NASEMSO Data Managers Council

Webex / Conference Call

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

2:30 PM (EDT)

State Participation
23 states represented (some states had multiple representatives)

Other Representation
Susan McHenry / Drew Dawson (NHTSA)
Dr. Mann / Karen Jacobson (NEMSIS TAC)
Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)
Chris Handley (Department of Defense/Navy)

Please note: The number of states represented on the DMC call is an approximate number as some representatives may have come on the call after attendance was taken at the beginning of the call; and/or left the call before attendance was called at the end before the voting took place. There were some state representatives on the webex during the meeting that may not have been on or didn't answer when attendance was taken. Attendance was taken by states represented not by individual names. Individual names of those signed onto the webex are available. There are 23 known states that were represented.

East Region - 9 of 17 states represented
North Central Region - 5 of 12 states represented
South Central - 3 of 11 states represented
West Region - 6 of 16 states represented

The webex / conference call started at 2:30pm (EDT).

The attendees on the June 21 Data Managers Council webex/call were briefed about the motion that was made by one of the regional representatives for State Directors during the June 9 NASEMSO Executive Committee call - the motion to delay the release of the NEMSIS version 3.0 by at least 18 months and complete a new MOU for the complete rollout for NEMSIS v3.0. The recommendation from the NASEMSO Executive Committee was for the Data Managers Council to discuss and make a recommendation to bring back to Executive Committee.

The attendees on the Data Managers Council call were also briefed on the three Data Managers Council concerns (customization, vendor implementation, and funding) that were shared with the Executive Committee by the DMC Chair during the June 9 call.

Following the briefing, the attendees on the Data Managers Council call were encouraged to discuss any other issues, concerns, or questions that needed to be addressed for NEMSIS 3.0. It was explained that all issues, concerns, questions needed to voiced so they could be addressed and recommendations could be taken back to the Executive Committee. There was

further discussion and questions on areas already identified. There was an update from the DMC representative that attended the June 8 and June 9 meeting with NEMSIS TAC and a select group of vendors where some of the DMC concerns were discussed.

During the June 21 DMC webex / call, Dr. Mann presented information targeted toward the DMC concerns. The presentation covered information about customization, vendor implementation, funding, and release of Version 3.0. There was additional discussion from the group during the presentation.

Dr. Mann explained that in regards to the customization concerns, states will be able to add elements outside the NEMSIS standard and extend the value of a NEMSIS element (must roll up to an existing value). There was some discussion on how it will work if states are not able to add values to a data element that do not roll back up to an existing NEMSIS V3 value. Some states indicated that they will only be using the NEMSIS V3 standard but many states indicated the need to customize.

In regards to Vendor Implementation, there will be 2 paths to NEMSIS compliance. One path will be for vendors to offer a combined V2-V3 product so both V2 and V3 can be supported. The other path will be vendors that offer a stand alone V3 product; this would be for new vendors that do not currently have a V2 product. There was discussion on how long vendors would support both versions if they have a V2-V3 product – should support as long as NEMSIS TAC accepts data in the current Version 2. It was recommended by the DMC that vendors communicate with each state office before upgrading an EMS agency to make sure the state office accepts V3 data; and to find out about each states' implementation plan. Some states explained that they need to see all of the V3 products before defining their state implementation plan to transition to 3.0 and agencies will need time to transition. Some of the pros to supporting V2-V3 are to remove the possibility of coercion, allow for staggered V3 implementation, and ensure consistency in data collection. Some of the cons of supporting V2-V3 are maintenance of 2 parallel datasets, complicates data reporting, and creates relaxed approach to migration to V3.

There was discussion on how states can assure that a vendor meets the states customization needs since the national testing will only include compliance with the national standard and not each states customized needs. One state shared that the state and/or EMS agencies should put in their contract with the vendor that the vendor software must be compliant with the states requirements (with more details). Some states currently have their own testing process in addition to the national compliance process; however, not all states have enough resources to do the same.

There are currently 82 software developers that completed the NEMSIS compliance testing for Version 2.0. This number will probably be drastically reduced with Version 3.0.

In regards to funding, Susan McHenry explained that 408 funding is available for the current year but not sure whether that program will be reauthorized. It is important for NEMSIS 3.0 to move to HL7 and through the ANSII process to be recognized by the Health Information Technology community as a standard. Showing meaningful use of the data will open up a new avenue for states and agencies in Health Information Technology. Version 3.0 has been taken through the standards process in order to open the system up to new sources of funding.   The Health Information Technology group has billions of dollars which is for electronic patient records.

Dr. Mann discussed the schedule for the release of V3 Products:
- o The First Release of Implementation Phase is scheduled for July 21
  - Data Dictionaries (developer and provider versions)
  - D and E XSDs
  - "Suggested lists" associated with related elements
  - RXNorm medication list, GNIS codes, etc.
  - Sample XML file with clinical data
  - Documentation regarding header use
  - Documentation regarding Not/Neg/Null use

- o Second Release of Implementation Phase (within a month after First Release)
  - Business Rules (National Schematron file)
  - Compliance testing Plan and Procedures
  - Web Services Portal (test sample files)
  - New Web Services API and WSDL

- o Compliance Testing to begin October 2011

The NEMSIS TAC will be hosting a vendor (software developers) meeting in August 2011.

The DMC discussed the June 9 motion and further recommendations. Of the 20 states present towards the end of the call when recommendations were discussed, 19 states did not support the recommendation to delay the release of the NEMSIS Version 3.0. One state abstained from voting.

The recommendation to extend the time frame that the NEMSIS TAC will accept NEMSIS Version 2.2.1 was supported by several states. The current time frame is December 31, 2014; after December 31, 2014, the NEMSIS TAC will no longer accept version 2.2.1 data from states; they will only accept NEMSIS 3.0. Some states did not support the recommendation to extend the time frame past December 31, 2014 and some states abstained from voting. Several of those states abstained to discuss this issue further with their State Director.

Follow up action is needed from the NASEMSO Executive Committee on how to proceed with voting on recommendation for extending the time frame that the NEMSIS TAC will accept NEMSIS Version 2.2.1 – a possible survey, another DMC call, etc… It was recommended to include the impact of this recommendation before or during the voting process. Some of the impact to extending the time frame include maintaining two versions (V2 and V3), difficult to map between the versions and report on data across both versions, affect data integration between data sources, affect meaningful use of the data, and others. Many of the Data Managers needed additional time to discuss with their State Directors. Some of the Data Managers did not feel that a survey would be the best solution because discussion among those on a call seems to be beneficial to addressing concerns and questions; some feel that those on the call should have more of a voice since they are participating on the calls.

There was some discussion on the second part of the motion made during the NASEMSO Executive Committee which was to have a new MOU for NEMSIS Version 3.0 before it is rolled out. Several questions were asked regarding the intent behind having an MOU for v3.0. It was recommended to follow up on the purpose or intent for a new MOU and whether or not a MOU for v3.0 should be implemented.

The meeting adjourned around 5:00pm (EDT).

Please note: Further detail of attendees, states represented, and voting results are available.