



NASEMSO Opioid & SUD Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

**January 4, 2024
2:00 PM EST**

Attending – Tim Seplaki (NJ), Stephanie Busch (VT), Paul Westlake (DE), Dr. Rob Rosenbaum (DE), Taylor Parmenter (ME), Marianne Gibson (NGA), Lizzie Lewandowski (Center for Health & Justice), Walter Trachim (NH), Dr. Gail Bradley (AZ), Steven Jones (MS), Anthony Pantaleo (MI), Dr. Peter Taillac (UT), Dr. Ted Delbridge (MD), Dr. Arnold Alier (SC), Rita Massiello (NJ), Eva Nelson (NJ), Michele Calvo (NJ), Megan Umbriano (RI), Ridgely Ficks (MA), Maureen Ward (MT), Dr. Daniel Wolfson (VT), Peter Geissert (OR)

NASEMSO Staff: Dia Gainor, Alex Tyeryar, Mary Hedges, Randall Eimerman, Xenya Poole

Call to Order & Welcome – Stephanie Busch, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order as Tim was having technical difficulties. Attendees introduced themselves.

Review and Approve November 2nd Meeting Record – The November 2nd meeting record was approved as submitted.

Presentation: Maine's EMS SUD Response Activities – Taylor Parmenter, Maine EMS SUD Program Coordinator, presented an overview of Maine EMS's SUD response activities, including leave-behind naloxone, suboxone induction in the field, and referral to treatment through the electronic patient care report (ePCR). Naloxone leave-behind has been an option since 2021 but became the standard of care in December 2023 with the adoption of new EMS protocols. They also have a referral program for patients who have overdosed but refuse transport to the emergency department. The patient must consent to the referral which is sent via ePCR. In addition, they have a care ambassador program, which is a peer-to-peer education that aims to teach EMS agencies across the state on SUD and Maine EMS SUD programming. Care Ambassadors are licensed EMS clinicians who are interested in being catalysts for change. Maine EMS is also initiating a medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) program to allow EMS clinicians to initiate suboxone in the field for patients who refuse hospital transport but experiencing withdrawal. This program is just getting started as they were awaiting medical director support.

New NASEMSO Project with the National Governor's Association - Xenya Poole, new NASEMSO Project Coordinator, explained that NASEMSO and the NGA are establishing a learning collaborative with five pilot states on expanding EMS response to persons with SUD. The states are Kentucky, Wisconsin, Vermont, South Carolina, and Ohio. Marianne

Gibson, NGA Program Director for Behavioral Health, explained she works with states to provide support in behavioral health issues. She thanked Dr. Ted Delbridge for suggesting they work with state EMS offices on buprenorphine induction. The five states are receiving technical assistance from NASEMSO on establishing buprenorphine induction.

Executive Director Update - Dia Gainor reported that the National Co-Responder Consortium has been focused on crisis response. Despite the significant increase in funding for SUD, it is frustrating that policymakers do not understand that EMS is one of the only existing crisis response team. There are meetings scheduled in March to address this concern.

Member Comments – Tim Seplaki requested volunteers who would like to present at the next meeting. He, Stephanie and Mary will be reaching out to people for topics.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM EST.

Next Meeting – March 7, 2024

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