



NASEMSO Opioid & SUD Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

March 7, 2024
2:00 PM ET

Attending – Tim Seplaki (NJ), Stephanie Busch (VT), Doug Champlin (LA), Steven Jones (MS), Dr. Dan Wolfson (VT), Dr. Bill Fales (MI), Tim Hulings (DE-CDC Foundation), Rita Massiello (NJ), Anthony Pantaleo (MI), Vicki Blanchard (NH), Megan Umbriano (RI), Marsha Blackburn (NJ), Matt Blackburn (MA), Anthony Roberts (MS), Arnold Alier (SC), Ridgely Ficks (MA), Peter Giessert (OR), Dr. Gail Bradley (AZ) **NASEMSO Staff** - Mary Hedges, Randall Eimerman

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

Self - Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves.

Review and Approve [January 4th Meeting Record](#) – The meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Update on National Governors Association Learning Collaborative re: EMS Administration of Buprenorphine – Dr. Dan Wolfson (VT) reported that representatives from the five participating states met in Phoenix to discuss EMS administered buprenorphine. Representatives from each state worked on their plans while at the workshop. Dr. Arnold Alier (SC) also attended and shared what South Carolina has been doing in the way of leave behind naloxone and their COPE program, but they are behind in their EMS suboxone program with only one pilot program presently.

ACMT & AACT Joint Position Statement:

[Nalmefene Should Not Replace Naloxone as the Primary Opioid Antidote at This Time](#) – Dr. Bill Fales, state EMS medical director from Michigan, presented information related to the position that nalmefene should not replace naloxone. Nalmefene is a long-acting opioid antagonist that is not new but was reformulated and now marketed in a nasal spray. It is being marketed as better than naloxone due to its long duration despite lack of clinical evidence. It has a much higher cost than naloxone (\$105 vs \$20). There is clinical concern for a long, protracted withdrawal. The joint position statement recommends continued use of naloxone unless clinical evidence in the future supports nalmefene.

Dr. Gail Bradley commented that the Arizona State EMS Office was questioned why they had not approved nalmefene for EMS, but after reviewing it they did not approve it for the

same reasons discussed here today. Stephanie Busch mentioned a recent article reporting on a study by the CDC and the New York Department of Health which found [Lower Dose Naloxone Equally Effective at Aiding Opioid Overdoses, While Higher Naloxone Dose is More than Twice as Likely to Lead to Increased Post-Naloxone Withdrawal Signs and Symptoms](#). She noted that there has been pressure on law enforcement to use nalmefene. Anthony Pantaleo discussed the survey conducted of overdose patients in Michigan, where people reported terrible experiences when being revived with nalmefene and high dose naloxone. See [Michigan Community Overdose Survey Results](#). Dr. Wolfson acknowledged the pressure from drug representatives, some who have reached out to him with enticements, such as asking him to serve on their advisory committee.

Dr. Fales stated that the Medical Directors Council discussed recommending that NASEMSO endorse the ACMT & AACT joint position statement. The Committee agreed that it would support the Medical Directors Council taking such a recommendation to the NASEMSO Board.

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity for States

\$6.2 million for [First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act](#). Members were reminded about this SAMHSA grant opportunity for state health departments.

Annual Meeting Planning (see attached CHJ TASC proposal) – Tim Seplaki discussed the panel planned by the Center for Health and Justice for the Opioid & SUD Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting. Stephanie suggested the committee also discuss how states are accessing opioid settlement funds and some examples of programs supported by these funds. Tim asked members to put together information on what grants and funding sources they have used. Anthony suggested discussion of harm reduction strategies and laws which prevent distribution of fentanyl and xylazine test strips.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM ET.

Next Meeting – May 15, 2024 at the NASEMSO Annual Meeting

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