



# NASEMSO Opioid & SUD Ad Hoc Committee

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## MEETING RECORD

**April 6, 2023**  
**2:00 – 3:30 PM EST**

**Attending** – Tim Seplaki (NJ), Stephanie Busch (VT), Tim Hulings (CDC Foundation, DE), Paul Westlake (DE), Megan Salois (ME), Anthony Pantaleo (MI), Doug Champlin (LA), Arnold Alier (SC), Josh Walters (biospatial), Joe Ferrell (biospatial), Matt Blackburn (MA), Maureen Ward (MT), Rick Rohrbach (Cooper Health EMS), Ron Murphy (Cooper Health EMS), Megan Umbriano (RI), Vicki Blanchard (NH), Rita Massiello (NJ), Peter Geissert (OR), Eva Nelson (NJ), Dr. Ted Delbridge (MD)

NASEMSO Staff: Mary Hedges, Alex Tyeryar, Dia Gainor

**Call to Order & Welcome** – Tim Seplaki, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM ET.

**Self - Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves.

**Review and Approve February 2nd Meeting Record** (attached) – The meeting record was approved as submitted.

**[“State EMS Offices Respond to the Opioid Epidemic” Published by COSSAP](#)** – Mary Hedges stated the recently published article was a result of the work of this committee which supplied the information last September. Several members reported they were contacted as a result of the COSSAP article, including Tim Seplaki, Anthony Pantaleo, and Arnold Alier.

**Presentation: Applying for Opioid/SUD Related Grants** – Arnold Alier shared an overview of funding sources and other tips he has gleaned from his experience with a number of grant awards to address the overdose epidemic. They had the data and shared their ideas with those working on overdose prevention. He stressed mining and using EMS data to show the need. They started the naloxone training programs in 2016 (funded by SAMHSA) but it took two or more years to see results. They rely on biospatial to maximize use of their data. In 2018-2023 they were awarded OD2A funding with which they developed their [COPE](#) program based on the community paramedic model. It has taken two years to gain the momentum in the program to demonstrate successful results. They are now preparing for OD2A, 2.0, which is the second round of the OD2A five-year grant. They intend to extend and expand the COPE Program. They hope to have a COPE Program for every three counties. Another new source of funding is the Opioid Recovery Fund (known

by various names in different states) which came from the opioid settlements. He recommended working with other entities who are responsible for substance use disorder treatment.

**Buprenorphine Resources/Users Group Discussion with Cooper Health** – Tim Seplaki thanked Rich Rohrbach and Ronald Murphy from Cooper Health for joining the meeting. He asked if it would be helpful to develop a buprenorphine users’ group and if it should be a part of this meeting or a separate group? Ron Murphy said he is happy to participate and share their protocol. After discussion, members decided to incorporate the topic into the committee’s regular bi-monthly meeting and using the Committee’s website to post documents.

**Planning Committee Agenda for Annual Meeting** – Tim asked if NASEMSO would be able to cover the cost of representatives from Cooper Health to speak at the Opioid & SUD Committee meeting in Reno. Mary said she would look into it to see if the grant award could cover travel expenses. Previously the committee had prioritized EMS buprenorphine programs as a topic for the agenda in Reno. Tim also suggested we allow for virtual attendance at the committee meeting. He offered to help with the technical requirements.

**Co-Responder Consortium Update/ Update on TASC Subcontract** – Dia Gainor was not available to report on the [National Co-Responder Consortium](#)

**Member Comments (for those with information to share)**

Members commented about the increased fatalities from xylazine which is a non-opioid and often mixed with fentanyl, methamphetamine or cocaine. Several members said they started becoming aware of it being mixed into the illicit drug supply when they started testing for it in decedents. It was suggested it be included as a topic in the next agenda.

Stephanie Busch stressed the need to partner with public health entities on OD2A grants, as they often do not understand EMS or who to contact.

Josh Walters said biospatial has partnered with CDC to create definitions for various types of drug overdose for the purpose of syndromic surveillance. They are piloting the project in several states. Any states that are participating in biospatial are eligible but those who applied for this round are Maine, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, and New York.

**Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM ET.

**Next Meeting** – June 14, 2023 (at the [NASEMSO Annual Meeting](#))

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