terrace

Madison, Wisconsin

### Meeting Record

#### Attending:

Dennis Blair, Chair (AL)  
Chris Bell (VT)  
Jay Bradshaw (ME)  
Dr. Charles Cady (WI)  
Dean Cole (NE)  
Robert Cooney (PA)  
John Corbin (WI DOT)

Dr Carol Cunningham(OH)  
Wayne Denny (ID)  
Jim DeTienne (MT)  
Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)  
James Green (NIOSH)  
Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)  
Pat Irwin (NV)

Susan McHenry (NHTSA)  
Dr. Samar Muzaffar (MO)  
Aaron Reinert (NEMSMA)  
Donna Tidwell (TN)  
Jolene Whitney (UT)

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Dennis Blair, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves. Dennis announced a change to the agenda in order to provide an update on the NFPA 1917 Ambulance Standards process currently underway. He introduced Aaron Reinert, an ambulance director from Minnesota, who serves on the NFPA 1917 Committee.
  
- II. **NFPA 1017 Ambulance Standards Update** – Aaron Reinert provided background on the NFPA’s process for developing a new ambulance standard, known as NFPA 1917. Aaron represents the National EMS Managers Association (NEMSMA) on the NFPA 1917 Technical Committee. Sue Prentiss represents NASEMSO and Jay Bradshaw has recently been appointed to replace Mary Hedges as NASEMSO’s alternate. Aaron explained that the NFPA 1917 standard was meant to replace the GSA’s KKK purchasing specifications for ambulances, which were never intended to be a standard. Aaron wanted to bring to NASEMSO’s attention a recent development in the standard setting process which is concerning. He and several other committee members had voted to immediately take the standard back into the revision process in order to facilitate the safety changes that many safety-conscious committee members want to include. They had previously understood that they would be able to expedite the safety changes, but have recently learned that the NFPA will not allow the standard to go back into revision for a minimum of 3 years, which means it would be several more years before the desired standards could be incorporated. The Committee will meet next week and he hopes to be able to address the matter, but wanted to make NASEMSO aware of this concern.
  
- III. **Activities Related to EMS/Ambulance Safety** - James Green, CDC/NIOSH, provided an overview of his activities related to EMS Worker Safety.
  - A. **Surveillance of EMS Injuries/Illnesses Project** – Collaborative effort between NHTSA and NIOSH collecting data over a four year period (2010 – 2014) with a goal of describing the occupational illnesses and injuries occurring to EMS workers. A paper was published in *Prehospital Emergency Care* that summarizes the data gathered to date. **Contact: Audrey Reichard, (304)285-6019, AReichard@cdc.gov**

- B. Ambulance Specs and Crash Safety Standards** – Funded by DHS, this project is focused on seating and worker restraints, litter and patient restraints, equipment mounting, patient compartment integrity, EMS worker anthropometry, interior delethalization, patient compartment arrangement, and human performance/tolerance definition. GSA is a partner with NIOSH on this project. They intend to validate the proposed AMD standards through full scale testing. The goal is to include these in the 2<sup>nd</sup> revision of the NFPA 1917 standard. (Jim is also a member of the NFPA 1917 Technical Committee and had started developing ambulance safety standards before the NFPA 1917 standard setting process began.)  
**Contact: Jim Green, 304-285-5857, [jgreen@cdc.gov](mailto:jgreen@cdc.gov)**
- C. NIST-DHS Human Factors Project** – This is a 3-phase research project being performed by team of engineers and behavioral scientists for DHS on the human factors involved in EMS professional performance and safety requirements. Jim would like NASEMSO's help in the human factors engineering project to better understand the tasks of EMS workers. He requested that NASEMSO identify a liaison to interact with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) team members. Jim DeTienne inquired about the time and travel commitment involved. Jim Green said that much of the work would be by phone. **Contacts:**  
**Jennifer Marshall (301) 975-3396, [Jennifer.Marshall@NIST.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Marshall@NIST.gov)**  
**Larry Avery (919) 522-5661, DHS Contractor, [LAVery@dandp.com](mailto:LAVery@dandp.com)**
- D. EMS Worker Anthropometry Project** – This project will collect human sizing data from EMS specific population, both males and females, various ethnicities. They will build on successful sizing efforts previously completed for firefighters, truck drivers and farm workers. Jim requested NASEMSO establish a liaison to interact with the NIOSH team members on this project. **Contact: Jinhua Guan, Ph.D., (304)285-6333, [JGuan@cdc.gov](mailto:JGuan@cdc.gov)**

*[Note: Following the HITS meeting, Richard "Chip" Cooper was appointed to represent NASEMSO on the NIST Human Factors Project and the EMS Worker Anthropometry Project.]*

### Member Reports/Standing Meetings

- A. Transportation Research Board, EMS Safety Subcommittee** - Carol Cunningham reported that the EMS Safety Subcommittee Summit has been re-scheduled for February 29 and she intends to participate.
- B. NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition** – Scott Winston, NASEMSO's representative to NTIMC, was unable to attend today's meeting. John Corbin reported that this multi-disciplinary national coalition has developed a course on responder safety and is now developing a train-the-trainer course. They are developing a research agenda regarding worker safety, as well as a national traffic incident responder struck by/near miss data base.
- C. NCHRP - Models for Effective Emergency Response within Golden Hour** - Dia Gainor reported that this is the first time that the NCHRP has funded an EMS-specific project. Dean Cole, Jim DeTienne and Dia are serving on the oversight panel which will meet on October 14 to select a contractor for the project.
- D. SCOHTS: AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety** - Dia Gainor reported that SCOHTS met last week and she presented EIRRA and MIECE to them.
- E. TSAG: Transportation Safety Advancement Group** - Dia chairs this group which is a sister organization to NTIMC. Their goal is to identify how technology can improve the safety of scene responders. TSAG recently issued a white paper on next generation 911.

- F. **MMUCC: Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria Expert Panel** – Dia serves as the NASEMSO representative on this panel. An area of concern is the diagrams that depict the seating location of a victim in the vehicle. It includes many different vehicles except for ambulances. Dia has been advocating adding an ambulance diagram, but has been unsuccessful to date. She was told there are too few deaths in ambulance crashes to warrant the additional data elements. She will continue to push for inclusion of the ambulance diagram.
- G. **Highway Safety Partners Venture (HSPV)** – Beth Armstrong was not present to report. Mary will post the minutes of this committee on the HITS web page.
- H. **Toward Zero Deaths (TZD)** – Mary Hedges reported that Dolly Fernandes serves on the NCHRP committee overseeing the contractor work. There will be a guest speaker on the TZD project during Thursday's luncheon.
- I. **Governor's Highway Safety Conference** – Dia, Clay Mann and Greg Mears served on a data linkage panel at the national conference last week and were well received by the attendees.

#### IV. **Other Business / Member Questions / Comments**

Dennis asked the attendees if there is anything more the committee could do to communicate. The HITS Committee presently meets every other month by conference call. Dean Cole said he felt the meeting schedule was good and meetings were helpful and informative.

Dia announced that NASEMSO has partnered with other highway safety organizations in sponsoring a traveling exhibit booth which includes handouts about NASEMSO's activities related to highway safety. This is an important opportunity for NASEMSO exposure at various highway safety conferences, and will help educate our highway safety colleagues about EMS.

Jolene Whitney said the state highway safety office in Utah reached out to the EMS Bureau to participate in the Strategic Highway Safety Planning process, and the cooperation between their offices continues to grow. They are including an EMS track in their Toward Zero Deaths Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 P.M.

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