



MEETING RECORD

Attending: Jim DeTienne, Paul Patrick, Keith Wages, Rob Seesholtz, Tom Nehring, Gary Brown, Kyle Thornton, Beth Armstrong, Dia Gainor, Mary Hedges

Purpose of Meeting and Background Information – Jim DeTienne welcomed everyone, and commented it was important to hold these discussions to further clarify the role of the committee before the committee meets at the Annual Meeting. Noting that the Board approved the recommendations of the workgroup (see recommendations dated May 2 2014), Jim asked Paul Patrick, who chaired the workgroup, to review the recommendations for further discussion today.

GIC Strategy and Advocacy Work Group Recommendations – Paul Patrick asked if everyone had reviewed the recommendations, which were distributed with the agenda. Below are the recommendations and the Committee’s discussions.

Recommendation 1 - The Past President of NASEMSO would chair the new Government Information Committee (GIC), which includes advocacy for EMS issues.

Recommendation 2 - The Chair of the committee would serve for a two-year term.

Noting the recommendation that the NASEMSO Past President would become the chair of the Committee, Jim asked what should be done when the past president is no longer active in the NASEMSO as has been the case in the last two cycles (due to job changes). After discussion about electing a vice chair or appointing a vice chair, members agreed that a Vice-Chair should be appointed by the President-Elect, as is done with other committee chairs. The Vice-Chair would then serve as Chair in the event the Chair cannot.

Recommendation 3 – The membership of the GIC should expand to include others, determined by the Board, and include all partners who previously worked together on advocacy issues.

Regarding the recommendation to expand membership to outside members, Jim said he felt it should be a long term consideration after the committee gets its footing. Paul agreed and clarified the intent was to get the committee fully developed with all the states participating before considering expanding to include non-members. Keith Wages and Kyle Thornton voiced their agreement. It was recognized that any such expansion to include non-members may require a change to the NASEMSO bylaws.

Recommendation 4 – The strategy of GIC: *We achieve our mission by participation of all the states and territories while being a strong national voice for EMS.*

Recommendation 5 – The goal of the GIC: *Serve as a permanent advocacy and governmental affairs information group for EMS.*

Regarding expectations for the GIC, Jim inquired what the workgroup recommended for responsibilities of the committee. He said it could include advocating for model rules, as it did in recent years under Bob Bass’s leadership (Model Rules for Air Medical) or it could be federal legislation, such as the EMS Field Bill. Paul Patrick suggested that the Committee serve an

educational purpose by educating members about talking to their elected representatives on their own personal time. The Chair of the Committee would also serve as the contact person when NASEMSO is asked for a governmental relations contact. Jim noted that many related national groups are involved with legislative advocacy. He asked Beth if there were any restrictions due to our tax status that prevents NASEMSO from advocacy work. Beth replied that we cannot support particular candidates but we can educate elected officials on matters that pertain to EMS.

Recommendation 6 – NASEMSO funding that previously went to advocacy should be shifted to staff support for the GIC.

Recommendation 7 – We encourage other partners to fund projects as they are identified and as the need arises but no set dues are anticipated.

Paul noted that the recommendation was to shift the money formerly paid to Advocates for EMS (\$27,500) to support the GIC staff. Beth said it is included in this year's budget as support for the GIC. Mary pointed out that when NASEMSO first voted to budget money for Advocates for EMS, the organization specified that the money would be derived from vendor revenue earned at the annual meetings. The source of the funds was specified to appease any members who were concerned about state membership revenue being spent for advocacy.

History of GIC (aka Government Affairs) – Mary Hedges provided a brief history of the committee, formerly referred to as the Government Affairs Committee. When Jim Murray (WY) was the chair in the 1990's, he regularly tracked federal funding, especially the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, which funded many state EMS offices. The Committee was not terribly active in the 1990's but did try to report on EMS-related bills in Congress. In 2001-2002, NASEMSO co-founded Advocates for EMS, and the tracking of federal legislation, both funding and policy, became the responsibility of Advocates. More recently, the committee was involved in advocating for model rules, such as the air medical rules when Bob Bass chaired the committee.

AEMS Involvement - Jim asked members how they felt about his continued involvement in the Advocates for EMS Board during its transition. As the current President of AEMS, Jim said he felt an obligation and agreed to continue serving as they determined how to proceed with the transition of AEMS to NAEMSP. Even though the AEMS members are fully aware that NASEMSO is withdrawing as an organizational member, they encouraged Jim to stay on during this transition. Does the committee want him to continue to be involved with the AEMS Board? Paul cautioned that we not give the wrong message to AEMS, but Jim indicated they are fully aware NASEMSO is withdrawing. Tom Nehring said he thinks it is worthwhile to stay involved if Jim can accommodate the workload. It was agreed that Jim would continue.

Future Meetings – Jim recommended the committee meet again before the Annual Meeting. He offered to begin drafting a charter for the committee with Mary's help. He suggested considering a name change to the Government Advocacy Committee, which would require a by-laws change. Dia pointed out that the 30-day requirement for proposed by-law changes means the changes would need to be ready by the end of August. Mary will schedule a meeting of the group in approximately one month, after surveying members for best possible meeting times, and will also schedule a time for the committee to meet at the Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 PM EDT.

The meeting record was respectfully prepared and submitted by Program Manager Mary Hedges